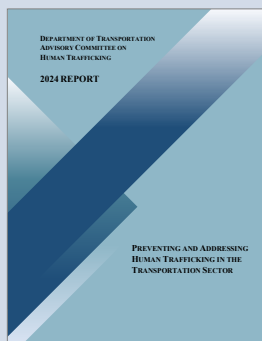


# DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2024 REPORT: TRANSIT, BUS, AND RAIL RESOURCES



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking (ACHT) develops triennial reports with recommendations and best practices on countering human trafficking across the transportation sector, including the transit, bus, and rail industries. The 2024 ACHT report includes recommendations for the U.S. Congress, USDOT, other Federal agencies, States and State DOTs, private and local transportation entities, law enforcement, associations, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and technology companies.

## Committee recommendations address:

**Leadership & Funding:** A top-level commitment to combat human trafficking with dedicated funding to prevent and address human trafficking across all modes of transportation, including policy development, training and awareness, data collection, information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

**Policies & Reporting:** Zero-tolerance counter-trafficking policies with a comprehensive approach, including firm leadership, dedicated funding, strong partnerships, clear reporting protocols, impactful training and awareness, consistent report tracking, and solid survivor support.

**Partnerships:** Effective public and private partnerships to increase identification, share information, and maximize their collective impact.

**Training & Awareness:** Effective training and public awareness for transportation employees and travelers that facilitate their recognition and reporting of suspected instances of human trafficking using free, survivor-informed materials that are trauma-informed, person-centered, and culturally responsive.

**Research, Data & Information-Sharing:** Tracking and sharing reports of human trafficking that intersect with the transportation sector and expanding research on each mode of transport.

**Victim & Survivor Support:** Strategic placement of survivor-informed public awareness materials, integration into corporate social responsibility programs, providing travel vouchers to support individuals being subjected to human trafficking in their escape and survivors in their recovery, and offering dedicated employment opportunities.



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## Select Recommendations

While most of the 123 recommendations in the 2024 ACHT report apply to every mode of transportation, following are select recommendations with transit, bus, and rail equities:

### FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS

**Facilitate Reporting:** Enact legislation to close the loophole in the 2022 Human Trafficking Prevention Act by requiring transportation owners and operators to place the National Human Trafficking Hotline in the restrooms of aircraft, airports, over the-road buses, bus stations, passenger trains, passenger railroad stations, and commercial vessels operating within the United States.

### FOR USDOT

**Conduct Joint FTA/FRA Awareness Raising:** USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration should campaign together on human trafficking across the transit and rail sectors, including commuter rail and freight lines.

**Increase Funding:** Pending congressional appropriations, increase funding for transportation stakeholder efforts across all of the Operating Administrations, including training, public awareness, research, and victim and survivor support.

**Increase TLAHT/BLI Partnerships:** Continue to foster Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking and USDOT/DHS Blue Lightning Initiative partnerships with private and local transportation organizations, law enforcement, NGOs, technology companies, and labor unions.

**Develop Modal Counter-Trafficking Policies and Best Practices:** Develop mode-specific counter-trafficking policies that include partnerships, reporting protocols, training, public awareness, research and information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

**Create Evaluation Tools:** Develop evaluation tools for transportation stakeholders to utilize to ensure that survivor-informed training objectives are met and to measure public awareness campaigns by measuring outputs and outcomes.

**Develop Due Diligence Tool:** Develop a multimodal due diligence tool that includes mandatory due diligence laws, resources, sample policies, and tools to support the prevention and mitigation of forced labor in supply chains for goods and services across the transportation industry.

### FOR STATES

**Require Counter-Trafficking Training:** Strongly recommend that transportation organizations and law enforcement train all employees, contractors, and transportation license holders to recognize and report sex and labor trafficking, including certified positions such as commercial motor vehicle drivers, pilots, for-hire drivers, transit operators, and police officers.

### FOR PRIVATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ENTITIES

#### LEADERSHIP & FUNDING

**Increase Funding:** Establish and expand sustainable counter-trafficking programs with funded counter-trafficking experts, including trauma-informed survivors and advocates, that include partnerships, policies, training, public awareness, data tracking, and victim and survivor support.

**Increase Leadership Efforts:** Increase organizational leadership on the issue of human trafficking.

#### PARTNERSHIPS

**Increase Partnerships:** Increase and expand coalitions with federal, State, and local agencies, private and local transportation organizations, law enforcement, and NGOs, to facilitate stronger, more coordinated counter-trafficking efforts and reporting; including signing the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking pledge.

**Recognize Exemplary Employees:** Recognize employees who report suspicions of human trafficking to promote an organizational culture of caring and mitigate misidentification concerns.

## FOR PRIVATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ENTITIES *CONTINUED*

### POLICIES & REPORTING

**Expand Counter-Trafficking Policies:** Establish and expand zero-tolerance counter-trafficking policies with mandatory survivor-informed employee training on identifying and reporting sex and labor trafficking, how to respond if approached by an individual being subjected to human trafficking, points of contact for employees to report violations without retaliation, and clear reporting protocols.

**Implement Due Diligence Policies and Tools to Ensure Clean Supply Chains:** Ensure organizational procurement policies prohibit human trafficking, and require vendors, suppliers, contractors, and subcontractors to sign a Code of Conduct on ethical business practices.

**Maintain Vigilance During Crises:** Strengthen existing policies during times of natural disaster, economic crises, and major national health emergencies so as not to divert resources from counter-trafficking initiatives, because incidents rise as human traffickers exploit vulnerabilities.

### TRAINING & AWARENESS

**Require Counter-Trafficking Training:** Implement mandatory initial and annual survivor-informed counter-trafficking training for all employees to learn how to recognize and report sex and labor trafficking, evaluate pre and post training knowledge, and provide a certificate of completion.

**Facilitate Employee Reporting:** Distribute pocket cards for all frontline employees that include modal indicators to facilitate recognizing and reporting the crime.

**Facilitate Reporting:** Post the National Human Trafficking Hotline in vehicles, trains, vessels, aircraft, and in and around all public and commercial transportation hubs and facilities.

**Leverage Materials:** Utilize transport-related, survivor-informed counter-trafficking training and public awareness materials that are multilingual and include the USDOT QR code, 911 in the event of an emergency, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

**Increase Awareness Surrounding Major Events:** Augment and extend public awareness campaigns throughout and along vulnerable routes, cities, and locations during major events including sporting events and concerts.

**Increase Passenger Awareness:** Leverage digital displays and in-app platforms in and around vehicles, trains, vessels, aircrafts, and facilities to show passengers and individuals being subjected to human trafficking their rights and provide a seamless connection to authorities.

### RESEARCH, DATA, AND INFORMATION-SHARING

**Improve Data Collection:** Report transport-related human trafficking data that includes tips reported, policies in place, the number and types of employees trained, public awareness efforts, and partnership engagements annually to USDOT.

**Enhance Information-Sharing:** Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

### VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SUPPORT

**Engage Survivors and Service Providers:** Engage with survivors and service providers to inform counter-trafficking policies and awareness materials and hire trauma-informed advocates trained on the unique needs of individuals being subjected to human trafficking.

**Provide Workforce Development Opportunities:** Partner with State human service departments and local NGOs to provide paid internship opportunities for survivors and collaborate on workforce development opportunities while reducing unnecessary bureaucratic processes, such as minimum qualifications.

**Facilitate Means of Exit:** Implement safe haven protocols and harbor programs, including designated vehicles and support mechanisms, across modes and local regions to ensure successful exit attempts.

**Facilitate Access to Transportation:** Donate credits, points, and vouchers to organizations that directly serve survivors of trafficking and encourage customers to do the same.

**Increase Access:** Install call button in private areas within facilities such as restroom stalls and showers for individuals being subjected to human trafficking to discreetly connect with law enforcement when they are alone.



## Additional Resources

The 2024 ACHT report includes several counter-trafficking resources and tools, including:

### MODEL COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

A tool for transportation leaders to adapt and implement within their organizations for a comprehensive approach to counter-trafficking inclusive of leadership and funding, partnerships, legal compliance, social responsibility, employee responsibilities and reporting protocols, education and training, public awareness and outreach, data collection and information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

### ORGANIZATIONAL PROCLAMATION

A model proclamation for transportation entities to adopt as a demonstration of their commitment to combating human trafficking.

### LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

For transportation industry leaders to take a stand against human trafficking as an example for their employees and stakeholders.

### SAMPLE TRAINING & AWARENESS MATERIALS

For transportation employees and travelers to learn how to recognize and respond to human trafficking, including USDOT's bilingual, modal awareness training and public awareness materials.

### INDICATORS

General and mode-specific indicators of human trafficking that transportation employees and travelers can use to recognize and report suspected instances of the crime.

### QUICK IMPLEMENTATION GUIDES

Actionable mode-specific steps that State, local, and private transportation industry stakeholders can take to implement a robust, organization-wide comprehensive approach to combat human trafficking.

### STATE & TERRITORY HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS INTERSECTING WITH TRANSPORTATION

Transport-specific counter-trafficking legislation in U.S. States and territories, including data collection, training requirements, and the posting of the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.

### STATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES

An overview of states with human trafficking task forces, including a few with transport representatives and one with transport-related efforts.

### SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL MODAL CONVICTIONS

Mode-specific examples of successful convictions in cases involving human trafficking.

### REPORTING HOTLINES

An overview of services provided by the primary national hotlines that receive human trafficking tips.



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