Monday, June 5, 2023

8:00am-4:30pm  
**Registration (Closed 12:00-1:00pm)**

9:00am-5:00pm  
**Room Assignment**

**2023 Florida Transit Safety and Operations Summit**

The 2023 Florida Transit Safety and Operations Summit, sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and hosted by Florida’s Transit Safety and Operations Network (FTSON), will once again bring a slate of expert speakers, opportunities for interaction and engagement with your peers, and enlightening conversation.

This year’s Summit, which precedes the two-day Professional Development Workshop, joins transit safety and operations professionals in a forum to discuss critical issues confronting Florida’s public transportation industry. This year’s Safety and Operations Summit will include multiple topics: bus operator apprenticeship programs, threat and vulnerability overview, transit agency overview of ELDT process, verbal judo for transit and more!

We look forward to meeting you at the 2023 Florida Transit Safety and Operations Summit and urge you to register early.

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

7:15am-4:00pm  
**Registration (Closed 12:00-1:00pm)**

8:00-9:45am  
**Room Assignment**

**Left of Bang – Enhancing Transit Security**

*Presenter: Michael Audino, CUTR*

CUTR and Critical Ops, LLC, recently completed research for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program which identified key insights regarding transportation and transit security. During this interactive session, the research team will:

- share key findings from the research
• demonstrate a comprehensive security self-assessment knowledge platform for transit agencies
• highlight key components of a security implementation toolkit

This session will help you advance security capacities at all operational levels of your transit agency, enhance your knowledge of transit and transportation-related security, and strengthen your role as a “force multiplier” for transit security.

8:00-9:45am  Room Assignment

Federal Drug Testing Regulatory Updates
Presenter: Diana Byrnes, CUTR

This session will outline the changes to 49 CFR Part 40, to include the most significant change, which is the option for employers to use oral fluid (saliva) as a testing specimen for DOT/FTA drug tests. The presenter will describe oral fluid testing process, employer policy statement requirements and the cost savings advantage that oral fluid testing may offer. The session will also include notification of regulatory interpretation changes and other information gathered from the FTA Drug & Alcohol Program National Conference that was held in March.

8:00-9:45am  Room Assignment

Florida Transit Maintenance Consortium (FTMC) Meeting
Moderator: Elvis Dovales, LYNX
Presenters: Henry Lukasik and Joe Cheney, PSTA; and Joe Dalik and Rob Ruthven, Voith

Join the Florida Transit Maintenance Consortium (FTMC) for their quarterly meeting. The session will include presentations on the following topics:

• The Preteckt AI (Artificial Intelligence) driven platform provides vehicle maintenance solutions and plans. The platform helps improve maintenance operations by predicting failures thereby reducing vehicle downtime and the increased costs of in-service breakdowns.
• Advantages of consolidating communications of on-board devices such as ITS, Surveillance, APC and others to a single hub/portal and cellular network.
• Voith CPW program for Voith transmission end users. This program provides free troubleshooting training and certification to end users allowing them to perform basic troubleshooting and repairs to transmissions under warranty. The troubleshooting and repair costs can then be reimbursed to the end user by Voith.

8:00-9:45am  Room Assignment

Recruitment and Retention Best Practices
Presenters: Jodi Godfrey, CUTR; Trish Collins, PSTA, Chyrell Leslie, PalmTran, and Sue Lao, Broward County Transit (BCT)

Many industries are suffering from challenges associated with recruitment and retention of their workforce, and the transit industry is no exception. Join our session to learn more about the recruitment and retention challenges the transit agencies in the state are facing, and some of the approaches they are taking to try to overcome their hiring and retention challenges.

9:45-10:00am  Workshop Break
All workshop training sessions will break at this time, to allow participants to network, stretch their legs, and grab a snack/beverage.
Florida Association of Paratransit Technicians (FAPT) Meeting: Paratransit Vehicle Maintenance

Moderator: Robert Dutremble, JTA
Presenters: Todd O’Neal, LPIP; Chris Porter, Valeo; Fabio Galati, PARC; and Dean Kirkland-McMillan and Laurie Zeruto, CUTR

This session will address a variety of topics related to paratransit vehicle maintenance. Information will be pertinent to 5310 agencies as well as 5311s and 5307s. LPIP staff will share available training opportunities for all agencies. CUTR staff will address effective practices in preparing for a review. A data tracking system used by a 5310 agency will be presented. Roush will discuss the advantages of moving toward propane vehicles and Valeo will share common air conditioning issues observed in Florida and offer service-related solutions.

On the Road Again: Managing stress by recognizing your road signs, re-filling your fuel tank and managing detours

Presenter: Dawn Reese, Department of Veterans Affairs

Stress is inevitable. During this session you will learn not only how stress impacts both our physical and mental health, but also why it is essential to our lives. Additionally, you will learn about the stress response and how and why we react to stressful experiences. The presenter will provide ways to identify stress responses and teach techniques to manage stress. You’ll learn self-care skills to “refill your tank”, set appropriate boundaries, and channel stress to help you instead of harm you.

Maximizing Transit, MPO, and FDOT Partnerships to Develop High-Frequency Transit Corridors

Presenter: TBD

In this session, participants will learn about best practices and opportunities to maximize planning and funding partnerships with a MPO and FDOT in order to succeed in developing high-frequency transit corridors and delivering more frequent transit service.

Improving Effectiveness of Public Transportation Communication Messages and Materials Using Neuromarketing

Instructors: Robert Hammond, University of South Florida, and Phil Winters, CUTR

Making it stick: A case study on improving effectiveness of commuter assistance program communication messages and materials using neuromarketing. Marketing for public transportation has primarily focused on how to get the word out about services and where to place those advertisements to reach the largest audience. Less attention is paid to what goes where on the advertising page to increase the likelihood the potential rider will act on the message. Neuromarketing is the study of how the brain responds to marketing and advertising to improve the delivery of the messages and likelihood of follow through on the calls to action. It combines neuroscience techniques, such as eye tracking and identification of areas of interest, with market research to understand consumer behavior and decision-making. This case study-based short course will illustrate how neuromarketing can be applied as an effective tool in improving the perceived effectiveness of transportation demand management (TDM)
marketing materials. A set of guidelines will be shared to facilitate the review of existing promotional materials by participants. Attendees are asked to bring at least one promotional material (poster, flyer, etc.) to be reviewed by peers. This project was conducted as a partnership USF’s Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), USF College of Public Health, and USF Muma College of Business’ Center for Marketing and Sales Innovation.

12:00-1:00pm  
**Room Assignment**

**General Session: Welcome Luncheon**

Welcome back to live training after two years of virtual conferences! Relax and network with your peers after the morning of professional development. FPTA, FDOT, and CUTR representatives will be on hand to welcome everyone to this annual event.

1:15-3:00pm  
**Room Assignment**

**How to Monitor Collection Site Compliance**

*Presenter: Diana Byrnes, CUTR*

This session will assist FTA-covered employers in their effort to maintain compliance with federal drug and alcohol testing regulations by performing service agent oversight and corrective action requirements, particularly in relation to urine specimen collectors and alcohol testing technicians. The presenter will outline the safety, security, and integrity measures that collection sites must have in place, as well as the procedures for routine collections and anomalies, such as shy bladder. Checklists and toolkits will be provided to participants.

1:15-3:00pm  
**Room Assignment**

**Writing Successful Grant Proposals: Part 1**

*Presenter: Carol Wright Kenderdine, Easterseals Project Action*

Join us as we discuss the basics of grant writing and how to craft compelling proposals. This session will cover topics such as grant writing basics and terminology, steps to crafting a successful grant proposal, and common sections included in requests for funding.

1:15-3:00pm  
**Room Assignment**

**Growing Your Own Through Apprenticeship: A Joint Approach to Building Skills for the Bus Maintenance Workforce**

*Presenters: James Hall, Transit Workforce Center (TWC); Jamaine Gibson, ATU International; Eliseo Acosta, Jr., Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; Walter Kirkland and Mike Vaugh, StarMetro; and West Palm Beach management (Tentative)*

Apprenticeship programs create a foundation for strong, effective workforce development. The ability to build and sustain these programs requires strong labor-management partnerships, or, in the case of non-union agencies, ongoing involvement of, and engagement with, the frontline workforce. Panelists will set out the essential building blocks for creating and sustaining registered apprenticeship programs for bus maintenance personnel, and presenters from different agencies will discuss examples of challenges met and lessons learned as they designed and implemented their programs. This session will include significant time for questions from and dialogue with the audience.
Best Practices for Integrating Transit and Complete Streets into Contemporary Thoroughfare Plans
Presenters: Sarah Caper, Hillsborough County; Taylor Dinehart and Tia Boyd, CUTR; and Jesus Peraza Garcia, HART

This session will explore corridor planning and preservation best practices in Florida and the U.S., beginning by briefly introducing transit and roadway corridor management concepts and the basic role of a corridor plan. The session will then delve into five case examples of cities and counties with interesting or innovative elements to their thoroughfare plan. Elements that will be featured include the integration of classifications, network spacing and connectivity, and planning for multimodal options. The session will also look to the future of corridor planning and preservation by considering how advances in transportation technology and resiliency considerations might affect roadway and transit corridor planning. The session will then highlight six recommendations for corridor planning and preservation based on the information covered so far.

To provide insight on real-world practices, Hillsborough County planning staff will discuss their corridor preservation efforts, including how they are updating their transportation mobility element and integrating context sensitive considerations to align transportation planning and future land use, and Hillsborough Transit Authority (HART) staff will provide a transit-focused viewpoint on corridor planning and preservation considerations.

Overall, the session will explore why corridor planning and preservation is important, how to integrate land use context and multimodal options into a corridor plan, and how resilience to climate change and emerging technology may be reflected in a corridor plan.

Writing Successful Grant Proposals: Part 2
Presenter: Carol Wright Kenderdine, Easterseals Project Action

Join us as we continue our discussion of the basics of grant writing and how to craft compelling proposals. This session will cover submitting grant proposals on a tight deadline, proposal writing dos and don’ts, and common reasons grants are declined.

Level UP! Strategies to Reach the NEXT Level
Presenter: Lili Finke, ExecuCoach360

This session is focused on you! It is an opportunity to learn various strategies you can apply to prepare yourself for that next level, whether it be a promotion or an upgrade to something more impressive. So get motivated, and get ready to take a serious look into your past, present, and, more importantly, your future.
Vanpooling Extends the Reach of Public Transit
Presenters: Sara J. Hendricks, CUTR; Kenneth Boden, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA); and Arlinda Karuli, Commute with Enterprise

While Florida is urbanizing, many parts of the state will remain rural or suburban for many years to come. Land development patterns present challenges to public transit agencies to extend service to these areas. This session will start off with a presentation on how vanpooling has demonstrated its ability to cost effectively serve these outlying areas, especially longer distance commute trips. Learn how the Tampa Bay area’s commuter assistance program, Commute Tampa Bay of TBARTA, partnered with Florida’s vanpool provider, Commute with Enterprise, to expand service to multiple markets. Hear how vanpooling became a key transportation service supporting the recovery of Southwest Florida communities after Hurricane Ian.

Room Assignment

Securement 101
Presenters: Trisha Nolen and Mitch Drouillard, Q’Straint

This session will cover an overview of wheelchair securement including products, training materials and best practices and industry standards. The session will also include a hands-on portion with a vehicle demonstration of wheelchair securement.

Fountain Atrium

Evening Reception
As the first day of the workshop draws to an end, please take time to participate in this special two-hour reception that is designed to provide workshop participants the opportunity to network and collaborate with other public transportation professionals in a relaxed environment. For “day trippers,” we encourage you to stick around for the reception and enjoy the interaction with your peers.

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

7:15am-2:00pm
Registration (Closed 12:00-1:00pm)

Room Assignment

Small and Rural Transit Agencies Roundtable
Moderator: Stephanie Lewis, CUTR
Presenters: Rogelio Hernandez and Rod Delostrinos, Key West Transit; Loreal Lance and Taylor Klocke, Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA); and Randy Free and Todd O’Neal, Lively Paratransit Instructional Program

This session will feature a roundtable format to discuss a variety of challenges and successes met by small and rural transit agencies. Topics will include a presentation from City of Key West/Key West Transit on their mobility on demand (MOD) service and discussion on any lessons learned. Representatives from CTAA will be in attendance. Lastly, the Lively Paratransit Instructional Program will lead a discussion on wheelchair outer barrier maintenance/repair processes. Attendees are encouraged to bring their questions and issues to share with the moderators and their peers.
8:00-9:45am

Shared Mobility Session
Moderator: Jennifer Flynn, CUTR
Presenters: TBD

The shared mobility service model offers a new solution to one of the transit industry’s long-standing challenges: meeting demand amid limited resources. As more transit agencies begin to explore options such as microtransit or partnerships with transportation network companies (TNCs), they will need the most current, objective, and innovative research and information. If you want to learn about best practices, lessons learned, and the latest developments in shared use mobility in Florida, this session is a must!

8:00-9:45am

Safety Event Investigation Process and Methodology
Presenters: Paul Goyette and Gennaro Saliceto, CUTR

Join us for the informative session where the facilitators will guide you through the accident and safety event investigation process and explain the methodologies used to determine root case, identify potential hazards, review SMS and PTASP best practices and finally develop corrective actions to mitigate safety events to the lowest level practical level.

8:00-9:45am

Streamlining the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Rule and Development Process
Presenters: Martin Catala and Jonathan Roberson, CUTR

In this session, participants will learn about recent statewide survey findings that examine the best approaches to updating the existing State TDP Rule (14-73.001) and the overall TDP development process so that it remains relevant and optimally linked with today’s federal transportation planning process. Participants will be encouraged to review and provide comments to the proposed changes of the TDP Rule and learn about the next steps in this process.

9:45-10:00am

Workshop Break

10:00-11:45am

What to Know about the National Transit Database (NTD)
Presenter: Victoria Perk, CUTR

The Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) National Transit Database (NTD) was developed after data reporting was required by Congress nearly 50 years ago. The NTD is a repository of data regarding the financial, operating, and asset conditions of transit systems in the United States, and provides public information and statistics. The NTD supports planning efforts and contains information such as funding sources, inventories of vehicles and maintenance facilities, safety reports, and measures of transit service supply and service consumption. FTA uses NTD data to apportion funding to urbanized and rural areas in the United States. This session will cover some helpful things to know about the NTD, including: a brief overview; federal funding; state requirements/funding; how data are used in Florida; three new items for NTD reporting in FY 2023; examples of best practices in data collection/reporting; and available training.
Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Session
Moderator: Alexander Kolpakov, CUTR
Presenters: TBD

Transit automation technologies have the potential to improve safety, reduce operating costs and increase convenience of the transit service. An increasing number of transit providers nationwide continue testing and demonstrating passenger vehicles with high levels of automation. Yet, these technologies still face challenges with ensuring adequate safety in all operating conditions, achieving public acceptance, overcoming legal and regulatory obstacles, and other issues. Transportation professionals continue debating when transit automation technologies will see widespread market adoption and what impact they will have on transportation costs, urban planning and overall travel behavior. This session will cover the latest developments in automated transit in Florida, including the review of best practices and lessons learned from recent deployments, as well as the discussion of the existing challenges and obstacles to AV implementation in transit service.

What can TRIPS do for you?
Presenters: Tina Roberts, Carlton Allen, and Lazara Stinnette, CUTR; and Tony Brandin, FDOT

Florida Transit Research Inspection Procurement Services (TRIPS) is a multifaceted program that leverages a statewide pooled procurement model for research, specification development, procurement, negotiation, inspection services, performance testing and delivery of quality cost effective and safe public transit goods and services for Florida’s transit dependent community. This program also aids Florida transit agencies and municipalities with regulatory guidance and training.

Transit and Homelessness
Moderator: Jodi Godfrey, CUTR
Presenters: TBD

Transit agencies face a multitude of challenges while providing mobility options in their communities. This session aims to highlight some of the research findings that have identified effective practices, approaches, and outcomes of transit interactions with unsheltered populations.

General Session Luncheon Program – Preparing Your Workforce for Transition to Battery Electric Buses
Presenters: James Hall and Maurice Beard, TWC

As the workshop draws to a close, join us for the final common session. In addition to delicious food, this will provide a great opportunity to relax and network with your peers. Please join us for an exciting presentation from the Transit Workforce Center (TWC).

As transit agencies integrate battery electric bus (BEB) technologies into their fleet, many are experiencing challenges in preparing their frontline workforce to properly maintain and operate the equipment. In this presentation, staff from FTA’s Transit Workforce Center will provide an overview of lessons learned, best practices, and available resources to prepare frontline workers to safely and
effectively work with BEB technologies. After the overview presentation, the audience will have an opportunity for Q&A.

1:15-3:00pm  Room Assignment

Emergency Management, Major Storm Preparedness Refresher, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

*Presenters: Paul Goyette, CUTR and TBD*

Don’t miss this interactive session where the facilitators will provide emergency management storm preparation refresher best practices, tips for working with your EOC, discuss lessons learned from major hurricanes and welcome the audience to provide testimonials related to hurricane Ian and or other major storms to facilitate discussions on lessons learned.

1:15-3:00pm  Room Assignment

Existing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Investments in Florida: Lessons Learned and Looking Forward

*Presenters: TBD*

In this session, participants will learn about existing BRT systems currently in operation in Florida and examine the long-term benefits and challenges of maintaining such systems in three different metropolitan areas.

1:15-3:00pm  Room Assignment

Supporting users with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

*Moderator: Roberta Yegidis, CUTR*

*Presenters: Christine Hugh, The Learning Academy at USF; and Denise R. Barnes, Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at USF*

During this session you will learn strategies to identify, support and facilitate successful transportation for persons impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

1:15-5:00pm  Room Assignment

Florida DOT Central and District Office Meeting *(FDOT Staff Only)*