



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Transit
Administration



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

January 2026
Vol. 11 No. 1

Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

Happy New Year, everyone. I hope you had a chance to recharge for the year ahead. As we begin 2026, I'm encouraged by the progress we've established together to strengthen safety for transit workers and riders, use data to inform decisions and expand engagement across the industry.

A major accomplishment of this past year was the implementation of

the Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) final rule. Implementing this regulation strengthens safety for everyone working on or near the tracks, and the efforts rail transit agencies took to implement these safety measures greatly advances our shared safety mission.

FTA also provided reminders in Safety Bulletin 25-1 on transit agency reporting to the National Transit Database (NTD). Each agency's continued commitment to timely reporting makes a real difference in advancing transit safety nationwide.



Joe DeLorenzo

Associate Administrator for Transit
Safety and Oversight and
Chief Safety Officer, FTA

2026 FTA Joint
State Safety
Oversight and
Rail Transit
Agency Safety
Workshop

2

FTA Issues Safety
Advisory 25-1:
Reducing Rail
Trespassing and
Suicide Events

2

Transit Agencies'
Efforts to
Address
Substance Use
and Strengthen
Community
Safety

3

Looking ahead to 2026, FTA will continue emphasizing safety and security as we move closer to global events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympics, both hosted by the United States and requiring massive support from the public transportation industry. FTA released a [Major Event Playbook](#) for transit agencies, which offers a practical guide, strategic insights, and key considerations to help public transportation agencies navigate federal transit requirements related to hosting major events.

Finally, a reminder that State Safety Oversight Agencies and Rail Transit Agencies should be aware of the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP) semi-annual reporting period that runs from January 1–31, 2026 during which the designated Point of Contact (POC) must submit documentation to FTA.

Thank you for your continued dedication to protecting transit workers and riders. As always, please email FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Joe



Upcoming FTA
TSO Office
Speaking
Engagements

4

REGISTER NOW: 2026 FTA State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Safety Workshop

FTA will host the 10th annual FTA State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Safety Workshop from March 25–27, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. The workshop aims to provide program updates and discuss federal requirements to strengthen rail transit safety and other safety priorities. Please [register](#) by March 6 to attend and reserve your room at the conference hotel by February 24.



FTA Issues Safety Advisory 25-1: Reducing Rail Trespassing and Suicide Events

On November 24, 2025, FTA issued a [safety advisory](#) focused on reducing fatalities and injuries from rail trespassing and suicide events. Trespass- and suicide-related events have been steadily increasing in the transit industry and are the leading source of transit-related fatalities, accounting for 50 percent of all fatalities reported to the National Transit Database in calendar year 2024.

The safety advisory recommends that State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) direct Rail Transit Agencies (RTAs) within their jurisdiction to perform the following related to rail trespassing and suicide events:

- Review and analyze safety performance data to identify hazards,
- Perform safety risk assessments,
- Identify safety risk mitigations as necessary to reduce safety risks and
- Monitor implemented mitigations for effectiveness.

FTA recommends that SSOAs that obtain such analyses from their RTAs upload completed safety risk assessments and associated safety risk mitigations from their RTAs to the State Safety Oversight Reporting (SSOR) system. FTA requests that any documents be uploaded within 180 days from the issuance of this Safety Advisory. Expanded data analysis, and a list of resources to support SSOA and RTA efforts to prevent and reduce the number of trespassing and suicide events, is available on the [FTA website](#). Additionally, FTA discussed the safety advisory during a recent [webinar](#).

Transit Agencies' Efforts to Address Substance Use and Strengthen Community Safety

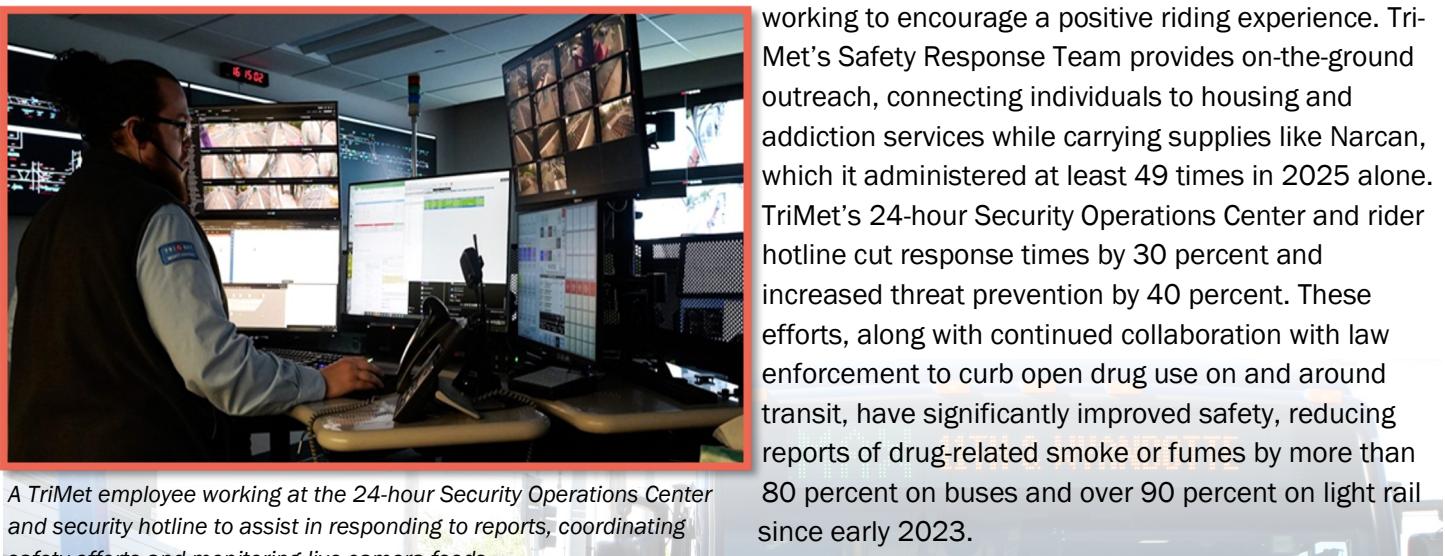
Across the country, agencies are implementing innovative programs and partnerships to prevent substance use and misuse and respond effectively to emergencies.

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) in St Petersburg, Florida became the state's first transit agency to deploy Narcan emergency kits at all bus terminals and offer voluntary Narcan training in partnership with the Pinellas County Health Department and a retired narcotics officer. PSTA expanded the effort to include 600 Narcan kits to be placed on every bus, integrated Narcan training into new operator onboarding and equipped its headquarters with kits alongside AEDs and first aid stations.

Similarly, the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) has more than doubled its safety and customer service staff to over 450 personnel



From left to right: Retired Lieutenant and current Training and Education Director of the National Association of Drug and Diversion Investigators (NADDI), Dan Zsido and PSTA's Safety, Security and Training Supervisor, Eddie Kester.



A TriMet employee working at the 24-hour Security Operations Center and security hotline to assist in responding to reports, coordinating safety efforts and monitoring live camera feeds.

working to encourage a positive riding experience. TriMet's Safety Response Team provides on-the-ground outreach, connecting individuals to housing and addiction services while carrying supplies like Narcan, which it administered at least 49 times in 2025 alone. TriMet's 24-hour Security Operations Center and rider hotline cut response times by 30 percent and increased threat prevention by 40 percent. These efforts, along with continued collaboration with law enforcement to curb open drug use on and around transit, have significantly improved safety, reducing reports of drug-related smoke or fumes by more than 80 percent on buses and over 90 percent on light rail since early 2023.





U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Access past [FTA Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletters](#).

Available Safety Training Courses

Register for the Fiscal Year 2026 virtual and in-person [safety training courses](#) for transit personnel through the [Transportation Safety Institute \(TSI\)](#). These courses support FTA grantees subject to the [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(PTSCTP\) regulation](#) with initial training and recertification training requirements.

Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

[Transportation Research Board \(TRB\) Annual Meeting](#)

January 11–15, 2026 | Washington, D.C.

[FTA SSO and RTA Safety Workshop](#)

March 25–27, 2026 | Arlington, Virginia

Save the Dates: SSO Quarterly Calls

February 18, 2026 | Virtual

May 20, 2026 | Virtual

August 19, 2026 | Virtual

November 18, 2026 | Virtual

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.