



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

May 5, 2023

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

Subject: Approval – Supplemental Corrective Action Plan for Incorporating Exterior Vehicle Inspection in Special Directive 22-5, Vehicle Securement of Disabled Trains

Dear Mr. Eng:

Thank you and your team for providing an updated supplemental Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address comments from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding the proposed approach previously submitted by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to include exterior vehicle inspection (EVI) as part of the response to [Special Directive 22-5, Vehicle Securement of Disabled Trains](#). FTA received the updated CAP submission as requested on April 28, 2023.

Approval of Supplemental CAP, FTA-VSC-23-001

The goal of this supplemental CAP is to address previously identified FTA concerns and ensure a robust visual inspection of trains prior to their placement in passenger service. Based on the clarifications and additional information provided to the supplemental CAP, **FTA approves FTA-VSC-23-001**.

With approval of this supplemental CAP, FTA also transfers FTA-VSC-22-001, Action Item 13, Hiring Plan, to supplemental CAP FTA-VSC-23-001, as Action Item 1.13. This change further supports FTA's ability to work cooperatively with the MBTA to accept completed SD 22-5 action items for the safe movement of heavy rail transit vehicles in car houses and rail yards, exclusive of the new requirements for EVIs.

As of the date of this letter (May 5, 2023), FTA-VSC-23-001 supersedes the following action items – from previously FTA-approved SD 22-5 CAPs – that focus on the development and implementation of procedures, training, and compliance for pre-trip inspections for heavy rail vehicles:

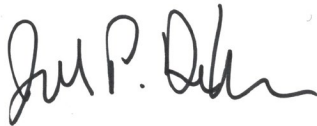
- FTA-VSC-22-001, Action Item 9c (pre-trip inspection procedures);

- FTA-VSC-22-002, Action Item 1c (pre-trip inspection training); and
- FTA-VSC-22-003, Action Item 1c (pre-trip inspection auditing/compliance).

These action items resulted in the development of materials directing the conduct of pre-trip inspections from inside the heavy rail transit vehicle and did not include a visual inspection of the exterior of the vehicle prior to its placement in passenger service. These action items will be removed from all FTA tracking databases and replaced by the corresponding FTA-VSC-23-001 actions items, which focus on development and implementation of new EVI procedures for all heavy rail transit vehicles.

We appreciate your efforts to enhance MBTA's safety performance, and we look forward to working with you as the MBTA continues to improve rail transit vehicle safety and securement. If you have any question, please contact our Safety Management Inspection Coordinator Erin Powell at (771) 200-8016 or by email at Erin.Powell@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Joe DeLorenzo
Associate Administrator and
Chief Safety Officer
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

Enclosure: Special Directive 22-5 Corrective Action Plan Evaluation Matrix

cc:

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