




Memorandum

Date: October 25, 2023

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FTA's Oversight of State Safety Oversight Agencies | Project No. 23S3005S000
Federal Transit Administration

From: David Pouliott 
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Federal Transit Administrator

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) plays a significant role in promoting the safety of our Nation's public transit system through its oversight of State Safety Oversight (SSO) programs. These programs are a requirement for States with rail fixed guideway public transportation systems to receive Federal funding.¹ While States have the primary responsibility for overseeing the safety of rail transit, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) directs FTA to establish a comprehensive safety program and certify designated State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOA).² FTA certified all 31 existing SSOAs and has a continuing responsibility to oversee these agencies' compliance with Federal requirements.

In response to a directive in House of Representatives Report 117-99, we are initiating this audit.³ Our objective is to assess FTA's oversight of SSOA compliance with Federal requirements.

We plan to begin the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We plan to conduct our work at DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC, and FTA Regional Offices as necessary. Additionally, we may contact FTA's oversight contractors, SSOAs, and public transportation providers. If you have any questions, please contact me or Luke Brennan, Program Director.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
FTA Audit Liaison, TBP-1

¹ 49 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 5329(e).

² 49 U.S.C. § 5329.

³ H.R. Rep. No. 117-99 (2021). The Consolidated Appropriations Act's 2022 joint explanatory statement indicates congressional intent and explicitly states that H.R. Rep. No. 117-99 should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary. 168 Cong. Rec. H3028 (daily ed. Mar. 9, 2022) (explanatory statement submitted by Rep. DeLauro).