



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

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

May 20, 2025

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

Subject: Approval – Corrective Action Plan for Special Directive 24-3, Finding 6, Required Action 4 (FTA-24-3-006-4)

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) report of SEPTA and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). SD 24-3 includes Required Action FTA-24-3-006-4, which directs SEPTA to:

“Develop an action plan and schedule to coordinate with city officials to develop a city construction detours management plan to reduce the impacts of construction detours on transit service. SEPTA must submit the action plan and implementation schedule to FTA for review, approval, and implementation monitoring.”

FTA received SEPTA’s initial action plan and implementation schedule on September 16, 2024. After discussions with FTA, SEPTA updated its action plan and schedule to provide interim milestones and submitted the update on February 7, 2025. With this letter, FTA is approving SEPTA’s February 7, 2025, action plan and implementation schedule and establishing new requirements for monthly progress reporting and the submission of a draft version of the city construction detours management plan as described below and in the attached Evaluation Matrix.

Approval of Action Plan and Implementation Schedule for FTA-24-3-006-4

SEPTA’s plan includes identifying a SEPTA lead to coordinate between SEPTA and the City of Philadelphia, assessing current detour practices, establishing agency priorities, and collaborating with the City of Philadelphia to minimize the effect of detours on transit safety, culminating in a jointly developed Detour Management Improvement Plan in late 2026. Interim deliverables—including process maps, assessments, and priority recommendations—will support the plan’s development.

FTA appreciates the complexity of developing a management plan that requires the participation of and buy-in from an external entity and, accordingly, in lieu of requiring SEPTA to shorten the timeline for the development of the management plan, FTA is requiring SEPTA to provide monthly progress updates and to provide a draft version of the management plan by July 31, 2026. FTA understands that the draft provided may not reflect the final determinations and agreements captured in the final version.

Conclusion

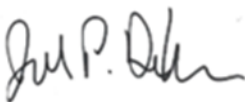
SEPTA should proceed with implementing the approved plan in accordance with the provided timeline. Strict adherence to the established schedule and deliverables is required. FTA will continue to provide close oversight of SEPTA's progress through:

- 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 for monthly progress reports and a draft version of the management plan. It also outlines preliminary verification activities FTA plans to undertake to assess SEPTA's progress. FTA may incorporate further verification efforts.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to the safety of the SEPTA system and its transit workers and passengers. Should you have any questions, please contact Special Directive Coordinator Syed Ahmed at (202) 603-6765 or syed.ahmed@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment: FTA-24-3-006-4 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 Wohlhagen, General Engineer, FTA Region 3