

## SUMMARY

### **Productivity of Road Machinists in Metro-North Railroad's Work Equipment Division MTA/OIG #2013-05**

Road machinists from Metro-North's Work Equipment Division are responsible for ensuring that all of the equipment and tools used by track personnel in their daily work assignments are regularly inspected and properly maintained. They often accompany track crews to the work site so that they can quickly respond to an equipment malfunction. Unlike those performing particular duties each day at the same facility (e.g. shop machinists), road machinists might work at various locations over a wide area throughout any given day, and are expected to perform their duties with minimal supervision.

OIG evaluated the performance and management of road machinists in the Work Equipment Division over a total of 45 tours of duty. The results were disturbing. During 22 percent of the tours that OIG analyzed, road machinists were idle for the entire workday.

Besides the lack of integrity and failed work ethic of the idle road machinists, OIG also found that ineffective management by the foremen and supervisors allowed this inactivity to take place over what are often consecutive tours of duty. While at least one Work Equipment foreman used the term "honor system" to describe the relationship between foremen and the road machinists they supervise, an honor system is simply not an acceptable alternative to effective management and careful oversight.