

# Federal Transit Administration Transit Bus Safety and Security Program

Primer for State Departments of Transportation



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Transit  
Administration**

# 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](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](mailto: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

# 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>
  - 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