



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

October 23, 2025

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

Subject: Approval – Request to Revise the Action Plan for Required Action FTA-24-2-002-3

Dear Mr. Sauer:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approves the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) September 8, 2025, request to revise the initial Action Item 3 for the Action Plan SEPTA submitted, and FTA approved, to address Required Action FTA-24-2-002-3 from Special Directive 24-2. Under the updated Action Item 3, SEPTA will hire two Operations Control Center (OCC) Training Officers and a Director of Training and Compliance. The deadline is March 31, 2026.

Background:

Required Action FTA-24-2-002-3 directs SEPTA to “develop an action plan and implementation schedule to establish dedicated training resources for rail and bus transit controllers at the Control Center. SEPTA must submit the action plan and implementation schedule to FTA for review, approval, and implementation monitoring.”

Pursuant to FTA-24-2-002-3, SEPTA submitted an action plan, which FTA approved on April 15, 2025. Action Item 3 in the initial Action Plan, originally due July 31, 2025, said that SEPTA would hire three (3) OCC Training Officers. However, on September 8, 2025, SEPTA asked to revise Action Item 3 based on the new OCC leadership's assessment of OCC training needs and organizational structure. Instead of the initial Action Item 3, SEPTA wants to hire two (2) OCC Training Officers and one (1) Director of Training and Compliance. SEPTA's request notes new OCC leadership's assessment of previously recruited candidates and position descriptions, OCC organizational restructuring, and SEPTA's prioritization of operationally experienced candidates. SEPTA also said that, “[SEPTA] is confident that the combination of one full-time Director of Training and Compliance and two OCC Training Officers will provide sufficient training capacity. This structure actually enhances our training effectiveness by providing senior-level oversight and strategic direction that was lacking in the original three-trainer model.”

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This request is approved, and SEPTA is expected to hire two Operations Control Center (OCC) Training Officers and a Director of Training and Compliance by March 31, 2026.

Conclusion:

FTA is formally approving the revision to Action Item 3 and extending the due date from July 31, 2025, to March 31, 2026. As part of this approval, 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 Wohlhagen, General Engineer, FTA Region 3