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 Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
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 Steve Poflak, General Manager



**MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
 MEETING OF THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

March 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

This meeting was held virtually in accordance the law recently signed by the Governor permitting public bodies to continue to hold meetings remotely. Public participation and comment was available via written communication, voice message and live public comment through conference call.

This meeting was broadcast virtually.

BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Chair Scott Darling, Director Robert Butler, Director Mary Beth Mello

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Counsel Kevin Scanlon and Noah Potash, Esq.

PRESENTERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Deputy Director of Safety Oversight and Planning Matthew DeDenato, Chief Safety Officer Ronald Ester, Deputy Director of Safety Assurance Michael Catsos, and interim Director of Commuter Rail Safety Timothy Lesniak

Call to Order by the Chair

Chair Darling called the meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”) Safety Subcommittee to order at 3:00 p.m.

Noah Potash called the roll of the Members participating, being a quorum of the MBTA’s Safety Subcommittee:

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| Chair Darling | Present |
| Director Butler | Present |
| Director Mello | Present |

Chair Darling turned to the approval of the minutes of the February 10, 2022

meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 Meeting of the Safety, Health and Environment Subcommittee.

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| Chair Darling | Yes |
| Director Butler | Yes |
| Director Mello | Yes |

Presentations and Discussion

For Agenda Item 1, interim Director of Commuter Rail Safety Timothy Lesniak presented a briefing on commuter rail safety. At Chair Darling's request, Mr. Lesniak discussed how Keolis cooperates with the MBTA Safety Department on safety issues. Responding to a question from Director Butler, Mr. Lesniak said that staff are working with the manufacturer of the commuter rail crossing gates to have the gates automatically return to normal operating mode as quickly as possible. Mr. Lesniak said that the department was auditing its corrective actions and that he would provide a copy of the written procedures for each audit per the Chair's request. Chair Darling asked about the metrics for success of the actions and Mr. Lesniak said he would provide a copy of the metrics. Director Butler asked if changes to the crossing gates required FTA approval and Mr. Lesniak explained that the changes fall under FRA jurisdiction. Director Mello asked about the FRA's involvement and Mr. Lesniak said that the FRA has been directly involved and mainly looks for compliance. Chief Safety Officer Ester discussed how the department is continuously reviewing data from its audits. Chair Darling asked

about horns and bells in quiet zones and Mr. Lesniak said that quiet zones relate to sounding the train horn and added that some, but not all grade crossings have bells. Director Mello suggested it would be prudent to provide more information to the public on the FRA's jurisdiction over quiet zones.

At the Chair's request, Deputy Director of Safety Oversight and Planning Matthew DeDenato presented Agenda Item 3, an update on the Safety Data Analysis Report ("SDAR"). Director Mello asked about readiness for a potential change in mask policy and Mr. DeDenato discussed public health improvements that staff have made in preparation, such as installing partitions on buses. Director Mello asked about the cause of falling injury rates and Mr. DeDenato said that a reduction in the severity of bus collisions, partly due to increased traffic, contributed to the shift. Chair Darling asked staff to include a slide on the fare free bus routes going forward. Responding to Director Mello's question about how the Transit Police can assist with auto-related collisions involving light rail, Mr. DeDenato said that while Transit Police can respond to the scene of incidents, these incidents have been too interspersed for Transit Police to be dispatched in a preventative manner. Chair Darling asked for a report on grade crossings and Mr. DeDenato said staff would provide more information. In response to a question from Director Mello, Mr. DeDenato said that snow and ice clearing was not a factor in recent customer injuries. Director Butler asked where one of the presentation's examples of a safety hotline call came from and Mr. DeDenato said the example related to the Lynn Bus Maintenance Facility. Director Mello asked about the work

being done to reduce the rate of work-related injuries and Mr. DeDenato discussed efforts by Occupational Health and the Safety department to develop trainings related to the most common types of injuries. Chair Darling asked staff to report back once a final OSHA report is available and Chief Ester commented on the work staff do to review all injuries and track associated mitigations and actions. Director Butler requested a complete list of MBTA bus routes. Director Mello asked if progress had been made on allowing employees to complete the SMS fundamentals course from home and Mr. DeDenato said that arrangements have been made to allow employees to complete the course at home.

For Agenda Item 2, the subcommittee members had a general safety discussion regarding the work of the Safety department and the content of subcommittee meetings. Director Butler said the subcommittee's work was headed in the right direction and added that he will always have questions about escalators. Director Mello asked about the escalator audit process. Chief Ester said that the department was still compiling the report and Mr. Catsos added that a draft is being vetted for release. Director Mello stressed the importance of identifying issues and the appropriate responses and Chief Ester said that he agreed and is committed to continuous improvement and better communication. Responding to a question from Chair Darling on terminology in the Safety Panel Report, Chief Ester said that staff had changed the designation "completed and monitoring" to the more accurate "implemented and monitoring." Chair Darling and Chief Ester discussed the issue of Safety site visits for new hires. Director Butler

asked if OSHA conducts unscheduled inspections and Chief Ester said that they do, but that they also conduct inspections when incidents occur. Chair Darling requested reports from the Environment and Health Departments. Chief Ester said he would set up a cadence for regular reports. Chair Darling requested more context on newly added safety positions in and outside the department. Chair Darling also requested briefings on Safety projects programmed in the Capital Investment Plan (CIP). Chair Darling said that at the next full Board meeting, he would like Chief Ester to provide an “abbreviated SDAR” presentation. Director Mello suggested focusing on trends that the department is trying to correct.

Chair Darling asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

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| Chair Darling | Yes |
| Director Butler | Yes |
| Director Mello | Yes |

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting of the Safety, Health, and Environment Subcommittee at 4:04 p.m.

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- March 10, 2022 MBTA Safety subcommittee Agenda
- Minutes of the February 10, 2022 Safety subcommittee meeting
- Safety Data Analysis Report - January
- Commuter Rail Safety Update