Federal Transit Administration
Transit Bus Safety and Security Program

Primer for State Departments of Transportation
What is the Transit Bus Safety and Security Program?

• A roadmap to promote continuous improvement in safety, security and emergency preparedness for passengers and employees
• A means to provide practical technical assistance and resources to rural (5311) and small urban (5307) transit bus providers
• A voluntary partnership between Federal government, State governments and industry
• For a more detailed presentation of the program, go to: http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov/show_resource.php?id=3961
Who is involved in the Program?

• 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 (FMCSA, DHS)
  – State transit associations
  – Educational institutions
  – Training Institutions (TSI and NTI)
  – Providers across the nation
How do the Partners work together?

• Through the Program Working Group
  – Consists of representatives from Partner agencies
  – 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 State DOT Orientation Seminar
• Encourage transit bus providers to request an FTA voluntary onsite review
• Encourage transit bus providers to utilize the program website

*FTA understands that some State DOTs already have safety and security requirements in place. Nothing in FTA’s voluntary program supersedes state programs.
Why does FTA want to partner with State DOTs?

• State DOT support of FTA’s Transit Bus Safety and Security Program is absolutely necessary
  – Existing relationship with sub-recipients
  – Provide valuable services in the areas of vehicle procurements, maintenance contracts, education and training

• State DOTs are the gateway to helping 5311 and 5310 providers improve safety, security and emergency preparedness for their employees and passengers
  – FTA is partnering with State DOTs to remove redundancy and to support one another in this critical mission

• To learn more about getting involved, contact:
  – Ms. Carole Ferguson, FTA Program Manager
  – Mr. Ream Lazaro, Project Manager rlazaro@bcgtrans.com
Who should take advantage of the Program?

• Public transit bus providers
  – Current focus is on 5311 and small 5307 grantees
  – Grantees looking to establish safety, security and emergency preparedness programs
  – Grantees looking to improve on existing programs

• State DOTs
  – Critical partner in managing relationship with 5311 sub-recipients

• Those interested in advancing the Program
What can transit providers gain from the Program?

• Familiarization with principles in the Program’s *Transit Bus Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Excellence - A Roadmap*

• Onsite assistance from FTA through the voluntary reviews

• Orientation to the Program through FTA-sponsored state DOT Seminars

• An evaluation of their programs using the website self-assessment tool (FTA does not collect or track this data)

• Access to over 1,000 resources from the resource website to build/strengthen programs

• Connection and communication with peer agencies through website forums
What are the primary methods for delivering the Program to industry?

• Program resource website
• State DOT Orientation Seminars
• Voluntary onsite reviews
What is on the Resource Website?

- Over 1,000 easy to find, practical resources and tools
  - Checklists, templates, forms, how-to’s
- Self-assessment
  - Educational tool to help you transit providers identify strengths and weaknesses
  - Resources are mapped to each question for quick display/bookmarking
- Community forum
  - Ask questions or provide support to peers
  - “Focus the Discussion” – vote on topics for future webinars
- News and events
- Other useful tools and information

http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov
What is the purpose of registering on the website?

• Provides user full access to all site tools
  – Self-assessment
  – Dashboard
  – Community forums

• Helps target effective practices to users based on interests and needs

• Allows users to “bookmark” resources from various locations for later retrieval from Dashboard

• Dashboard provides opportunity to specify interests and request voluntary onsite reviews
What takes place during a state DOT orientation seminar?

• Each Transit Bus Safety & Security Orientation Seminar provides an effective mechanism
  – to familiarize stakeholders with the program's objectives
  – to develop and make available effective practices and resources that address the needs of transit bus agencies around the nation, regardless of their size, level of funding, or service requirements
  – for program stakeholders to meet and share challenges and best practices
  – to demonstrate the resource website
• Seminars are typically 1.5 days in length
• FTA funds meeting space and trainers
• FTA provides training and materials
• State DOTs coordinate with sub-recipients to promote attendance
What take place during a voluntary onsite review?

- Reviews typically last 1 – 2 days depending on size of system
- Reviews are not compliance-based
- Program Team administers checklist through interviews with grantee personnel
- Program Team reviews records and documentation
- Program Team reviews 6 major categories discussed in *Transit Bus Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Excellence – A Roadmap*
- A Final Report is delivered with recommendations
- Program Team provides technical assistance while onsite and with the delivery of the report
How are providers being called to action?

• Visit [http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov](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
  – Take the self-assessment

• Request a voluntary onsite review from FTA
  – Make request from your user Dashboard page

• Ask their state DOT to host an Orientation Seminar
What should I do next?

• Read through referenced program materials
• Visit the program resource website
• Contact FTA to request a State DOT Orientation Seminar
• Discuss this program with your sub-recipients and help them get involved
  – Ask them if they would like to participate in a voluntary onsite review by FTA