



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

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

May 13, 2025

Mr. Scott Sauer
Interim General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
1234 Market Street, 10th Floor.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Subject: Approval – Action Plan and Implementation Schedule for Special Directive 24-3, Finding 6, Required Action 2 (FTA-24-3-006-2)

Dear Mr. Sauer:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued Special Directive (SD) 24-3 to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) to require it to address findings documented in a Safety Management Inspection (SMI) of SEPTA and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). SD 24-3 includes Required Action FTA-24-3-006-2, which directs SEPTA to:

“develop an action plan and schedule to review the list of identified bus intersections and rail crossings [identified in response to Required Action FTA-24-3-006-1 of the same Special Directive] for potential traffic safety improvements to be coordinated with PennDOT and local jurisdictions. ... SEPTA must submit the action plan and implementation schedule to FTA for review, approval, and implementation monitoring.”

FTA approved the list of identified bus intersections and rail crossings on November 7, 2024, for Required Action FTA-24-3-006-1. FTA received SEPTA’s action plan and implementation schedule on February 3, 2025. With this letter, FTA is approving SEPTA’s action plan and implementation schedule and establishing expectations for two further SEPTA actions described below and in the attached Evaluation Matrix.

Approval of Action Plan and Implementation Schedule for FTA-24-3-006-2

SEPTA’s action plan for Required Action FTA-24-3-006-2 focuses on coordination with PennDOT and five local jurisdictions—Philadelphia, Darby Borough, Upper Darby Township, Collingdale Borough, and Nether Providence Township. SEPTA will convene a series of structured meetings to review traffic safety improvements for the intersections and grade crossings identified in response to Required Action FTA-24-3-006-1. These efforts include a crash data reconciliation process with PennDOT, the incorporation of severity-based risk analysis per SEPTA’s Safety Risk Management methodology, and the establishment of quarterly review meetings to track progress.

FTA has reviewed and approves the action plan and implementation schedule for Required Action FTA-24-3-006-2. You will note the addition of two action items in the attached Evaluation matrix and described briefly below; these additional action items will support FTA's oversight and formally document coordination with PennDOT and the local jurisdictions.

- First, to support transparency and effective oversight, SEPTA must ensure FTA is included as an observer in all coordination meetings and is copied on formal correspondence to local jurisdictions regarding planned safety improvements.
- Second, SEPTA must issue a formal letter to PennDOT and the local jurisdictions, with a copy to FTA, formally documenting the list of bus intersections and rail crossings that SEPTA is asking to coordinate on.

FTA will closely monitor SEPTA's progress against the plan's timeline and deliverables and reserves the right to request additional documentation if verification activities indicate that implementation is lagging.

Conclusion

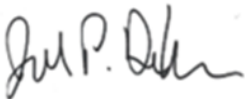
SEPTA should proceed with implementing the approved plan in accordance with the provided timeline. Strict adherence to the established schedule and deliverables is required. FTA will continue to provide close oversight of SEPTA's progress through:

- Regular progress updates during biweekly meetings
- Comprehensive verification activities
- Ongoing collaboration to identify opportunities to expedite implementation

The attached Evaluation Matrix reflects FTA's requirement to be included in meeting invitations and copied on formal correspondence. It also outlines preliminary verification activities FTA plans to undertake to assess SEPTA's progress. FTA may incorporate further verification efforts.

Should you have any questions, please contact Special Directive Coordinator Syed Ahmed syed.ahmed@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment: FTA-24-3-006-2 Action Plan and Implementation Schedule Evaluation Matrix

cc: Ms. Sarah Powell, Deputy Chief Transformation Officer – Safety Culture
Mr. Brad Okoniewski, Chief Safety Officer, SEPTA
Mr. David Hunter, Deputy Chief Safety Officer – Safety Management Systems, SEPTA
Mr. Erik Johanson, Senior Director of Budgets & Transformation, SEPTA
Ms. April Dorcak, Director of Regulatory Compliance, SEPTA
Ms. Julie Bender, Director of QA/QC & Interagency Coordination, SEPTA
Mr. Gino Benedetti, General Counsel, SEPTA
Ms. Meredith Biggica, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, PennDOT
Ms. Elizabeth Bonini, State Safety Oversight Division Chief, PennDOT
Ms. Terry Garcia Crews, Regional Administrator, FTA Region 3
Mr. Tony Tarone, Deputy Regional Administrator, FTA Region 3
Mr. Jonathan Wohllagen, General Engineer, FTA Region 3