

James S. Simpson
 Administrator
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 Federal Transit Administration



“As the new Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), it is my pleasure to announce initiatives underway for the Transit Bus Safety and Security Program. In partnership with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), FTA has developed a fresh approach to deliver its voluntary program to all bus transit agencies across this Nation. The new program direction continues along the path of the valuable progress and exceptional work over the last few years by our bus safety and security partners.”

LEADERSHIP

FTA's Office of Safety and Security is tasked to provide leadership and vision in the development and management of initiatives to continually improve the safety and security of passengers, employees and all others who come into contact with the public transportation system. Each program is ultimately measured against the U.S. Department of Transportation's Strategic Plan, Goal Number 1 – Enhance public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths and injuries.

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1 Excerpted from FTA Administrator Simpson's January 2007 Dear Colleague Letter. The letter can be found in its entirety at <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/Safety/Bus.asp>

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Transit Bus Safety and Security Program



New Initiatives

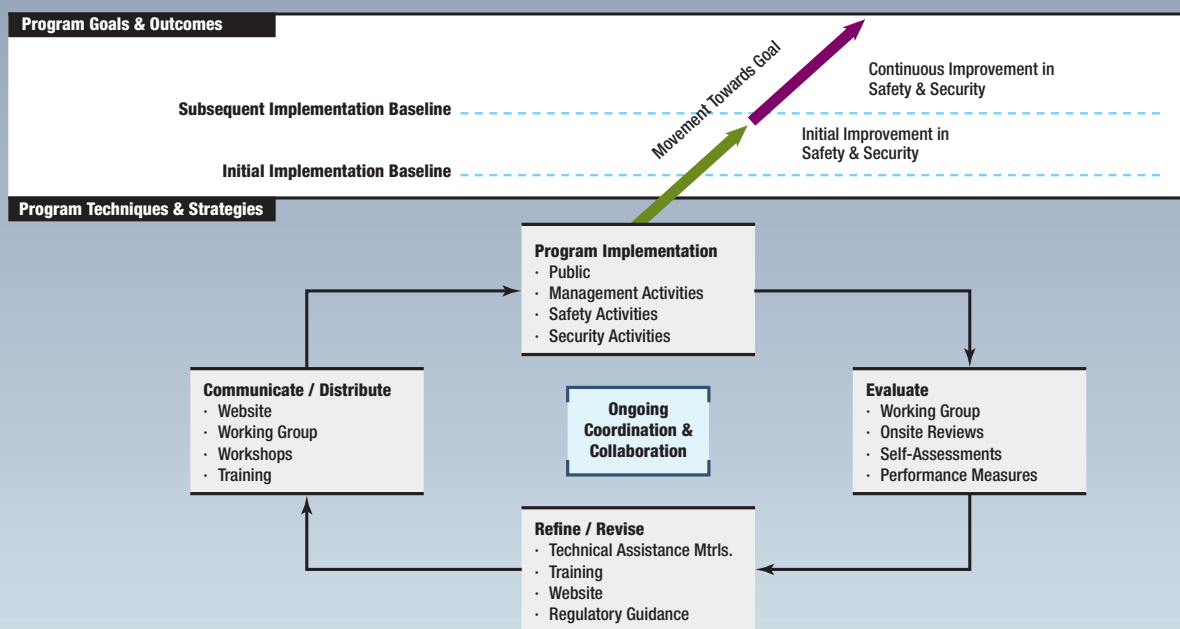
In partnership with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the American Public Transportation Association, and the Community Transportation Association of America, the Federal Transit Administration is proud to introduce new initiatives in the Transit Bus Safety and Security Program.

M Mission *Improving safety and security is the FTA's top strategic goal*

The Transit Bus Safety and Security Program is based on objectives designed to improve safety and security for passengers, employees, and others that share the roadways with America's urban and rural public transit bus operations. The Program encompasses public transit bus agencies of all sizes, including urban, small urban, rural and community transit, and FTA is committed to the broadest possible implementation of Program strategies and tools.

- Emphasize coordination and collaboration with industry stakeholders to identify an effective and comprehensive set of techniques and strategies to implement Program objectives.
- Promote an approach of incremental innovation through a cycle of implementation, evaluation, revision and communication to reach optimal Program performance.
- Strive for ongoing improvement in industry safety and security through the advancement of technical assistance that is practical, effective and targeted to meet the needs of transit bus agencies implementing the Program.

O Program Overview



P Partners

FTA believes that ideas for effective and practical assistance come from many sources. FTA considers all those that are committed to add value and excellence to the continuous improvement of public bus transportation safety and security as Partners. Part of the Program's success will be measured in how FTA best ensures ongoing communication and champions the interests of key Program stakeholders.

To this end, FTA established a Working Group to best coordinate and facilitate information exchange and collaboration. To our delight, many individuals came forward to participate in the Working Group and we greatly appreciate their willingness to support the Program, the industry and, ultimately, the riding public.

S Strategies

- Collaborate through the Program Working Group to leverage their expertise to speed initiatives into action.
- Effectively communicate the Program's mission so that we can move from "why" to "how" more effectively.
- Enhance distribution of safety and security-related technical assistance materials to public transit bus providers via easy-to-use electronic means.
- Establish a performance culture from which we evaluate Program implementation and effectiveness by conducting voluntary onsite technical reviews and promote self-assessment checklists.
- Use available safety and security data and risk assessment models to target the most frequent and/or catastrophic risks to passengers and employees.

