



Public Transit Safety

April 22, 2026

For the public transportation industry, **safety is a core value—a non-negotiable operating principle and promise to our riders and workers.** The men and women responsible for managing and operating public transportation systems are fully committed to the safety of their passengers, fellow employees, systems, and the public. **Our public transit agencies are working every day to ensure safe, clean, and efficient transit systems.**

Public Transportation is 10 Times Safer for Passengers than Traveling by Car

Public transportation is the safest mode of surface transportation. Every traffic or transit fatality is a tragedy, but it is important to remember that public transit (including commuter rail) represents only **1.4 percent** of the total fatalities that occur on our nation’s highway and transit systems (i.e., 540 of 39,885 fatalities in 2024). In addition, serious crimes are rare: less than **¼ of one percent** of serious crimes (e.g., homicide, assault, and robbery) occur on public transit.

Federal investment is critical for public transit safety and security. Under current law, transit agencies use Federal transit funds for safety and security capital projects to increase lighting in and around stations; install cameras to monitor activities on buses and rail cars, and in stations; adapt bus designs (including installing protective shields) to protect operators and pedestrians; and deploy innovative, next-generation technologies (including AI) to enhance safety and security.

Public transit agencies are also using state and local operating funds to increase the number of security officers; deploy “transit ambassadors” and mental health professionals to help identify individuals who present potential safety issues; and conduct public awareness campaigns.

With this layered, multifaceted approach, transit safety is improving and crime is down. According to the Federal Transit Administration, in 2025:

- ✓ Total Public Transit Fatalities: **Down 16%**
- ✓ Assaults on Riders (injury/fatality): **Down 18%**
- ✓ Assaults on Workers (injury/fatality): **Down 11%**

 **Every \$1 invested in public transit generates \$5 in long-term economic returns.**

 **77 percent of Federal public transit investments flow to the private sector.**

 **Every \$1 billion invested in public transit creates or sustains more than 41,000 jobs across the entire economy.**