Roadmap to Excellence

Transit Bus Safety Program

Federal Transit Administration

Program Overview

What is the Transit Bus Safety Program?

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- Founded on guidelines that were developed with input from the transit industry and national safety, security, and emergency preparedness stakeholders
- A framework to promote continuous improvement in safety, security, and emergency preparedness programs
- A means to provide practical safety, security and emergency preparedness technical assistance and resources to public transit bus agencies of all sizes
- A voluntary, non-compliance based program

A little background

- The Program supports FTA's mission to achieve the highest levels of transit system safety, security, and emergency preparedness
- The Program emphasizes
  - Coordination and collaboration with stakeholders
  - Incremental and sustained progress
  - Delivery of practical and effective technical assistance
  - Dialogue on safety, security, and emergency preparedness issues
  - Voluntary participation

Who is involved in the Program?

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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?

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- 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 with the FTA Bus Program project team

Who should take advantage of the Program?

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- 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?

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

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What are the primary methods of Program delivery?

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

What is on the Resource Website?

- "Roadmap" to Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Excellence
- 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

http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov

What is the "Roadmap"?

- Comprised of six key functions of bus transit safety, security, and emergency preparedness programs
  - Management; Operations and Maintenance; Human Resources; Safety Activities; Security Activities; Emergency/All-hazards Management
- Provides overview of importance of each key function and its relevance to enhancing transit safety, security, and emergency preparedness
- Stresses importance of integrating safety and security into transit infrastructure

What is the purpose of registering on the website?

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- 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 a state DOT orientation seminar?

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- 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 that will 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 the Bus Program
- Demonstration of structure and value of Bus Program website
- Demonstration of online safety/security self-assessment tool

What are the steps for hosting a Seminar?

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- FTA partners with DOTs to schedule seminar and select date and venue
- 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?

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- Transit systems volunteer for a review
- FTA team coordinates with all review stakeholders regarding schedule
  - 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 the review team with any questions
- State DOT and FTA Regional Offices invited to attend

What takes place during an Onsite Review?

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- 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

How are transit agencies being called to action?

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- 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 I do first when I visit the website?

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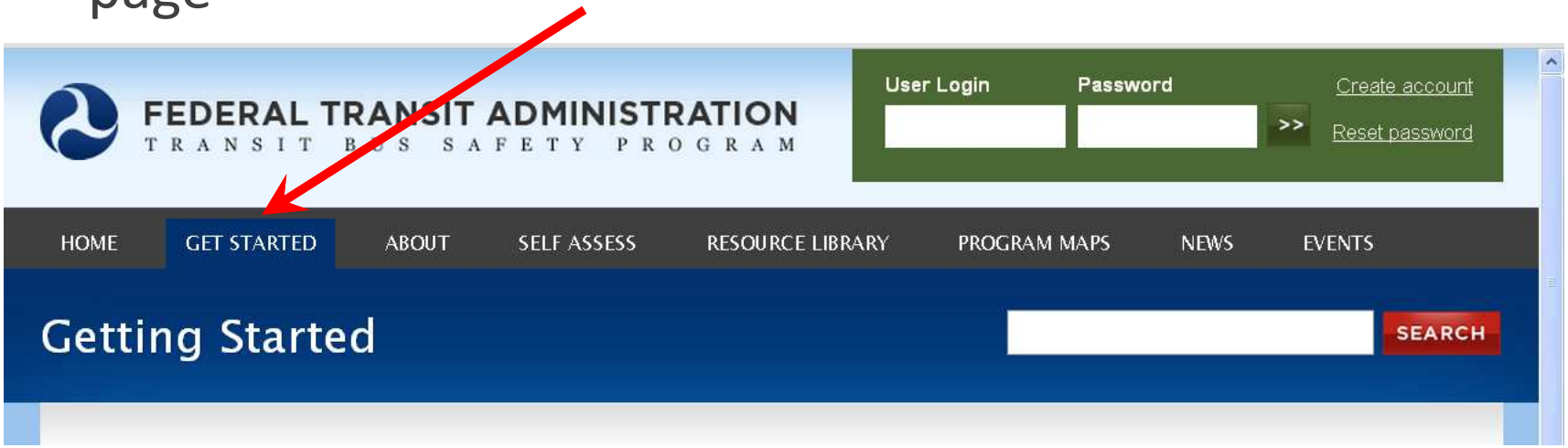
- Click on the "Get Started" tab at the top of the Home page



- You will find a suggested list of steps and useful links to assist you