

# Transit Bus Safety and Security Program

Federal Transit Administration

Primer for State Departments of Transportation



# What is the Transit Bus Safety and Security Program?

Roadmap *to* Excellence

- A roadmap to promote continuous improvement in transit system safety, security, and emergency preparedness
- A means to provide practical safety, security and emergency preparedness technical assistance and resources to rural (5311) and small urban (5307) transit bus agencies
- A voluntary partnership between Federal government, State governments and the transit industry
  - Nothing in FTA's voluntary program supersedes state programs.
- For a more detailed presentation of the program, go to:  
[http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov/show\\_resource.php?id=3961](http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov/show_resource.php?id=3961)



# Who is involved ?

## FTA' s Program Partners

- Original co-signors to the 2003 MOU
  - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
  - American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
  - Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)
- State DOTs
- National RTAP
- Sister Federal Agencies
  - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
  - Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- State transit associations
- Educational institutions
- Training Institutions
  - Transportation Safety Institute
  - National Transit Institute
- Transit systems, large and small, across the nation



## How do the Partners work together?

- Through the Program Working Group
  - Consists of representatives from Partner agencies and transit systems
  - Members share information and discuss program direction
  - Teleconference calls support periodic communications
- Through coordination at workshops and conferences
- Through ongoing interaction



## What is the role of State DOTs?

- Partner with FTA to promote the Program where possible
- Request an FTA Bus Program Orientation Seminar if one has not already been held in your state
- Encourage transit bus agencies to volunteer for an FTA safety and security onsite review
- Encourage transit bus agencies to utilize the Program website



## Why does FTA want to partner with State DOTs?

- State DOT support of FTA's Transit Bus Safety and Security Program is critically important
  - DOTs have existing relationships with sub-recipients
  - DOT's provide valuable services in the areas of vehicle procurement, operations and maintenance, education and training
- State DOTs are gateway to helping 5311 and 5310 agencies improve transit system safety, security and emergency preparedness
  - FTA is partnering with State DOTs to eliminate redundancy and encourage support in this critical mission
- To learn more about getting involved, contact:
  - Ream Lazaro, Technical Lead, FTA Bus Program – [rlazaro@bcgtrans.com](mailto:rlazaro@bcgtrans.com)



## Who should take advantage of the Program?

- Public transit bus agencies
  - Previous focus of the Program was solely on rural 5311 and small urban 5307 transit agencies
  - Program has now expanded to include midsize and large urban transit agencies
  - Transit agencies looking to improve safety, security and emergency preparedness programs
- State DOTs
  - Critical partner in managing relationships with small transit systems
- Those interested in advancing the Program



## What can transit agencies gain from the Program?

- Familiarization with voluntary guidance in the Program's *Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Excellence - A Roadmap*
- Assistance from FTA through voluntary onsite reviews
- Orientation to the Program through FTA-sponsored state DOT Seminars
- An evaluation of their safety, security and emergency preparedness programs using the website self-assessment tool (FTA does not collect or track this data)
- Access to well over 1,000 resources from the website library to build / strengthen programs
- Transit safety / security news and event information

## What are primary methods of Program delivery?

- Program resource website
- State DOT Orientation Seminars
- Voluntary onsite reviews
- Other outreach efforts



## What is in the Resource Website?

- Over 1,000 easy to find, practical resources and tools
  - Policies, procedures, handbooks, checklists, templates, forms, Federal regulations and guidance and other types of documents
- Self-assessment Tool
  - Educational tool to help transit agencies identify strengths and gaps in safety, security and emergency preparedness programs
  - Helpful resources are mapped to assessment questions for easy access and bookmarking
- Transit safety/security news
- Transit events
- Other useful tools and information

<http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov>



## What is the purpose of registering on the website?

- Full access to all site tools
  - Self-assessment tool
  - Dashboard
  - Receipt of blast emails on timely transit information
- Opportunity to specify interests and request a voluntary onsite review through Dashboard
- Receive targeted effective practices based on specified interests and needs
- Ability to “bookmark” resources from various locations for later retrieval from Dashboard



## What takes place during an orientation seminar?

- Guidance and assistance provided to bus transit systems in
  - Identifying the elements of Transit Bus Safety and Security Excellence
  - Identifying best practices in safety and security
  - Identifying gaps and needs in their safety and security program
  - Utilizing the website to locate and download information to fill identified safety and security program gaps
  - Creating a plan to achieve agency safety, security and emergency preparedness excellence
- Explanation of background and overview of Bus Program
- Demonstration of Bus Program website
- Demonstration of online safety/security self-assessment tool



## What are the steps for hosting a Seminar?

- FTA partners with DOTs to schedule seminar
- DOT selects date and venue for seminar
- DOT sends invitations to small urban Section 5307 and Section 5311 agencies
- FTA provides presenters and handouts; pays for venue and A/V equipment
- FTA does not pay for travel and lodging of participants



## What are the steps for setting up an Onsite Review?

- Transit systems volunteer for a review
- FTA team coordinates schedule with all review stakeholders
  - Volunteer Transit Agency
  - State DOT
  - FTA Regional Office
- Notification package sent to volunteer agency
  - All review stakeholders are copied on correspondence
- Volunteer transit agencies encouraged to contact review team with any questions
- State DOT and FTA Regional Offices invited to attend



## What takes place during an Onsite Review?

- Agency safety, security, emergency preparedness activities reviewed using assessment questionnaire as catalyst for discussion
  - Interviews conducted with key staff, pertinent documents reviewed, facilities/equipment inspected
  - This is not an audit
  - Atmosphere is one of assistance and guidance
- Effective practices noted to share nationally with other transit agencies
- Feedback and technical assistance delivered throughout the review, in an exit interview and in a Final Report



# What is the Onsite Review Final Report?

Roadmap *to* Excellence

- Written report and technical assistance materials delivered via CD-ROM
- Documents observations made by the review team
- Identifies/documents agency effective practices
- Provides suggestions, recommendations and materials to assist reviewed agency in more effectively meeting its safety, security and emergency preparedness mission
- Recommendations are for agency consideration; FTA does not imply actions must be taken



## How are transit agencies being called to action?

- Visit <http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov>
  - Download and read the Roadmap
  - Read about the Program
  - Review “Getting Started” ideas and “First Steps”
  - Browse the resource library
  - Register on website
  - Take the self-assessment
- Request a safety and security onsite review from FTA
  - Make request from your user Dashboard page
- Ask state DOT to host an Orientation Seminar if one has not already been held in the state



## What should state DOTs do next?

- Read through referenced program materials
- Visit the Program resource website
- Contact FTA to request an Orientation Seminar if one has not already been held in the state
- Discuss the Program with sub-recipients and help them get involved
  - Direct them to the FTA Bus Program website, its resources and self-assessment tool
  - Ask if they would like to volunteer their agency for an FTA safety and security onsite review