



# Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

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REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE  
MBTA MAINTENANCE OF WAY (MOW) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

MBTA Safety, Health & Environment Committee Meeting

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# Executive Summary

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- Focused evaluation of track inspection process
- MBTA staff provided full cooperation
- The approach utilized biased toward identification of areas for improvement
- Root Causes:
  - Absence of written Standard Operating Procedures for inspections results in systemic lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities
  - Training and qualifications of inspection staff contributes to incomplete and inconsistent execution of responsibilities
- Actions to address the findings have commenced



# Approach

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- MBTA provided access to data room
  - FTA Safety Management Inspection Final Report
  - Corrective Action Plans
  - Vendor inspection reports
  - MBTA Track Maintenance and Safety Standards
- Documents provided outside of data room such as NetworkRail report, network schematics, and the Safety Review Panel report
- Individual interviews (E&M, MOW and retired employees)
- Evaluation and development of findings and recommendations



# Findings

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- Identification and verification of track defects is inconsistent
- Geometry testing by vendors needs to reengage front line responsible parties (Forepersons)
- Training provided by Maintenance of Way organization for safety inspections is insufficient for the requirements
- The safety critical nature and complexity of the MBTA track elements mandates written Standard Operating Procedures to guide inspections



# Findings

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- System Repairpersons qualifications, training and recertification is inconsistent and generally not an organizational strength
- Qualifications and track maintenance experience of Section Forepersons also inconsistent and requires strengthening
- The current inspection, maintenance and capital program workload is difficult for MOW to address at current staffing levels
- Criteria utilized for vendor geometry testing should be examined against the MBTA's unique characteristics



# Recommendations

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- Complete and issue written Standard Operating Procedures for inspections
- Elevate the safety inspection positions within MOW
- Enhance training, certification and recertification for System Repairpersons
- Include Section Forepersons during vendor testing
- Evaluate alternate criteria for track geometry testing
- Staff MOW department at level to support mission
- Augment the MOW staff to support development of an integrated track improvement plan



# Questions?

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