



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

December 22, 2023

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

Subject: Response to Closeout Request for FTA-TRA-22-005 (Maintenance of Way [MOW] Work Plans)

Dear Mr. Eng:

On August 28, 2023, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) submitted a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) closeout request for FTA-TRA-22-005 (Maintenance of Way [MOW] Work Plans). The MBTA developed this CAP as part of its response to interim findings issued in Special Directive (SD) 22-4: Track Maintenance from the Safety Management Inspection (SMI) initiated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in April 2022.

Closeout Approval for FTA-TRA-22-005 (MOW Work Plans)

MBTA's CAP for FTA-TRA-22-005 includes seven action items, approved by FTA on August 10, 2022, to address the following SD 22-4 finding and required action:

- **Finding 5:** MBTA's MOW departments have growing maintenance needs.
- **Required Action (FTA-TRA-22-005):** MBTA must develop and implement work plans to address MOW maintenance needs and manage on-going MOW workload.

To implement this CAP, between August 3, 2022, and August 28, 2023, MBTA undertook the following CAP action items and submitted documentation regarding their completion:

- review the existing backlog of track defect corrective maintenance;
- review budget needs for materials for increased corrective maintenance;
- schedule corrective maintenance work;
- budget for staffing increases;
- budget for equipment and vehicle needs;
- develop regularly scheduled extended track access hours; and
- submit CAP Verification.

FTA carefully evaluated the submitted documentation and reviewed submissions with MBTA during bi-weekly meetings on SD 22-4 between October 2022 and August 2023. FTA's verification focused on:

- reviewing enhancements in MBTA's track defects tracking database and prioritization rating system;
- reviewing MBTA's capital project charter for track maintenance, Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 to FY 2027;
- confirming MBTA's scheduled work and completion of scheduled work in short-term work calendar;
- confirming MBTA's FY 2023 and FY 2024 budget for staffing;
- confirming MBTA's FY 2023 and FY 2024 budget for equipment and vehicles;
- confirming contract approvals for equipment and vehicles; and
- confirming MBTA's use of Early Access and Diversions to provide additional time for maintenance work.

Based on review of these submissions and the results of verification activity, FTA finds that these completed action items satisfy the requirements of CAP FTA-TRA-22-005 and this CAP may now be closed.

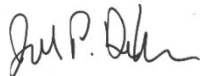
FTA will continue to monitor MBTA's progress in completing maintenance work and improving track conditions through FTA-TRA-22-008 (Special Maintenance Repair Plan). This CAP requires MBTA to demonstrate its ongoing capability and capacity to reduce the percentage of system track that is under a speed restriction.

Prior to closing SD 22-4, FTA will conduct final verification regarding MBTA's implementation of work plans to address MOW maintenance needs and manage on-going MOW workload.

Conclusion

This CAP closure represents a tremendous amount of work and FTA greatly appreciates your efforts. 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
Ryan Coholan, Chief Operating Officer, MBTA
Doug Connett, Chief of Infrastructure, MBTA
Tim Lesniak, Chief Safety Officer, MBTA
Meredith Sandberg, Chief of Quality, Compliance, and Oversight, MBTA
Natasha Vance, Deputy Chief of Quality, Compliance, and Oversight, MBTA
Sam Zhou, Chief Engineer, MBTA
Jamie Van Nostrand, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU)
Robert Hanson, Rail Safety Director, DPU