



# New Federal Transit Administration Role for State Safety Oversight of Rail Transit Systems



Bay Area Rapid Transit "BART"

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# Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21)

- Congressional Authority for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs for the next few years.
- Signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012, effective October 1, 2012.
- Directs FTA to certify and fund State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOA), and to get more involved in safety.
- Revises the FTA Rail Transit and Fixed Guideway State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program.
- Provides grants to states for up to 80% of the funding for the State's SSO Program.





# Current FTA and State Safety Oversight of Rail Transit and Fixed Guideway Systems

Until recent rulemakings:

- No specific federal safety regulations.
- Limited FTA involvement in safety oversight.
- SSO program with few specific requirements.
- FTA audits of SSO programs every three years to requirements of 49 CFR Part 659.
- No funding to support SSO development, staff training, or oversight activities.



San Diego Trolley





# SSO Agency Certification Requirements

To be certified, an SSO must:

- Have safety oversight responsibilities for rail transit fixed guideway systems from start of engineering.
- Be financially and legally independent from any transportation agency it oversees.
- Not provide any rail transportation services subject to SSO oversight.



San Francisco "Muni"





## SSOA Certification Requirements (cont.)

To be certified, an SSO must:

- Not employ any person who also works for a fixed guideway system jurisdictional to SSO.
- Have the authority to review, approve, oversee and enforce implementation of adopted safety plans the by rail transit agency or other fixed guideway system.



Santa Clara "VTA"





## FTA SSO Agency Certification

- FTA developed specific certification submittal requirements and States were required to submit documents by September 6, 2013.
- Of 30 total submittals, only California and one other state met the requirements for initial certification, including:
  - Sufficient resources.
  - Staff qualifications.
  - Enforcement and investigative authority.
  - Requisite financial and legal independence.



Los Angeles "Metro"





# FTA SSOA Grant Program Implementation

Staff has taken the steps necessary to seek and begin utilizing grant funds, including:

- Completing and submitting grant application for CPUC SSOA program.
- Receiving approval of CPUC as a qualified FTA grantee October 28, 2014.
- Completing subsequent submittals and certifications/exclusions.
- Setting up an account in FTA electronic grant tracking system.



Sacramento Regional Transit





## FTA Grant Program (cont.)

- Making internal adjustments to carve out and capture only grant-eligible costs for seeking reimbursement under the grant.
- Responding and participating in FTA rulemakings necessary for FTA to implement Congressional mandate.



North County Transit District "Sprinter"





# Impacts to CPUC Safety Oversight Program

- Some revisions to CPUC rail transit oversight Program Standard (procedures).
- Development of an annual report structure and format.
- Expanded opportunities for more specific training on transit equipment, operations and enforcement.
- Participation in emerging SSOA managers' organization to work collaboratively with other states to represent collective state interests to FTA.
- Eventually may require revisions to CPUC General Order 164-D, *Rules And Regulations Governing State Safety Oversight Of Rail Fixed Guideway Systems*
  - Revisions will also affect systems not FTA-funded.





# Impacts (cont.)



SF Airport "People Mover"



Angels Flight Railway  
Los Angeles



Getty Museum Train  
Los Angeles



Grove Farmers Market Trolley  
Los Angeles



Port of Los Angeles



Americana at Brand Trolley  
Glendale



Oakland Airport Connector



Sacramento Airport "People Mover"



SF Cable Cars





## Next Steps

- Several FTA Rulemakings are currently ongoing:
  - SSOA requirements (FTA-2015-0003)---comments filed.
  - FTA rules outlining its authorities, as required by Congress, adopting a Public Transportation Safety Program incorporating the MAP-21 requirements -- Comments being developed.
  - Future rulemaking setting specific requirements for rail transit agencies and adoption of Safety Management System plans.
  - Training plan – due to FTA September 4, outlining agency training requirements and planning.





## Next Steps (cont.)

- Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) – ongoing FTA stakeholder group to develop consensus advisory reports, standards, regulations.



TRACS meeting, July 28 & 29, 2015, Washington, D.C.

