

What defensive driving program is your training based on?

Information compiled February 16, 2006

**The Question:** What training program have you based the defensive driving portion of your training program on? For example, National Safety Council DDC, Eversafe, TSI Bus Operator course?

**Ben Franklin Transit** says ... Our defensive driving curriculum is primarily based on the National Safety Council's DDC courses. We also intertwine other excellent programs from Coastal Training and the Smith's System.

**Clallam Transit** says ... We are in the process of a new hire training program now; this is the first training session since we started using NTI "Smart Driver" as our fixed route defensive driving program. Before using "Smart Driver", we used a combination of Eversafe and TSI. I am very impressed with "Smart Driver"; we use other training tools as well, such as case studies. We use Eversafe for new Vanpool drivers.

**Columbia County** says ... We have based ours on National Safety Council DDC.

**Community Transit** says ... We have ours based on the National Safety Council DDC.

**CUBS** says... We have used Eversafe for our training.

**Everett Transit** says... We use both the National Safety Council DDC and the TSI programs.

**Grays Harbor Transit** says... We use a combination. We are certified for the Eversafe program and will be using it for refresher training this year. We use the TSI course in the initial training period. We also have a van-driving course that is DDC. Two years ago we did some START training which was more general and combination of driving, customer relations, and harmony in the workplace. We have a computer based program called the Professional and a very old computer based DDC course both of which new trainees take before going out on the road.

**Intercity Transit** says ... We use the National Safety Council's DDC-8 class for Coach and Van Operators. Van Pool uses the National Safety Council's "Coaching the Van Driver" four hour course.

**Island Transit** says... We use the TSI Bus Operator course now. We used to use the Evergreen Safety Council DDC Computer program, but now I am trained for the TSI Operator Instructor Course and like it much better.

**Jefferson Transit** says... We currently use the NSC computer-based, self-paced defensive driving course (approximately 4 hours) to start. In addition, I personally teach defensive driving techniques one-on-one, on the bus under the same guidelines.

I am currently trying to make a decision about switching to TSI standards, or some other Internet-based program that will always stay current (i.e. AlertDriving.com).

**Kitsap Transit** says... Our driver training is based on the National Safety Council DDC program with a lot of it based on very experienced instructors.

**Mason Transit** says... We use a couple of programs for defensive driving here at Mason Transit. We have been using the EverSafe Driving course from the Evergreen Safety Council for a couple years now. I train with the 8 hour course for new drivers and every two years we do a 4 hour refresher for all drivers with this course.

We have two new programs this year that we are using. I was able to go through the TSI Transit Operator Trainer course this year and have incorporated it in with new driver training.

We have also purchased the National Safety Council defensive driving course, Coaching The Transit Bus Operator. Our thought with this course was to use it for our refresher training for our drivers. We reviewed it with a group of drivers for feedback and got some good responses. The limitation that some drivers saw was it was great for a coach driver but didn't address the issues faced by a dial-a-ride driver. The drivers who primarily drive dial-a-ride felt the EverSafe Driving Course was more beneficial for their driving situations.

My plan is to use both the EverSafe Driving Course and the NSC Coaching the Transit Bus Operator Course for refresher training since some of our drivers do drive both Coach and Dial-a-ride and other drivers switch at shift bids. I also still plan on using both the EverSafe Driving Course and the TSI Transit Operator Training Course for new driver training.

**Pullman Transit** says... We use the TSI bus operator training courses CD with the Ergo metrics Training system video.

**Skagit Transit** says... My Coach Operator training program is based on the TSI Bus Operator course.

**Spokane Transit** says... We do the Eversafe program for four hours followed by four hours of Advanced Driving Topics created in house. The second four hours is based on RCW law and practical experience gleaned from our experience and info gathered from long term safe drivers with our agency.

**Valley Transit** says...We use the TSI Bus Operator course for our new hire defensive driving training. For reoccurring defensive driving training we have used the DDC – Coaching the Transit Bus Operator from the National Safety Council.

**Whatcom Transit** says ... At the WTA, we cross train new Operators to both Paratransit and Fixed Route service disciplines. We use a combination of the TSI program and the NTI "Smart Driving" program. Additionally, we meld in elements of the DOL CDL manual as prep for obtaining a Class B Air & Passenger endorsements. We also use elements of the NTI "Smart Driving" program modules for appropriate refresher/remedial training.