



**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

Safety Updates

Timothy P. Lesniak, Chief Safety Officer

MBTA Board of Directors Meeting

June 12, 2025

Discussion Topics

- National Safety Month
- Safety Improvement – Past 18 months
- Recent Incidents and Corrective Actions



National Safety Month

- Toolbox Talks each week in June
- 2025 Agents of Safety Awards – opening nominations
- 2025 Safety Symposium – scheduled for the Fall



JUNE 1-7



Continuous Improvement

JUNE 8-14



Employee Engagement

JUNE 15-21



Roadway Safety

JUNE 22-30



Wellbeing

Safety Plans

Transit Safety Plan

System Safety Program Plan (Commuter Rail)

Safety & Security Certification Program Plan (Project Certification)

Safety Event Investigation Manual (Incident Investigation Process)

System Modification Program

Configuration Management and Control Program

SMS Implementation Plan



OSHA Safety Programs

- Finalized and updated key programs
 - Energy Control – Lock Out/Tag Out
 - Powered Industrial Truck Safety Program
 - Materials Handling and Storage Safety Program
 - Lead Surveillance Program
 - Respiratory Protection Program
 - Fall Protection Program
 - Haz Comm Program

Safety Input to the Capital Investment Process



Safety leadership reviews every CIP program submittal to determine the safety impact.

Does it address high or serious hazards?

Does it eliminate or reduce other known safety concerns?



For submittals that are unfunded, Safety reviews the submittal to determine if there are safety issues that require further mitigation since the project is not going forward.



The Safety & Security Certification process verifies that new projects do not create new unacceptable or undesirable safety risk

Safety Reorganization and Expansion

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- As part of the FTA SMI, minimum viable measures were determined for the Safety Division.
- September 2023 – 43 Safety employees within the Safety Division
- Safety was well below the threshold for minimum viable headcount.
 - Missed deadlines
 - Poor quality investigations into incidents
 - Investigation backlog
 - Inadequate safety audits and oversight
 - Inadequate data analysis.

Safety Reorganization and Expansion

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- Today – 106 Safety employees within the Safety Division
 - Improved safety coverage on 2nd and 3rd shifts
 - FTA Acknowledged that we met the minimum viable Safety Division staffing October 22, 2024
 - Deadlines are being met or extensions are requested
 - Investigation quality has improved and will continue to improve through future training initiatives
 - Investigation backlog cleared
 - Improved Safety Audit and Field Level Oversight
 - Shifted from a team doing data entry to analyzing data for trends

Change in Safety Process - CAPs

FTA Corrective Action Plans

- Many were in process in September 2023
- CAPs were updated to reflect the changing direction of new leadership

MBTA Corrective Action Plans to DPU

- Previously these were decided by safety with little to no input from key stakeholders
- Instituted a process involving Operations Division staff in the planning of Corrective Action Plans, requiring the sign off by the CSO and the COO prior to submittal to DPU

Investigation Process Update



Causal Factor Training introduced and training provided to Safety Leads performing investigations



Root Cause Analysis Process and Training implemented



Report writing training course in development

Development of Safety Programs



Updated process for Safety Oversight in the field



New reports, dashboards, and data tools were developed



Formal Mitigation Monitoring Program Developed and Implemented



Various SMS Database Modules Rolled Out

Increased Use of Safety Processes

Safety Risk Management Output tripled Year over Year (2023-2024)

- 45 Completed SRM worksheets including proactively detected hazards and approved mitigations

Safety Hotline usage doubled 2023-2025

- Created a portal for employees to utilize to provide safety concerns
- Updated the email process
- Promoted the Safety Hotline to employees

Safety & Security Certification

- Updated the program and instituted training to all employees affected
- Better awareness of program among stakeholders

Capital Projects Improving Safety

- Commuter Rail Mini-High Platforms
- Green Line Station Upgrades/Consolidations
- ATC/PTC
- Track Improvement Program



The Future

- Safety will continue to work to drive down incidents and injuries by the structured staffing growth of the Safety Division, process improvements, and training
 - Continuing to grow and develop the data analysis team
 - Hiring additional field team members to provide safety assurance
 - Growing the Safety Risk Management team to manage safety risk through workshops and oversight
 - Growing the Occupational Safety team to investigate all injuries driving down injuries by addressing primary and contributing causes

Recent Incidents and Corrective Actions

Questions?

