



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

**May 16, 2022 at 11:00 a.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:** General Counsel Marie Breen, Chief Counsel Kevin Scanlon, and Noah Potash, Esq.

**PRESENTERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:** Chief Safety Officer Ron Ester, Deputy Director of Safety Oversight and Planning Matthew DeDenato, Senior Director of Energy & Environment Andrew Brennan, Director of Vehicle Engineering Bill Wolfgang

**Call to Order by the Chair**

Chair Darling called the meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ("MBTA") Safety Subcommittee to order at 11:00 a.m.

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

<b>Chair Darling</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Director Butler</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Director Mello</b>	<b>Present</b>

Chair Darling turned to the approval of the minutes of the April 14, 2022

meeting.

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

**VOTED: to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2022 Meeting of the Safety, Health and Environment Subcommittee.**

<b>Chair Darling</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Director Butler</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Director Mello</b>	<b>Yes</b>

### **Presentations and Discussion**

For Agenda Item 1, Chief Safety Officer Ron Ester provided an update on the FTA Safety Management Inspection. Chair Darling said the subcommittee welcomes FTA input and asked Mr. Ester to provide any interim updates before the FTA releases its final report. Director Butler echoed the Chair's comments and said safety is the main priority. Director Mello echoed Director Butler and asked when the final report is expected. Mr. Ester said it is tentatively expected for late summer. Chair Darling noted that the subcommittee is available if the FTA wants to speak with them.

For Agenda Item 2, Mr. Ester presented the NTSB Preliminary Findings regarding the Red Line Incident, which found that the passenger death was caused by a fault in the local door control system. Responding to questions from Director Butler, Mr. Ester confirmed that the fault that caused the death was not found in any other Red Line vehicles and said that the maintenance team is enhancing their regular inspection procedures.

Then, for Agenda Item 3, Senior Director of Energy & Environment Andrew Brennan provided an overview of the MBTA's Climate Change Strategy. Responding to a question from Director Mello, Mr. Brennan discussed staff's ongoing work to apply for BIL funding to support climate resiliency. Responding to Director Butler, Mr. Brennan noted that an application for funding for the Arborway facility has been submitted. At the Chair's request, Mr. Brennan discussed how the CIP factors climate resiliency and energy savings into its ranking of projects. Director Mello commented on the climate vulnerability mapping and Mr. Brennan added that summary documents and still images of the maps are on the MBTA website.

Director of Vehicle Engineering Bill Wolfgang presented on the procurement of 40-foot low floor Battery Electric Buses for Agenda Item 4. In response to questions from Director Butler and Chair Darling, Mr. Wolfgang said that staff are hoping to receive bids from all five leading manufacturers and noted that three of the manufacturers are foreign companies with domestic production facilities. Chair Darling asked about the makeup of the current bus fleet and Mr. Wolfgang explained that 120 of the approximately 1100 buses in the fleet are 60-foot buses, with the remainder being 40-foot buses. The Chair asked about HVAC on the buses and Mr. Wolfgang discussed air exchange and efforts to install an air purification system. Chair Darling noted the inclusion of several safety measures in the procurement and asked about the required Altoona certification. Mr. Wolfgang explained that the certification provides a detailed representation of what the

vehicles are expected to undergo over a 14-year, 500,000-mile lifespan. Director Mello noted that the leading manufacturers are all DBE certified at the national level.

Next, Deputy Director of Safety Oversight Matthew DeDenato presented Item 5, the Safety Data Analysis Report (SDAR) for March. Responding to a question from the Chair, Mr. Ester confirmed that not all new safety-focused personnel would be part of the Safety Department, but that they will be part of the overall Safety Management System. Director Butler and Mr. Ester discussed the proportion of safety hires assigned to the Safety Department, with Director Butler emphasizing that the MBTA is not adding 150 hires to the Safety Department and requesting a breakdown of new hires.

Finally, Mr. DeDenato presented Agenda Item 6, a quarterly rollup of Safety Data Analysis for Quarter 1 of CY2022. Director Butler expressed condolences for the fatality that occurred on a Right-of-Way in Abington and Chair Darling said the subcommittee shares in those condolences.

Chair Darling asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

<b>Chair Darling</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Director Butler</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Director Mello</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**VOTED: to adjourn at 12:03 p.m.**

**Documents relied upon for this meeting:**

- May 16, 2022 MBTA Safety subcommittee Agenda

- Minutes of the March 11, 2022 Safety subcommittee meeting
- Climate Change Resiliency Overview for SHE Subcommittee
- MBTA Battery Bus Procurement Summary
- Safety Data Analysis Report – March 2022
- Calendar Year 2022 – Quarter 1 Safety Data Review