



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

July 15, 2025

Ms. Meredith Biggica
Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Subject: Closeout for Required Action FTA-24-5-011-1 (Rail Equipment Engineering & Maintenance Staffing)

Dear Ms. Biggica,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is closing required action FTA-24-5-011-1, which FTA issued to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to improve safety oversight of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Rail Equipment Engineering and Maintenance Department (REE&M).

Background and Closeout for FTA-24-5-011-1 (Rail Equipment Engineering & Maintenance Staffing)

FTA issued Special Directive (SD) 24-5 on July 5, 2024, requiring PennDOT to address findings documented in a July 2024 Safety Management Inspection (SMI) report that assessed an escalating pattern of safety incidents and concerns on and the effectiveness of PennDOT in overseeing SEPTA. Specifically, finding 11 of SD 24-5 found that PennDOT needed to enhance its oversight of REE&M to ensure it is capable of performing safety-critical functions. As a result, required action FTA-24-5-011-1 directed PennDOT to:

“review and assess REE&M staffing and determine if additional hiring efforts are warranted and require corrective action as needed. PennDOT must submit the assessment (and corrective actions if applicable) to FTA for review, approval, and implementation monitoring.”

To address this required action, PennDOT conducted and submitted a staffing assessment and staffing report. The assessment found that SEPTA did not need to increase hiring for REE&M.

However, PennDOT did find that SEPTA needed to implement additional monitoring mechanisms for REE&M hours-of-service compliance. As a result, it required SEPTA to develop and submit a corrective action plan (CAP) to address the hours-of-service compliance concern highlighted in the assessment. PennDOT submitted the approved CAP on May 16, 2025.

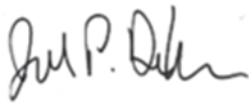
Conclusion

FTA carefully evaluated the submitted CAP and related documentation and reviewed submissions with PennDOT during meetings on SD 24-5 held between August 2024 and May 2025. FTA finds that PennDOT satisfied the requirements of required action FTA-24-5-011-1. This required action is now closed.

FTA will continue to monitor PennDOT's activities to oversee REE&M staffing and may conduct a final verification as part of future efforts to confirm PennDOT's satisfaction of requirements related to SD 24-5.

Please contact Syed T. Ahmed, Special Directive Manager, at Syed.Ahmed@dot.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



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

cc: 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