



Key Regulatory Streamlining Proposals

October 22, 2025

APTA urges Congress to streamline regulatory and administrative requirements for public transit and passenger rail programs. Key regulatory streamlining proposals include:

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

The public transit agency CEO is responsible for the safety of the transit system. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), public transit agencies that serve large urbanized areas are required to form a Safety Committee consisting of an equal number of management staff and front-line transit workers who are tasked with approving an Agency Safety Plan. The Federal Transit Administration's April 2024 PTASP Rule prohibits transit agency CEOs from serving in a tiebreaking role in Safety Committee dispute resolution procedures and removes their decision-making authority for safety risk mitigations. APTA urges Congress to enact [H.R. 4900 / S. 2945](#), the Safe Transit Accountability Act (introduced by Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)), which provides CEOs with clear statutory authority to make key safety decisions and ensure rider and operator safety.

Eliminate “Under-the-Hood” CDL Requirements

The public transit industry continues to experience a severe shortage of drivers. **APTA has identified the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Commercial Driver's License (CDL) under-the-hood testing requirement as a significant impediment to hiring bus operators.** On July 16, 2025, FMCSA [granted](#) APTA's request for an exemption from this requirement and will allow States the option to waive CDL under-the-hood testing for applicant for two years. APTA urges Congress to make this waiver permanent.

Certify Labs for Drug Testing

Public transit agencies are required to drug test employees using urine tests. In May 2023, DOT added oral fluid drug testing to the testing protocols, which reduces tampering risks, is less invasive, and is a better measure of impairment. **However, oral fluid testing cannot be implemented until the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) certifies two laboratories to conduct the drug testing.** To date, HHS has not certified these laboratories.

APTA urges Congress to:

- ✓ **Enact H.R. 4900 / S. 2945, the Safe Transit Accountability Act, to ensure that the CEO is the final decision-maker in all matters concerning the PTASP Safety Committee.**
- ✓ **Eliminate the FMCSA CDL under-the-hood testing requirement for applicants seeking to operate vehicles in public transportation to alleviate the bus operator shortage; reduce costs and increase efficiency; and advance opportunity.**
- ✓ **Demand HHS take the necessary actions to certify laboratories needed to conduct oral fluid drug testing.**