



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

June 03, 2026

Mr. Jonathan Hunt  
Interim GM/CEO  
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority  
2424 Piedmont Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30324

**Subject: Federal Transit Administration Audit Concerning Assaults on Transit Workers**

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is initiating an audit of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's (MARTA) implementation of its Agency Safety Plan (ASP), including requirements related to preventing assaults on transit workers. This audit will be conducted pursuant to FTA's authority under 49 U.S.C. 5329(f)(1) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 670.

The audit will address the ongoing risk to MARTA frontline workers of being assaulted and will address general safety and security of the system. According to data reported to the National Transit Database (NTD) through January 31, 2026, MARTA reported one of only two transit worker assault fatalities nationwide in FY2025. Additionally, MARTA's rate of personal security events resulting in the death or transport for injury of a MARTA employee or rider has been nearly twice the national average since FY2024. Specifically relating to rail workers and riders, the trend is worse: in FY2026 the rate of personal security events on rail modes is three-and-a-half times higher than the national average.

This audit is intended to determine whether conditions exist that endanger transit workers and passengers on the MARTA system by assessing MARTA's compliance with 49 CFR Part 673, Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans program. The audit will evaluate how MARTA is mitigating transit worker assault risks in response to FTA directives.

Based on the Department's ongoing focus on safety and security, and pursuant to its oversight authority, FTA directs MARTA to provide information about agency practices and expenditures. See FTA Master Agreement section 3(h)(2)(iii). Of key importance is documentation of actions and funding that ensure effective security for passengers and workers on the MARTA system.

For this FTA review of MARTA actions, please provide FTA with the following information:

1. MARTA actions and plans to reduce crime and fare evasion on the transit system. Please

include information about fare evasion trends and previous actions.

2. Identification of funds MARTA receives from all sources that are programmed to improve the security of passengers and workers. This should include information about all MARTA fiscal year 2026 budgeted and fiscal year 2027 planned funds to reduce crime and fare evasion on the transit system, including a comparison to prior-year funding for such expenses. Please also include:
  - a. Security expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program security capital projects set-aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5307(c)(1)(J)(i)).
  - b. Safety expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program safety set-aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(4)(B)).
  - c. Non-FTA funds – Information about funds from other Federal government agencies directed to the safety and security of MARTA passengers and workers. This should include any Department of Homeland Security funds.

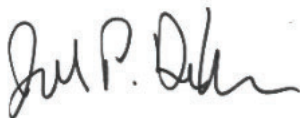
Additionally, FTA will evaluate:

1. MARTA's Safety Risk Reduction Program included in the ASP, with a specific focus on transit worker assaults; and
2. The effectiveness of the mitigations identified and implemented by MARTA in response to General Directive 24-1: Required Actions Regarding Assaults on Transit Workers, issued by FTA on September 25, 2024.

Per 49 CFR § 670.11, within 15 days of the issuance of this letter, MARTA must provide FTA the documents identified in Appendix A, via email to [FTASystemSafety@dot.gov](mailto:FTASystemSafety@dot.gov).

If you have any questions regarding the audit or documentation requested, please contact Jeremy Furrer, Division Chief, Office of Safety Policy and Promotion of the Office of Safety Management, at [jeremy.furrer@dot.gov](mailto:jeremy.furrer@dot.gov) or me at (202) 366-5080 or via email at [joseph.delorenzo@dot.gov](mailto:joseph.delorenzo@dot.gov).

Sincerely,



Joe DeLorenzo  
Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and  
Chief Safety Officer

Enclosure: Appendix A: MARTA Audit Requested Materials List

cc: Yvette Taylor, PhD, Regional Administrator, FTA Region 4

## APPENDIX A: MARTA AUDIT REQUESTED MATERIALS LIST

For purposes of this audit, FTA requests MARTA provide the following documentation related to the implementation of its Agency Safety Plan (ASP) addressing assaults on transit workers, as well as information regarding actions taken in response to General Directive 24-1.

#	ASP and Safety Performance Targets
1	MARTA's 2025 board-approved Agency Safety Plans covering rail and bus modes that are covered by FTA's Public Transportation Safety Program.
2	Documentation of any MARTA safety performance targets related to assaults on transit workers, including how targets are established and monitored, from 2022-present.
3	Documentation related to the implementation of the Safety Risk Reduction Program for assaults on transit workers, including actions taken, targets established, mitigations implemented, and relevant dates.
4	Safety risk assessment documentation related to assaults on transit workers, from 2022-present.
5	Documentation of MARTA's employee safety reporting process, and all reports related to assaults on transit workers from 2022-present.
6	Documentation related to the development and implementation of the agency's de-escalation training, including employee completion status.
#	Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee Procedures
7	Documentation of safety risk mitigations related to assaults on transit workers identified and recommended by the Safety Committee, from 2022-present.
8	Documentation of MARTA's Safety Committee activities and information regarding the Safety Committee's role in monitoring the effectiveness of mitigations related to assaults on transit workers.
#	Implementation of FTA General Directives
9	Documentation of MARTA's implementation of identified mitigations in response to General Directive 24-1, addressing the risk of assaults on transit workers, including status updates, internal monitoring, relevant dates, and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigations.