



Department of Public Utilities State Safety Oversight

Fiscal & Management Control Board
Annual Report



DPU Staffing

- Brian Cristy has retired from the Commonwealth and the Director position has been posted. The interviews have been conducted and a Director will be named soon.
- Scott Andrews, the previous Program Manager for the DPU's SSOA Program, has left the Commonwealth for a position in private industry. The Program Manager position has been posted and interviews have been conducted. The Department intends to have a Program Manager in place soon.



DPU Staffing

- When the hiring is complete the SSOA for Massachusetts will have a Director, a Program Manager, four Engineers, two Auditors, two Compliance Officers and a Division Counsel. Hiring should be completed in the next few months.
- The DPU has contracted Vital Assurance, a vendor that specializes in SSOA Program and FTA Compliance, to support the SSOA program.



Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

- On June 25, 2020, the MBTA submitted to the DPU the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (“PTASP”).
- The DPU conducted a comprehensive analysis and approved the PTASP on July 16, 2020



FTA Audit Status

In October 2019, the FTA conducted an audit of the MA DPU SSOA Program. We are still awaiting the Final Audit Report.



MBTA Annual Emergency Evacuation Drill

The MBTA Emergency Management Team and the DPU have met to review the options for conducting the required emergency evacuation drill during the COVID-19 pandemic. The MBTA will submit a plan to the DPU for consideration.



MBTA Triennial Audit

- On June 29, 2020, the DPU notified General Manager Steven Poftak that the DPU will be conducting a Triennial Audit of the MBTA.
- To date, the MBTA Safety Department has provided thousands of requested documents to the DPU in a timely manner.
- DPU is currently reviewing and auditing the documents for compliance with the PTASP, FTA regulations, and the DPU Program Standard



MBTA Triennial Audit

- The Triennial Audit officially commenced on August 17th. Vital Assurance, MBTA Safety, and DPU Staff participated in the kickoff meeting. Weekly meetings and field audits will be ongoing to review all of the elements required in the audit.
- The audit will be conducted in accordance with the Governor's COVID guidelines.