

County of Milwaukee Interoffice Communication

DATE: 8/21/2020
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: MCTS Agency Safety Plan

POLICY

On July 19, 2018, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Rule requiring large public transportation systems to develop a plan that include processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS). According to the FTA, the MCTS Agency Safety Plan needs to be approved by the County Board of Supervisors and implemented prior to December 31, 2020.

BACKGROUND

SMS is a formal, organization-wide approach to managing safety risks and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk mitigation activities. Implementing the Agency Safety Plan will enable MCTS to proactively address organizational problems that lead to safety hazards, identify system-wide trends in safety and manage emerging hazards before they result in incidents or accidents. The MCTS Agency Safety Plan addresses FTA requirements for key elements such as:

- Safety performance targets
- Safety policies, procedures, and accountabilities
- Safety risk management strategies and safety assurance procedures
- Safety promotion and training and communication efforts aimed to inform employees about how to identify and report safety concerns.

Overall, the safety plan formalizes and elevates MCTS's commitment to building a strong safety culture across the organization. The Agency Safety Plan is available for review online at www.ridemcts.com/agency-safety-plan

MCTS Safety Policy Statement

Positive safety culture must be generated from the top-down. Actions, attitudes, and decisions at the policy-making level must demonstrate a genuine commitment to safety. Safety must be recognized as the responsibility of each employee with the ultimate responsibility for safety resting with the Managing Director of MCTS. Employees must trust that they will have management support for decisions made in the interest of safety while recognizing that intentional breaches of safety will not be tolerated. In brief, the MCTS Safety Policy follows:

MCTS is committed to Safety Management Systems (SMS) as a systematic and comprehensive approach to identifying safety hazards and risks associated with transit system operations and related maintenance activities.

MCTS Safety Performance Targets

Per the plan, MCTS aims to reduce injuries and safety incidents and improve system reliability by 10% when compared to average rate of injuries, incidents and road calls over the past five (5) years. Targets for improved safety outcomes apply to both fixed route and demand response paratransit services.

Coordination and Implementation

To enable coordination regionally and with the State, all safety performance targets have been shared with Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

Once approved, MCTS will amend the current plan that is online to add the adopted Board resolution approving of the safety plan. MCTS also commits to review the plan annually to ensure that updates reflect organizational changes as well as acknowledge the increasing maturity of SMS in the organization.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal impact of the resolution to approve the 2020 MCTS Agency Safety Plan. Operating costs related to safety management are already a part of annual budgets. The Plan will be implemented and managed with existing staff time.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Transportation Agencies must obtain approval of their agency safety plan by the governing Board (e.g. County Board of Supervisors) and certify that a safety plan meets the requirements of the rule by December 31, 2020. MCTS recommends adoption of the resolution approving of the MCTS Agency Safety Plan.

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