



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

May 19, 2023

Mr. Phillip Eng
General Manager
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Subject: Approval – Request for Relief Regarding Implementation of Corrective Action for Special Directive 22-10: Prioritization of Safety Management Information and action required to address staffing levels.

Dear Mr. Eng,

Thank you for your letter expressing your intent to restructure the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) response to [Special Directive 22-10: Prioritization of Safety Management Information](#) issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Our oversight of MBTA's SD 22-10 implementation effort confirms the need to reassess actionable items and timelines to develop a more deliberate and targeted approach.

We have reviewed your proposed restructuring plan and approve its terms. MBTA may pause all submissions on SD 22-10 as the agency re-works these corrective action plans (CAPs) and timelines with FTA guidance and direction.

FTA will engage MBTA in a series of oversight coordination meetings to review the SD 22-10 findings and required actions. These meetings also will support development of the MBTA's revised CAPs, ensuring their responsiveness and effectiveness. We expect these meetings to be held regularly during the month of June to ensure that progress is being made towards CAP development.

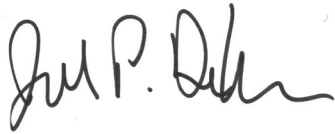
FTA anticipates resubmission of the new and revised CAPs for SD 22-10 **by no later than August 10, 2023.**

In addition, FTA remains concerned about the staffing levels within the Safety Department. MBTA must expedite action to staff the Safety Department, including detailees and embedded contractors, if necessary, and conduct weekly staffing updates with FTA. We believe this focus on safety staffing will help alleviate the capacity challenges the MBTA is facing and enable the agency to better to address the safety issues identified in the Safety Management Inspection (SMI) and implement Safety Management Systems. MBTA must complete a staffing analysis of

the Safety Department that includes current MBTA staffing requirements as well as additional requirements of the SMI no later than June 25, 2023. Subsequently, MBTA must develop an urgent hiring plan and strategy, and commit to implementing that plan immediately.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Safety Management Inspection Coordinator Erin Powell at (858) 335-6256 or by email at Erin.Powell@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe P. DeLorenzo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "DeLorenzo" clearly distinguishable.

Joe DeLorenzo
Associate Administrator and
Chief Safety Officer
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

cc: Jeffrey Gonneville, Deputy General Manager, MBTA
Erik Stoothoff, Acting Chief Operating Officer, MBTA
Ron Ester, Chief Safety Officer, MBTA
Katie Choe, Chief of Quality, Compliance and Oversight
Steve Hicks, Chief Mechanical Officer, MBTA
Pat Richmond, Chief Transportation Officer, MBTA
Pat Lavin, Chief Safety Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Robert Hanson, Director, Rail Transportation Safety, Massachusetts Department of Public