



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

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

October 1, 2025

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

Subject: Approval – Extension Request for Required Action FTA-24-2-001 from Special Directive 24-2

Dear Mr. Sauer:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approves the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) September 8, 2025, extension request for Action Items 12, 14, and 15 for SEPTA's Action Plan, which SEPTA submitted to address part of Required Action FTA-24-2-001 from Special Directive 24-2. FTA approved SEPTA's initial Action Plan on March 3, 2025. At SEPTA's request, with this letter, FTA is formally extending the due date for Action Items 12, 14, and 15 from August 31, 2025, to June 1, 2026. As part of this extension, SEPTA must provide a verbal update no less than every month during regularly scheduled 24-2 meetings and a written update no less than every month between 24-2 meetings. Additionally, FTA approves SEPTA's proposal to eliminate one position, Safety Budgets & Contracts Specialist, previously included in the Action Plan as Action Item 13.

Background

Among other things, Required Action FTA-24-2-001 directed SEPTA to “develop an action plan and implementation schedule to address the results of the workforce assessment and submit to FTA for review, approval, and implementation monitoring.” FTA approved the action plan on March 3, 2025.

Action Items 12, 14, and 15 in the Action Plan, originally due August 31, 2025, said SEPTA would hire a Director Emergency Management, three (3) Safety Risk Management Specialists, and three (3) Safety Assurance Specialists. SEPTA recently submitted an extension request that identified challenges in onboarding qualified candidates because of the ongoing financial crisis at SEPTA, Human Resources hiring process timelines, and SEPTA's prioritization of candidate quality. SEPTA requested an extension to fill the Director Emergency Management position, all three Safety Risk Management Specialist positions, and the three Safety Assurance Specialist positions.

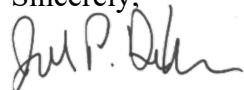
In addition, SEPTA asked to eliminate a Safety Budgets & Contracts Specialist called for under Action 13 of the Action Plan because the responsibilities of this position are currently managed by the Director of Occupational Safety & Environmental Management and Deputy Chief Safety Officer for Safety Innovation & Environment positions. SEPTA's justification also notes the Chief Safety Officer has reviewed the proposed position and determined the position's proposed responsibilities can be effectively absorbed within the System Safety Department.

Approval and Conclusion

FTA is formally extending the due date for Action Items 12, 14, and 15, from August 31, 2025, to June 1, 2026. FTA is also formally approving the removal of Action Item 13, hiring a Budgets & Contracts Specialist, from the previously approved Action Plan. As part of this extension, SEPTA must provide a verbal update no less than every month during regularly scheduled 24-2 meetings and a written update no less than every month between 24-2 meetings. These updates must include a review of progress towards hiring positions included in the Action Plan. Further extension requests may not be approved.

Please contact Special Directive Coordinator Syed Ahmed at syed.ahmed@dot.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Ms. Sarah Powell, Deputy Chief Safety Officer – Safety Culture and Safety Risk Management, SEPTA
Ms. Emily Yates, Deputy Chief Safety Officer – Safety Innovation and Environment, SEPTA
Mr. Brad Okoniewski, Chief Safety Officer, SEPTA
Ms. Gina Savarese, Director, Safety Statistics Reporting & Training, SEPTA
Mr. Mark Prior, 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 Wohllhagen, General Engineer, FTA Region 3