



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 3, 2025

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

Subject: Approval – Corrective Action Plan for Special Directive 24-3, Finding 1 (FTA-24-3-001)

Dear Mr. Sauer:

Thank you and your team at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) for submitting an action plan and implementation schedule addressing Required Action FTA-24-3-001 from Special Directive 24-3: “Required Actions to Address Bus and Rail Transit Safety Issues Contributing to Safety Events at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority.” The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued this Special Directive as part of a Safety Management Inspection (SMI) of SEPTA and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Required action FTA-24-3-001 directs SEPTA to develop an action plan and implementation schedule to conduct a comprehensive review of its policies and practices for managing the work hours and fatigue of rail and bus operators and maintenance workers.

Approval of Action Plan and Implementation Schedule for FTA-24-3-001

FTA has reviewed the action plan, implementation schedule, and supporting documents and approves SEPTA's action plan and implementation schedule for FTA-24-3-001.

FTA finds that SEPTA's submission outlines a comprehensive review of fatigue risk management through examining hours of service requirements, overtime practices, fatigue management strategies, labor provisions, and training across six action items and four phases. The implementation schedule outlines clear timelines and responsible parties for each action item. As discussed with SEPTA during several biweekly meetings, FTA is concerned by the length of some items on the timeline but understands SEPTA's rationale and accepts SEPTA's proposed approach. FTA will closely monitor SEPTA's adherence to the timelines established in the plan and implementation schedule and reserves the right to require additional documentation to demonstrate progress if verification activities as described below indicate that progress to the schedule has slowed.

Conclusion

SEPTA should proceed with implementing the approved plan according to the provided schedule. SEPTA must adhere strictly to the timeline and deliverables specified in the approved plan. FTA will maintain rigorous oversight of SEPTA's progress through:

- Regular progress updates from SEPTA on biweekly meetings
- Comprehensive verification activities
- Active engagement to identify opportunities for expedited implementation.

The attached Evaluation Matrix includes information on some of the verification activities FTA anticipates conducting as SEPTA implements the plan. These activities will allow FTA to comprehensively assess SEPTA's implementation of individual action items, ensuring they meet the commitments outlined in the action plan and implementation schedule. FTA may conduct additional verification activities as needed.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to the safety of the SEPTA system and its transit workers and passengers. Should you have any questions, please contact Francis Alomia, Special Directive Coordinator, at phone at (470) 859-1677 or Francis.Alomia@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment: FTA-24-3-001 Action Plan and Implementation Schedule Evaluation Matrix

cc: Ms. Sarah Powell, Deputy Chief Transformation Officer – Safety Culture
Mr. Brad Okoniewski, Chief Safety Officer, SEPTA
Mr. David Hunter, Deputy Chief Safety Officer – Safety Management Systems, SEPTA
Mr. Erik Johanson, Senior Director of Budgets & Transformation, SEPTA
Ms. April Dorcak, Director of Regulatory Compliance, SEPTA
Ms. Julie Bender, Director of QA/QC & Interagency Coordination, SEPTA
Mr. Gino Benedetti, 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. David Burns, General Engineer, FTA Region 3