



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Robert J Tague  
Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation  
Director of Training and Certification  
547 W Jackson BLVD  
Chicago, Illinois 60661

March 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Tague,

This letter responds to the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (NIRC) submission dated January 6, 2024, to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the NIRC Conductor Certification Program (final) received by FRA on January 24, 2024. (NIRC) has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 242. FRA reviewed the railroad's program modification and determined that the railroad's program modification conforms with the requirements of 49 CFR part 242 for the reasons discussed below.

Your submission states that on January 6, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of SMART-TD. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification by the labor organizations.

The program modifications are consistent with the model of the previously approved passenger railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications are intended to provide more details about the conductor certification process and update contact information. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 242, appendix B. Standards have been set regarding re-qualifying over a specific territory. Detailed training standards have been established in section four of your conductor training program.

Please continue in your efforts to improve railroad safety on your system.

Please contact us with any questions regarding this submission at (918) 557-0651 or [Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov](mailto:Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov) or [Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov](mailto:Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov)

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis  
FRA Program Manager  
Engineer & Conductor Certification and Training

pp Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director