The Florida Department of Transportation, along with a limited number of other states, requires transit agencies to investigate incidents that affect bus safety to determine their causes and recommend corrective actions. In addition, the Federal Transit Administration Model Transit Bus Safety and Security Program provides some guidance for investigating and tracking bus transit accidents, or incidents. Although transit agencies are responsible for establishing their own investigation and reporting procedures, the investigative methods and data gathered have been inconsistent across agencies. In small, rural transit agencies, investigations of security and safety incidents are either conducted informally or on a limited basis, whereas larger transit agencies may require a more comprehensive investigation.

The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida has developed the Bus Transit Incident Investigation Toolbox to assist agencies with transit incident investigations. This toolbox provides transit systems with an overview of the procedures and guidelines necessary for conducting the investigations. Topics covered by the toolbox include evidence documentation, interviewing, drug and alcohol testing, and reporting procedures. The toolbox will provide valuable assistance to agencies by helping them to determine what actions are needed to prevent future incidents. Measures that reduce the occurrence of transit incidents provide both safety and cost benefits.
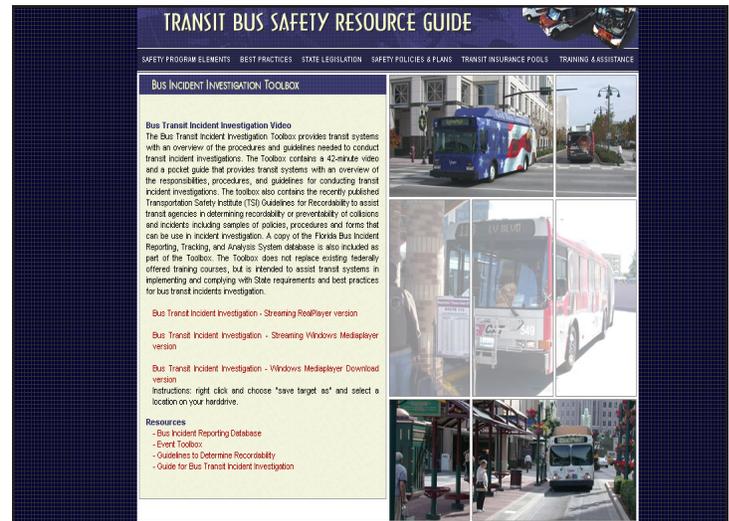
The database and toolbox can be acquired through the Safety Data Acquisition & Analysis portion of the Transit Bus Safety Resource Guide website.

The toolbox and the database are available on the internet through the *Transit Bus Safety Resource Guide*, http://www.cutr.usf.edu/bussafety/investigation3.html. This website also makes available many other useful resources, including a copy of the Transportation Safety Institute publication, *Guidelines for Recordability,* to assist transit agencies in determining the recordability or preventability of incidents. Other resources include samples of policies, procedures, and forms that can be used in incident investigation.

The toolbox does not replace existing federally offered training courses. It is intended to help transit systems implement and comply with state requirements and best practices for bus transit incident investigation.

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