

Ron Nickle, MBTA

Ronald W. Nickle serves as the Chief Safety Officer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA or “T”), a division of Mass DOT Rail & Transit Services which operates one of the oldest multi-modal transit agencies in the nation, including: commuter, heavy, light, and subway lines; trackless trolleys, buses, and bus rapid transit; and paratransit and ferry transit services.

MBTA’s commuter rail system totals 13 lines, 132 passenger rail stations, and 287 grade highway crossings on 358 miles of owned-track, within shared freight and Amtrak corridors; operating 476 trains/day weekdays and 194 trains/day on weekends with a rolling stock fleet of 410 cars and locomotives. MBTA’s workforce, including commuter rail, totals close to 8,000 employees and a large number of contract service employees and contractors. MBTA’s total ridership for all modes is approximately 400 million per year.

Mr. Nickle’s career spans 25 years of risk management; system safety engineering & management; cause & origin analysis; forensic investigation; and hazard management in rail, transit, aviation, marine, transportation, oil & gas, manufacturing, mining, engineering and construction, traveling throughout North America, the Arctic and the Pacific Isles.

In the professional area of system safety engineering & management, Mr. Nickle has performed comprehensive safety certifications on eight FTA-defined (\$100 million or more) major capital commuter and light rail projects totaling more than 6 billion dollars, and a large number of large rail system modifications, including joint rail projects with State Safety Oversight, FRA and FTA interfaces.

Aside from Mr. Nickle’s many academic accomplishments in risk management, loss control, law, geology, aviation and system safety engineering & management, he has successfully completed Transportation Safety Institute’s (TSI) Transit Safety and Security Program administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mr. Nickle enjoys flying, which has included competition as a member of the International Aerobatic Club and Soaring Society of America. With his wife Penny, he also enjoys travel, fine arts, writing and outdoor adventures, as well as dabbling as an artist in photography and landscape painting. His favorite quote and life motto is: “The best and safest thing is to keep a balance in your life, acknowledge the great powers around us and in us. If you can do that, and live that way, you are really a wise man.” – Euripides...most heroes are ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.