



U.S. Department of
Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**



FTA Safety Action Plan

Accomplishments and the Future





Highlights and New Directions: FTA's Role in Safety

“ In March 2000, the Federal Transit Administration published its first Safety Action Plan, designed to articulate our goals and to provide a road map for the future of safety within FTA and the transit industry. At this time, I'm pleased to report on our progress in meeting these goals and to highlight key activities we will focus on in Fiscal Year 2001. ”

- Nuria I. Fernandez, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration

BACKGROUND

The Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration's top priority is to **“promote the public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths, injuries, and property damage.”** In support of this objective, the Federal Transit Administration developed its *Safety Action Plan* for Fiscal Year 2000. This Plan defined goals and activities in six key areas **to maintain continuous improvement of the excellent safety performance of the transit industry.** This brochure highlights FTA safety accomplishments in the six key areas in FY 2000 and defines our safety activities for FY 2001.

1. STATISTICAL DATA

FTA will enhance its data collection and analysis processes in order to guide future activities aimed at improving safety.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2000 — FTA has:

- Recommended changes to the National Transit Database (NTD) that will enable the collection of accident and incident causal data and will support timely reporting.
- Incorporated causal factors for rail transit accidents into its *1999 Annual Report for the State Safety Oversight Program*.
- Made significant progress in revising the Safety Management Information Statistics (SAMIS) and the Drug and Alcohol Management Information System (DAMIS) databases to better address user needs.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 — FTA will:

- Continue to revise the NTD with respect to reporting, screening, and analysis of safety and security causal data.
- Develop a prototype State Safety Oversight Database to support program administration and the collection and analysis of safety causal data.
- Update SAMIS and DAMIS data to identify programs, technology, and research aimed at eliminating safety and security-related accidents and incidents.

2. HUMAN FACTORS

Through the analysis of enhanced data, FTA will identify those human factors that most affect transit safety. This activity will assist FTA in focusing on safety program activities relating to human factors.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2000 — FTA has:

- Delivered a series of *Fatigue Awareness Seminars* at transit agencies around the country.
- Sponsored a *Fatigue Awareness Symposium 2000* to promote industry dialogue on fatigue issues.
- Sponsored four *Substance Abuse Seminars* designed to facilitate compliance with FTA's drug and alcohol testing regulations.
- Released a best practices manual for the implementation of drug and alcohol testing programs.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 — FTA will:

- Revise the NTD to capture causal data regarding human factors including fatigue, inattentiveness, and rules and procedures violations.
- Use DAMIS to identify specific human factors issues relating to substance abuse.
- Continue to offer fatigue awareness training and to support the implementation of drug and alcohol testing requirements.

3. DESIGN STANDARDS

FTA will work proactively with the industry in the formulation and dissemination of transit system design standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2000 — FTA has:

- Published the *Compliance Guidelines for States with New Starts Projects* to encourage oversight agencies to address safety certification and hazard analysis early in system design.
- Published *Hazard Analysis Guidelines for Transit Projects* to assist in developing safe and secure transit systems through the use of hazard analysis in design and operations.
- Coordinated, with the Federal Highway Administration, in the development of standardized light rail transit grade crossing signage.
- Developed, in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), a Joint Policy on Shared Use Track, published in the *Federal Register* on July 10, 2000.
- Sponsored, in partnership with the FRA and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), a symposium on Shared Use Track.
- Sponsored voluntary security reviews at transit agencies to support the incorporation of recommended practices into system design, technology, and security operations.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 — FTA will:

- Examine the potential for standardized light rail transit grade crossing design.
- Issue guidelines for safety certification during planning, design, and construction for new rail transit projects, and extensions to or modifications of existing rail transit systems.
- Coordinate, with APTA, initiatives to develop standards for rail vehicles and emergency equipment.

4. REVISE STATE SAFETY OVERSIGHT RULE, Section 49 CFR PART 659

FTA will propose the revision of the State Safety Oversight Rule to more effectively integrate system safety concepts into the developmental phases of transit projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2000 — FTA has:

- Issued *Keeping Safety on Track*, a brochure highlighting system safety during project development phases.
- Drafted revisions to the State Safety Oversight Rule (49 CFR Part 659).
- Coordinated internal agency policies on safety oversight for major capital projects.
- Worked closely with New Jersey and Wisconsin to achieve a safe start of the two new transit systems.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 — FTA will:

- Publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the State Safety Oversight Rule.
- Continue its technical assistance and training for the State Safety Oversight Program.
- Continue its pro-active coordination with all partners involved in rail projects.

5. ACTIVELY WORK WITH THE INDUSTRY TO IMPROVE BUS SAFETY

FTA will enhance the safe operation of the nation's transit bus systems through the promotion of the system safety concept.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2000 — FTA has:

- Offered alternative fuels bus safety training courses such as *Alternative Fuels Safety*.
- Facilitated the development and deployment of bus safety courses, including *Bus Collision Investigation*, *Bus Collision Analysis*, and *Bus System Safety*.
- Awarded a contract to develop a model bus safety program.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 — FTA will:

- Strengthen its partnerships with the bus industry to support a coordinated approach to bus safety.
- Conduct outreach with the bus industry to obtain perspectives on ways to improve safety and to identify best operational practices.
- Revise its *Recommended Guidelines for the Selection of Bus Materials*.
- Develop a model bus transit safety program.

6. PROMOTE SAFETY

FTA will actively promote innovative solutions to the provision of safe transportation in order to reduce deaths, injuries, and property damage.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2000 — FTA has:

- Highlighted and disseminated State Safety Oversight Program best practices.
- Sponsored 22 individual courses related to transit safety and security. These courses were offered a total of 106 times at various locations around the country, and over 6,500 transit industry personnel attended these courses.
- Partnered with the industry to sponsor a workshop and continued research to determine a methodology and good practices for incorporating safety into the metropolitan and state-wide planning processes.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 — FTA will:

- Continue to coordinate with industry safety committees and organizations.
- Support industry cross training in accident investigation and corrective action to address investigated deficiencies.
- Update its web site to include new modules with additional technical assistance materials and searchable databases.
- Continue to evolve its safety training courses.
- Continue to work with the industry to provide guidance and technical assistance related to the integration of safety concepts into the planning process.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Federal Transit Administration's Office of Safety and Security can be contacted regarding any of the topics in this document:

- Guidelines and newsletters published by the Federal Transit Administration and distributed through its safety and security clearinghouse: 617-494-2108 (transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov).
- State Safety Oversight Program: 202-366-0197 (www.fta.dot.gov).
- Training through the Transportation Safety Institute: 405-954-3682 (www.tsi.dot.gov).
- Training through the National Transit Institute (Rutgers): 732-932-1700 (policy.rutgers.edu/nti/).