Federal Transit Administration

Who is FTA?

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is a modal administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation that provides grant funding and technical assistance to local public transportation systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries. FTA also provides safety and program oversight, policy development, planning support, and innovative technology research, to enhance mobility and access for people nationwide.

What does FTA do?

The FTA provides financial and technical assistance to public transit systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries. FTA also oversees safety measures and helps develop next-generation technology research.

Safety Programs

Public Transportation Safety Program

Establishes substantive and procedural rules for FTA's administration of a comprehensive public transportation safety program, including the framework to monitor, oversee and enforce transit safety, based on the methods and principles of Safety Management Systems.

National Public Transportation Safety Plan

Details safety performance criteria and minimum transit safety standards.

State Safety Oversight Program

Establishes independent state-based rail transit safety oversight agencies, with enforcement authority to compel the rail public transit agency to complete necessary safety actions

Safety Resources/Tools

FTA provides many safety resources/tools to the transit industry, some of which are listed below:

FTA Safety Management System Framework

General Directives and Safety Advisories

Safety Rulemakings

Oversight Program Standard Technical Assistance Guide

Rail Safety Statistics Report

Transit Advisory Committee for Safety

National Transit Database

Safety Programs

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

A requirement for each transit agency to detail what it will do to ensure the safety of its system.

FTA Sponsored Safety Training

Transportation Safety Institute training programs are designed and delivered to provide critical safety and security information, best practices and regulatory guidance.

Drug & Alcohol Program

Combats prohibited drug use and alcohol misuse in the public transportation industry.

Model Bus Testing Program

Improves the process of ensuring the safety and reliability of new transit buses with minimum performance standards, a standardized scoring system, and a pass-fail threshold that will better inform local transit agencies as they evaluate and purchase buses.

Transit Asset Management

Requires FTA grantees to develop management plans for their public transportation assets, including vehicles, facilities, equipment, and other infrastructure. TAM is an essential practice for providing safer, more reliable transit service nationwide, while helping lower operating costs.

WMATA Metrorail Safety Oversight

FTA is providing temporary and direct safety oversight of the WMATA Metrorail system until the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia jointly obtain a federally-certified State Safety Oversight Program via the Metrorail Safety Commission.