

SAFETY & SECURITY

PUBLIC TRANSIT SECURITY

- With people traveling 56.1 billion miles per year on public transportation, public transit employees often are first responders. Consequently, public transit agencies are interconnected with emergency and law enforcement responders and conduct emergency drills.
- Public transit remains a target for terrorist plots across the globe. Many public transit agencies have both detailed response plans and use a variety of deployment strategies, tactics and technologies to deter potential attacks.
- The use of security cameras continues to increase with 84% of buses equipped in 2020, compared to 53% in 2010. Similarly, 55% of rail stations had security cameras as of 2018.
- From 2000 to 2018, rail stations also increased the use of electronic devices for communicating with passengers with 79% of rail stations using public address systems, 70% using vehicle arrival displays, 47% installing informational displays, and 21% with available Wi-Fi.
- From investing in security software and safety technologies to developing emergency preparedness plans, federal funding for public transit security is essential as the needs outweigh the resources that public transit systems can provide.

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- APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas

CYBERSECURITY

- As control and management systems become increasingly dependent on information technology, cyberattacks pose a serious threat all public transit agencies. Transit systems must be proactive and approach cybersecurity risks with holistic solutions and a strategy for key areas of IT and OT infrastructure: operations, people, and facilities.
- Cyber threats may not all be software attacks; the physical manipulation of the system is of real concern, too.
- Cyber threats and vulnerabilities not only put public transit systems and the lives of passengers at risk, but also put systems at risk of data breaches, especially as 47% of agencies now use digital smart cards and 25% are adopting open payment technologies to collect passenger fares.

PERSONS WHO ARE HOMELESS

- People who experience homelessness often rely on public transit conveyances or facilities as shelter. Given its impact on ridership and regional expansion, 68% of agencies believed that transit agencies should play a role in respectfully offering support and minimizing impacts to transit employees and the traveling public.
- Agencies have developed important partnerships with public safety, social service agencies, mental health experts, advocates and others to approach this issue in a more positive way. 54% of agencies have police/security staff that are certified with crisis intervention training and 87% have trained their front-line employees how to deal with persons experiencing homelessness, mental health or addiction.
- Homelessness is an issue that impacts all transit agencies but is most often more visible at larger agencies in cities with large unsheltered populations.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

- As many as 24.9 million men, women and children are held against their will and trafficked. As part of the Federal Transit Administration's Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative, the \$5.4 million was awarded in 2020 for public transit projects that combat human trafficking and improve safety on public transit.
- APTA, as part of the USDOT's Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking Initiative, works to combat human trafficking and provide resources on training and counter-trafficking strategies as well as training and public awareness materials.

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SAFER COMMUNITIES

- Public transportation is available in every state across America and provides nearly 10 billion trips each year. There are also more than 5,600 transit passenger stations in the U.S. As of August 10, 2021, more than 700 large bus and rail transit agencies certified they have comprehensive agency safety plans in place.
- Cities with more than 40 annual public transit trips per person have half the traffic fatality rate of those with fewer than 20 trips per person.
- In 2018, there were 134x more fatalities on highways (35,935) than on transit.
- Public transit is 10x safer than travel by car.
- Travelers reduce their crash risk by more than 90% by taking public transit instead of driving.
- Public transit provides a safe alternative for high-risk and vulnerable road users, such as inexperienced teen drivers, seniors seeking mobility, and impaired and distracted drivers.
- Urban teens take 5x as many public transit trips and have half the per capita auto death rate.
- Nationwide, there is an \$105 billion backlog of state of good repair needs. Addressing this backlog is directly tied to maintaining the safest public transit network possible.
- APTA regularly conducts voluntary safety audits for public transit systems that seek objective analysis of the implementation of their safety programs. Educational safety programs are conducted for public transportation employees at all levels.
- APTA regularly conducts safety-related peer reviews as well to enhance safety on public transportation systems throughout the United States and Canada.

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POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

- Traveling by commuter and intercity rail is 18x safer than traveling by automobile. Between 2000 and 2017, commuter rail safely operated 8.2 billion trips and 194 billion passenger miles.
- Congressionally mandated positive train control (PTC) is a safety technology for monitoring and controlling train movements. PTC relies on a wireless network of data exchanged between vehicles and on-track equipment, and then distributed to data centers for analysis.
- Reflecting an investment of more than \$4 billion, 100% of commuter railroads are PTC certified and met the December 31, 2020 deadline.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

- More autonomous safety features are being introduced to bus transit vehicles. In 2020, 348 buses were reported as equipped with collision warning/mitigation, lane-keeping assist, and pedestrian/bicyclist detection.
- Moving beyond scheduled maintenance, predictive software now monitors and analyzes sensor data of public transit vehicles in real-time with advanced algorithms to identify issues early and get the right repairs made before incidents occur and vehicles go out of service.
- Right-of-way worker protection technologies have been adopted across rail transit systems to protect workers in the right of way, who work along the track and conduct inspections.
- Bus and rail collision avoidance systems have been implemented at many transit properties and utilize RADAR and LIDAR technology so that buses/trains do not collide with cars and pedestrians in right of way.