Transit Bus Safety Oversight Program Presentation
Federal Transit Administration

October 17, 2013
What we will discuss in this presentation

• Bus Program background
• Bus Program elements
• MAP-21 and Safety Management Systems (SMS)
• Cross-cutting industry safety strengths and needs / gaps
• Accessing the Program website
Bus Program Background

• Voluntary oversight program
• Developed in collaboration with industry partners
• Objective – improve safety for passengers, employees, and all that share roadways with transit buses
• Initial focus on small urban and rural bus transit systems
• Now includes large urban bus transit systems and bus rapid transit (BRT)
Bus Program Origins

- NTSB recommendations
  - NTSB investigations determined there were substantial safety deficiencies and insufficient oversight in bus transit industry
  - Issued recommendations in 1998 to encourage creation of safety standards and practices
  - FTA responded with “Model Program”
Bus Program Partners

• MOU signed by Bus Program Partners in 2003
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
  - American Assoc. of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
  - American Public Transportation Assoc. (APTA)
  - Community Transportation Assoc. of America (CTAA)

• MOU defined core and enhanced elements of “model program”
Bus Program Evolution

2002-2005 - FTA worked to develop uniform bus safety guidelines in “model program”
- Utilized “one size fits all approach”

2006 - FTA determined fresh approach needed
- Used “one size does not fit all” philosophy
- Preserved voluntary nature of Program
- Developed flexible options to address full range of transit bus operations
- Leveraged technology and partnership opportunities
- Created industry Working Group to help guide Program direction

2006 to present - Ongoing implementation of Program
Major Bus Program Elements

• Resource website
• Voluntary onsite reviews
• Orientation seminars
• Ongoing outreach
Resource Website

- Library of 1300 resources
- Self-assessment tool
  - Helps transit agencies identify safety gaps
- Case studies
  - Support emergency planning and decision-making
- Safety news and events
- Registering gets you more
- Currently in redesign
  - E-learning modules

http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov/
Voluntary Onsite Reviews

- Scheduled by requests from agencies, state DOTs, FTA regions
- Onsite for 1 – 3 days
- Voluntary in nature - designed to provide safety guidance
- Post site visit report and technical assistance safety materials
  - Also shared with key FTA regional or DOT stakeholders
Orientation Seminars

• Co-sponsored by state DOTs / state transit associations
• Publicizes Bus Program / encourages attendees to use Program resources
• Provides safety training, guidance, technical assistance
• Demonstrates Bus Program website
• Allows dialogue on transit safety needs
Program Outreach

• Initiatives include:
  - Presentations
    o CTAA EXPOs
    o FTA regional conferences
    o National Rural Conferences
    o MTAP/SCOPT annual meetings
    o Tribal transit conferences
    o State transit association conferences
  - Blast emails
  - Panels at conferences
  - Outreach to transit associations
MAP-21 and SMS

MAP-21
Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century
Transforming the Way we Build, Manage, and Maintain our Nation’s Transit Systems
MAP-21

• Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act signed into law July 2012
• Includes Section 5329 – Public Transportation Safety Program
• Creates a national public transportation safety plan that includes:
  - Safety performance criteria
  - Definition of ‘state of good repair’
  - Minimum safety performance standards
  - Requirement for safety certification training program
  - Requirement for individual transit agency Safety Plans
Safety Management System Approach

• SMS provides new structure for addressing expectations specified in MAP-21
• FTA adopting SMS as its new safety framework
• Focuses on:
  – Management commitment and accountability
  – Formal methods for identifying hazards and controlling their potential consequences
  – Continually monitoring risk controls through safety assurance activities
  – Promoting an effective employee safety reporting system
The Bus Program and MAP-21

- Bus Program enters into transition period
- Moving from totally voluntary guidance and technical assistance program to include safety oversight
- Provide information on and guide transit industry through SMS implementation process
- Continue orientation seminars / presentations
- Continue onsite safety reviews
- Redesigned website
ANPRM

• Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on Safety and Transit Asset Management

• [https://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Final_Safety_TA M_ANPRM.pdf](https://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Final_Safety_TA M_ANPRM.pdf)

• FTA encourages comments on proposal by end of 2013
SMS Framework

1. Safety Management Policy
2. Safety Risk Management
3. Safety Assurance
4. Safety Promotion
Bus industry safety needs, general strengths, and safety challenges

Illuminated through Orientation Seminars, onsite reviews, and website downloads
Bus Program identification of safety needs

• Gathered information from hundreds of transit managers through seminars, onsite reviews, and resource website communications
• Developed documented database of bus safety challenges based on onsite review findings
• Accessed safety information from NTD
• Identified major cross-cutting transit bus safety industry strengths and needs/gaps
Crosscutting Industry Safety Strengths
Cross-cutting industry safety strengths

- Effective org structure
- Commitment to safety as top priority
- Defined safety mission
- Safety meetings
- Strong leadership skills
- Drug & Alcohol Program
- ADA compliance
- Cell phone policy
- Accident reporting, investigation, review
- Employee recruitment strategies
- Background / license checks
Cross-cutting industry safety strengths

- Customer service
- Defensive driving training
- Passenger assistance training
- Behind-the-wheel coaching / counseling
- Preventive maintenance
- Defect maintenance
- Pre- / post-trip inspections
- Maintenance documentation
- Industry safety record
Crosscutting Industry Safety Needs / Gaps

SAFETY FIRST
REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT TO YOUR SUPERVISOR
Priority Safety Concerns

- Threat, hazard and vulnerability assessments
- Employee safety reporting program
- Regular and documented safety performance monitoring
- Coordination with emergency management / first responders

- Safety plans & program documentation
- Training
  - Operator/driver new hire
  - Operator/driver refresher/retraining
  - Supervisor, dispatcher, mechanic
  - Emergency response / crisis management
  - Incident management /NIMS
  - Security awareness
  - Classroom /OJT documentation
Specific Issues

- Internal emergency response procedures
- Near miss reporting / proactive safety analysis
- Detailed operational policy handbooks
- On board safety equipment
- Route evaluation

- Bus stop evaluation
- Defined customer service parameters/enforcement
- Fatigue management/fitness for duty
- Formal facility inspections
- Hazardous materials programs
Specific Issues

- Emergency information dissemination policy
- Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)
- Access control / security
  - transit facilities
  - vehicle storage areas
- Employee and passenger security
  - on buses
  - at transit facilities
Accessing the Resource Website

http://bussafety.fta.dot.gov/
Questions ??

Thank You Very Much and

Keep Up the Great Work!