



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Jamey Tesler, Acting MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Steve Poftak, General Manager



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB)

**FROM:** Ronald Ester  
*Chief Safety Officer*

**DATE:** June 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** MBTA 2021 Transit Safety Plan Annual Update

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### Overview

The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) final rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673) requires transit agencies to annually review and update the Transit Safety Plan, which documents the Authority's process and procedures for implementing Safety Management Systems (SMS). The plan was initially signed by the General Manager and approved by the Fiscal Management Control Board (FMCB) in June 2020 and must be updated by September 1, 2021 per the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Program Standard. The updated plan must also be signed by the MBTA's General Manager and approved by the FMCB. The MBTA has completed this year's annual review and, though the majority of updates are minor in nature, the updates must now be approved by the FMCB prior to submission to the DPU.

### Transit Safety Plan History

In July 2012, Congress passed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, which created a new Public Transportation Agency Safety Program, and brought about major safety-specific changes to the transit industry. A key element of the program include the "Public Transportation Safety Program" and as a result, in July of 2018, the FTA published Rule 49 CFR 673, the "Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan" rule. 49 CFR 673 formally requires public transportation systems to develop a Transit Safety Plan that includes the process and procedures necessary for implementing SMS.

The SMS Components of the Safety Plan must include:

- Safety Management Policy
  - Safety objectives
  - Organizational accountabilities and Safety Responsibilities
  - Employee Safety Reporting Program
- Safety Risk Management
  - Process for hazard identification
  - Risk assessment
  - Mitigation Development
- Safety Assurance
  - Safety performance monitoring and measurement
  - Continuous Improvement

- Safety Promotion
  - Safety Training
  - Safety Communication

Additionally, the plan must be signed by the agency's Accountable Executive and approved by the Board of Directors (or equivalent authority) and must also include a process and timeline for conducting an annual review and update of the plan.

In June 2020, the initial MBTA Transit Safety Plan was signed by the General Manager and approved by the Fiscal Management Control Board, and in July 2020 it was certified by the Department of Public Utilities.

### Transit Safety Plan Annual Update

In addition to Rule 49 CFR 673, DPU Program Standard 220 CMR 151 requires an annual review of the Transit Safety Plan. This year's review process started internally in the Safety Department with the SMS Implementation Team, which reviewed and completed initial updates. These updates include:

- Added references to the new Safety Hotline number, which was announced at the MBTA Safety Symposium in April.
- Updated the Safety Policy Statement to reference the newly developed SMS training courses, including the new SMS Fundamentals Course.
- Updated the SMS implementation plan activities to reflect the transition to implementation Phase 2.
- Added Safety Performance Targets through Calendar Year 2022.
- Added references to the newly developed Safety Risk Management and Risk Mitigation Monitoring SOPs.
- Updated language to clarify how to calculate risk probability to the Risk Analysis section.
- Added additional references to the newly developed SMS training courses to the Safety Training section.

The updated plan was then reviewed by the Safety Department's management staff followed by the Safety Management Review Committee. After the SMRC's review, Chief Safety Officer Ester completed his final review, signed the document, and submitted it to General Manager Poftak for approval. GM Poftak signed the final version of the updated plan on June 3, 2021. The plan will be presented to the Fiscal Management Control Board on June 21, 2021 for approval. Once the updated plan is approved by the board, it will then be submitted to the DPU, who will review and certify the updates.