



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

*Office of Railroad, Pipeline &
Hazardous Materials Investigations*

Safety Oversight

Safety Oversight

Federal Transit Administration



Regional Transportation Authority



Chicago Transit Authority



System Safety Department



Track Engineering Department



Track Inspection & Maintenance

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CTA Internal Oversight Failures

33 Track Inspection Teams

5 Roadmasters

- Oversee Inspection/Maintenance Teams
- Conduct monthly track inspection
 - Dearborn Subway – accomplished only 1 in 5 months
 - Many inspection records found incomplete/missing

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CTA Internal Oversight Failures

Track Engineer IV Maintenance

- Oversees Roadmasters

Manager of Track

- Oversees Track Engineer IV Maintenance, and maintenance and construction groups

Vice President Engineering & Staff

- Oversees Manager of Track

CTA Internal Oversight Failures

System Safety Department

- Monitor departmental functions listed in the System Safety Program Plan
- No technical expertise or knowledge of track systems
- Primarily concentrated on walkway areas in tunnels and emergency exits

State Safety Oversight

1991 NTSB, *Oversight of Rail Rapid Transit Safety*

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

FTA requires each State with a fixed-guideway system to designate an oversight agency to conduct safety and security oversight

State Safety Oversight

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires each rail transit agency to address operating and maintenance rules and procedures

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) requires CTA to have a System Safety Program Plan

RTA Safety Oversight Program

- RTA's main responsibilities are financial oversight and regional planning
- Only two RTA staff assigned part-time to CTA Oversight Program

RTA Safety Oversight Program

- Review major accidents
- Conduct on-site triennial reviews
- File reports to FTA
- Approve annual internal CTA audits
- Review hazard management, safety certification, and corrective action plans

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RTA Safety Oversight Program

RTA Triennial Review in August 2004

Final report released January 2005

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RTA Safety Oversight Program

RTA's 2005 report of CTA included information regarding problems with

Track fasteners

Wide gage

Gage restraint rods

Track inspection personnel at lean levels

Inconsistent on-the-job training

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RTA Safety Oversight Program

- RTA failed to follow up on comments or observations in the Triennial report
- Comments and observations contained track safety deficiencies

Draft Conclusion

Because the Regional Transportation Authority failed to follow up with the Chicago Transit Authority and prompt action to correct safety deficiencies identified in the triennial report, unsafe track conditions continued to exist that should have been corrected.

Federal Transit Administration

- FTA has not audited RTA since 2000
- September 11, 2001: FTA ceased its audits of State safety oversight agencies
- 2005 – FTA resumed its audit program and expects to review all State oversight agencies by September 2009
- FTA to audit RTA in Spring of 2008



Federal Transit Administration

- Improving Compliance with Operating and Maintenance Rules
- May 8, 2007, FTA letter to heavy rail and commuter rail agencies
- Partnership with APTA
- Develop a track inspection training course

Federal Transit Administration

2006 GAO Report on FTA State Safety Oversight

GAO report determined:

- Lacked information to track program trends
- State Safety agencies do not have enough qualified staff
- Need for additional training

Draft Conclusion

The Federal Transit Administration's oversight of the Regional Transportation Authority's Rail Safety Oversight Program was inadequate and failed to prompt actions needed to correct track safety deficiencies on the Chicago Transit Authority's rail transit system.



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