

AUG 29 2016

Dear Public Transportation Safety Stakeholder:

I am writing to share some important news about the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) efforts to improve public transportation safety. On August 11, 2016, FTA published a final rule for the Public Transportation Safety Program (Safety Program Rule), which provides the overall framework for FTA to monitor, oversee, and enforce safety in the public transportation industry, as found in Federal Public Transportation law (49 U.S.C. §5329).

Public transportation remains one of the safest modes of transportation, and the Safety Program Rule will help FTA and the public transportation industry continue to build upon our strong record of safety for customers and workers.

The final rule details the enforcement actions available to FTA when addressing a public transportation provider that is not in compliance with Federal public transportation safety law. The possible actions include requiring more frequent oversight or reporting requirements, mandating that Federal funds be spent to correct safety deficiencies before funds are spent on other projects, withholding up to 25 percent of a grantee's funding under the Urbanized Area Formula Program, and imposing restrictions or prohibitions on a transit agency's operations if FTA determines that an unsafe practice or condition creates a substantial risk of death or personal injury.

The rule reflects FTA's commitment to developing and implementing a 21st Century transit Safety Program that is both scalable and flexible through the application of Safety Management System (SMS) principles. SMS builds on existing transit safety practices by using data to proactively identify, avoid, and mitigate risks to safety. Accordingly, FTA will take a risk-based approach to the exercise of its enforcement authority and the issuance of regulations, guidance, training and technical assistance.

The FTA will host webinars on **Tuesday, August 30, at 2:00 PM ET** and **Thursday, September 1, at 3:00 PM ET** to assist the industry in fully understanding the new Safety Program rule. Visit the FTA Calendar of Events for registration information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brian Alberts at (202) 366-1783 or via e-mail at Brian.Alberts@dot.gov.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring the continued safety of public transportation in the United States.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Littleton, PhD
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Office of Transit Safety and Oversight