

Date: November 5, 2025
To: Travis King, Director Safety & Security
Cc: Audit Committee for the Utah Transit Authority; Mike Hurst, Director Internal Audit
From: Luke Barber, Senior Internal Auditor
Subject: 2025 Commuter Rail Safety Audit Results

Background

Utah Transit Authority (UTA) Internal Audit (IA) completes the Commuter Rail Safety Audit each year as required by the Commuter Rail Safety Plan. The 2025 audit appears on the UTA Audit Plan approved by the Audit Committee on March 10, 2025.

IA selected audit procedures using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) checklists, modified for use in Commuter Rail, and rotates topics on a three-year cycle. The UTA Safety team owns the audit results and determines whether corrective action plans are needed to address Findings of Non-Compliance or Compliance with Recommendations. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) reviews the results and evaluates how findings are addressed.

Scope

Luke Barber, Senior Internal Auditor for UTA, conducted the 2025 Commuter Rail Safety Audit. He holds the Public Transportation Safety Certification Program – Bus certification and the Transit Safety and Security Program – Bus certification.

The audit reviewed activities from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, and considered information from other periods when relevant.

IA covered the following elements:

1. System Safety Program Goals
2. Railroad System Description
3. Maintenance, Repair, and Inspection Program
4. Rules Compliance and Procedure Review
5. Emergency Management
6. Workplace Safety
7. Risk-Based Hazard Management Program
8. Risk-Based Hazard Analysis
9. Internal System Safety Program Assessment

10. Internal Safety Program

Results

The following summarizes each element, divided into Findings of Non-Compliance and Compliance with Recommendations. IA applied conservative judgment when identifying Non-Compliance. Management should review this report carefully to determine appropriate action plans.

1. System Safety Program Goals

Findings of Non-Compliance:

Management has not communicated FRSSP goals to staff. As a result, staff had not implemented the goals. Additionally, the goals were missing from the Rule Book, which could have served as another method of communication.

Compliance with Recommendations:

IA identified no additional opportunities for improvement.

2. Railroad System Description

Findings of Non-compliance:

No issues that the auditor considers non-compliance.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

3. Maintenance, Repair, and Inspection Program

Findings of Non-compliance:

No issues that the auditor considers non-compliance.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

4. Rules Compliance and Procedure Review

Findings of Non-compliance:

No issues that the auditor considers non-compliance.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

5. Emergency Management

Findings of Non-compliance:

Section 2 of the FrontRunner Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness Plan requires employees to complete annual Emergency Response training. IA found that nine employees had not completed the required training in either 2024 or 2025.

Compliance with Recommendations:

IA noted that the 239 Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness Plan was last updated in 2018. We recommend reviewing and updating the document.

IA also verified emergency equipment on passenger coaches as required by the audit program. The Emergency Preparedness Plan specifies that each coach carry flashlights for emergencies. During inspection, IA found that glow sticks replaced the flashlights. This change is acceptable because conductors and train hosts carry flashlights. However, UTA should update the Emergency Preparedness Plan to reflect this modification.

6. Workplace Safety

Findings of Non-compliance:

On September 4, 2025, IA participated in a monthly safety walk and identified multiple unlabeled chemicals on the maintenance shop floor. Some chemicals were stored on carts and workbenches instead of in chemical storage cabinets.

In response to this observation, IA tested the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) database on SharePoint to determine if directions existed for each chemical related to first aid, personal protective equipment (PPE), spill response, fire response, and storage and handling. The following information was missing:

- 11 chemicals missing first aid directions
- 11 chemicals missing PPE directions
- 123 chemicals missing spill response directions
- 126 chemicals missing fire response directions
- 126 chemicals lacking proper storage directions

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

7. Risk Based Hazard Management Program

Findings of Non-compliance:

IA found that the Safety Department did not maintain the Hazard Log FrontRunner tracking sheet

during 2023 and 2024.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

8. Risk Based Hazard Analysis

Findings of Non-compliance:

No issues that the auditor considers non-compliance.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

9. Internal System Safety Program Assessment

Findings of Non-compliance:

No issues that the auditor considers non-compliance.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.

10. Internal Safety Program Assessment

Findings of Non-compliance:

No issues that the auditor considers non-compliance.

Compliance with Recommendations:

No issues that the auditor considers opportunities for improvement.