



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

APR 04 2018

The Honorable Ralph Northam  
Governor of Virginia  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

This letter is to inform you that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program has been approved and certified by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the requirements of Federal public transportation safety law (49 U.S.C. § 5329(e)) and FTA's SSO regulation (49 CFR Part 674).

Certification is an important achievement and promotes the safety of our nation's rail transit systems. Virginia's diligence in fulfilling these requirements and devoting necessary resources will make public transportation safer for the passengers who ride rail transit in Virginia. The FTA understands that Virginia continues to work with Maryland and the District of Columbia on completion of the separate and distinct SSO Program for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail System.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Thomas Littleton, FTA's Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight at (202) 366-1783 or [Thomas.Littleton@dot.gov](mailto:Thomas.Littleton@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

K. Jane Williams  
Acting Administrator

cc: Ms. Shannon Valentine, Chairperson, Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board  
Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia DRPT  
Ms. Sharmila Samarasinghe, Rail Transit Safety Programs Administrator, Virginia DRPT  
Mr. Andrew Ennis, SSO Programs Manager, Virginia DRPT