



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

July 8, 2025

Ms. Gia Biagi  
Secretary of Transportation  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Hanley Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764

**Subject: Closeout for Required Actions FTA-23-IDOT-1 (Staffing Plan and Schedule) and FTA-23-IDOT-2 (Workload Assessment and Resources)**

Dear Ms. Biagi,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with this letter is closing required actions FTA-23-IDOT-1 and FTA-23-IDOT-2, issued to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) under Findings 1 and 2, respectively, as part of Special Directive (SD) 23-1: “Required Actions to Address Insufficient State Safety Oversight Program at [IDOT].”

FTA issued SD 23-1 on October 23, 2023, to require IDOT to address a pattern of insufficient staffing in IDOT’s State Safety Oversight (SSO) program. On May 25, 2025, IDOT sent FTA documentation demonstrating that IDOT hired 14.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and contractors, thereby achieving the level IDOT indicated was necessary in its May 2024 workload assessment developed to address required actions FTA-23-IDOT-1 and FTA-23-IDOT-2.

**Closeout for FTA-23-IDOT-1 (Staffing Plan and Schedule) and FTA-23-IDOT-2 (Workload Assessment and Resources)**

Required action FTA-23-IDOT-1 says the following:

“IDOT must submit an updated staffing plan and schedule detailing immediate actions for addressing [State Safety Oversight] Program vacancies and training deficiencies ...”

Required action FTA-23-IDOT-2 says the following:

“IDOT must match its resources to those identified in its updated workload assessment.”

To address these required actions, IDOT submitted an updated staffing plan, organization chart, schedule, workload assessment, and weekly staffing reports demonstrating its progress towards reaching and maintaining 14.1 or greater FTEs dedicated to its oversight of the Chicago Transit Authority rail transit system to address FTA-23-IDOT-1 and FTA-23-IDOT-2.

## **Conclusion**

FTA carefully evaluated the submitted documentation and reviewed submissions with IDOT during meetings on SD 23-1 between November 2023 and May 2025. FTA finds that IDOT satisfied the requirements of required actions FTA-23-IDOT-1 and FTA-23-IDOT-2. These required actions are now closed. IDOT must demonstrate continuous progress towards its commitment to hire a minimum of 16 FTEs, by the end of 2025. These additional FTEs are necessary to meet IDOT's risk-based inspection responsibilities. IDOT must continue to provide staffing updates during scheduled SD 23-1 meetings until the remaining findings under this SD have been closed.

Please contact Francis Alomia, Special Directives Manager, at [Francis.Alomia@dot.gov](mailto:Francis.Alomia@dot.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Mr. Jason Osborn, Director, Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, IDOT  
Mr. Bryant Phillips, Chicago Transit Authority Safety Program Manager, IDOT  
Ms. Kelley Brookins, Regional Administrator, FTA Region 5