



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: November 24, 2014

In reply refer to: R-14-66 through R-14-68

Mr. Thomas Prendergast
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transit Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On November 19, 2014, we adopted our report *Organizational Factors in Metro-North Railroad Accidents* in which the results of five investigations involving Metro-North Railroad were discussed. The accidents examined included: (1) the May 17, 2013, derailment and subsequent collision in Bridgeport, Connecticut; (2) the May 28, 2013, employee fatality in West Haven, Connecticut; (3) the July 18, 2013, CSX derailment on Metro-North tracks in The Bronx, New York; (4) the December 1, 2013, derailment in The Bronx, New York; and (5) the March 10, 2014, employee fatality in Manhattan, New York.¹ Additional information about these accidents and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number SIR-14/04.

As a result of this investigation, we reiterated Safety Recommendation R-12-16, R-13-21, and R-14-34; reclassified Safety Recommendation R-08-06, R-14-07, and R-14-23; and issued

¹ National Transportation Safety Board. *Organizational Factors in Metro-North Railroad Accidents*. SIR-14/04 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2014).

17 new recommendations, including eight to the Metro-North Railroad; one to the Long Island Railroad; two to the Federal Railroad Administration; one to the Association of American Railroads, the American Public Transportation Association, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers; one to the American College of Physicians; one to the American Academy of Family Physicians; and the following three recommendations to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority:

R-14-66

Require representatives from your operating divisions to regularly review safety and operational data from all divisions to identify safety issues and trends and share the results across your operating properties.

R-14-67

Establish a program to systematically evaluate deficiencies identified on one Metropolitan Transportation Authority property, and determine the applicability of safety mitigations to other Metropolitan Transportation Authority properties.

R-14-68

Develop an oversight and tracking process to ensure that the recommendations from the various investigations and reviews of Metro-North Railroad are coordinated, addressed, and resolved at all Metropolitan Transportation Authority properties.

Acting Chairman HART and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Acting Chairman