



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

December 22, 2023

James M. (Jamie) Van Nostrand
Chair
Department of Public Utilities
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

**Subject: Closure of Corrective Action Plan Related to Technical Training under Finding 1 in
Special Directive 22-13**

Dear Mr. Van Nostrand:

On August 31, 2022, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued [Special Directive 22-13: Required actions to Address Findings from the Safety Management Inspection Conducted at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority \(MBTA\)](#) to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). SD 22-13 contains four findings and nine required actions DPU must address to strengthen its safety oversight program for MBTA.

Closeout of DPU CAP for FTA-22-DPU-CAT5-1.C

Finding 1 in SD 22-13 specifies that DPU does not use its available resources as effectively as it could to support field observations, audits, and inspections of MBTA's rail transit system to identify safety deficiencies and require their immediate resolution. To address this concern, FTA issued four required actions, including one required action related to technical training:

- [FTA-22-DPU-CAT5-1.C](#): DPU must update its technical training plan, and, if bringing on new resources, must develop a plan for hiring and training personnel and/or contractors to fill the identified staffing needs.

On January 6, 2023, DPU submitted a CAP for this required action which was approved by FTA on February 3, 2023.

To address FTA-22-DPU-CAT5-1.C, DPU developed and executed a technical training plan (TTP). The TTP describes how DPU onboards new hires, the requirements for completing the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (required under 49 C.F.R. Part 672), technical training and competency areas, and administrative requirements associated with the TTP. During

several meetings, DPU demonstrated to FTA the process described in its TTP for managing and tracking staff training. DPU continues to execute its TTP as described.

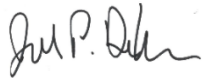
FTA has reviewed the TTP and determined that it satisfies the required action. FTA finds this CAP may be closed.

Conclusion

This closure of this CAP represents a tremendous amount of work and progress for DPU. Over the last year, FTA has observed significant gains in the capacity and capability of DPU as the oversight agency for MBTA.

Please contact our SMI Coordinator, Erin Powell, by phone at (771) 200-8016 or by email at Erin.Powell@dot.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Peter Butler, Regional Administrator, FTA Region 1
Jamie Van Nostrand, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU)
Robert Hanson, Rail Safety Director, DPU