



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

September 18, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Eng:

I am writing regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation's continued focus on ensuring safe travel in Boston. To protect the safety of passengers and workers, and, in turn, promote public confidence in transit, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) must ensure a secure and clean environment, reduce crime, vagrancy, and fare evasion, and maintain a safe operating system. While this is true across the MBTA system, particular focus must be on key transportation and intermodal hubs such as South Station to ensure a safe and clean environment for the many passengers and rail workers passing through these locations.

Based on the Department's ongoing focus on safety and security, and pursuant to its oversight authority, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) directs MBTA to provide information about the agency's practices and expenditures. *See* FTA Master Agreement section 3(h)(2)(iii). Of key importance is documentation of actions and funding that ensure effective security for passengers and workers on the MBTA system.

For this FTA review of MBTA actions, please provide FTA with the following information:

1. MBTA actions and plans to reduce crime, vagrancy, and fare evasion on the transit system. Please include information about fare evasion trends and previous actions. In addition, please provide information on current and future actions to ensure the safety of passengers travelling through South Station and other major transit facilities.
2. MBTA's funds from all sources that are programmed to improve the security of passengers and workers. This should include information about all MBTA fiscal year 2025 budgeted and fiscal year 2026 planned funds allocated to reduce crime, the homeless population, and fare evasion on the transit system, including a comparison to prior year funding for such expenses. Please also include the following, noting specific funding allocated for projects at major transit facilities:

- a. Security - Expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program security capital projects set aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5307(c)(1)(J)(i)).
- b. Safety - Expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program safety set aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(4)(B)).
- c. Non-FTA funds - Information about funds from other Federal government agencies directed to the safety and security of MBTA passengers and workers. This should include any Department of Homeland Security funds.

Please provide this information to FTA's Region 1 Administrator, Peter Butler, no later than October 2, 2025.

In addition, please note that Federal transit law explicitly permits recipients to use capital grants for capital expenses related to crime prevention and security activities. *See* 49 U.S.C. § 5321. MBTA should target Federal resources expeditiously and appropriately for these eligible activities, particularly at South Station, the second-busiest transportation hub in New England. The Federal Government has invested considerable funding over the years to improve and maintain South Station facilities and wants to ensure this Federal interest is protected for the benefit of public transportation passengers and workers.

People traveling on the MBTA system to reach their jobs, education, healthcare, and other critical services need to feel secure and travel in a safe environment free from crime and threatening encounters with drug addicts or the mentally ill, and workers who operate the system need to be assured of a safe operating environment to provide transportation services. The transit riders and workers of Boston deserve nothing less. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter to avoid further consequences, up to and including redirecting or withholding funding.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please reach out or contact Joe Delorenzo, Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer, at (202) 366-5080 or via email at joseph.delorenzo@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Sean P. Duffy