



Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC)



District of Columbia Department
of Transportation

Eric Madison
Emile Smith



Maryland Department of
Transportation

James Benton (Vice Chair)
George Good



Virginia Department of Rail
and Public Transportation

Matt Bassett (Chair)
Dave Harlan
Tom Freeman (Alternate)
Kevin Page (Alternate)

TOC Rail Safety & Security Oversight Quarterly Update

June 23rd, 2011



General TOC Assessment of Progress Since March 24th, 2010

- RWP implementation is positive
- Accident investigation resolution remains strong
- Many FTA audit concerns have been resolved
- Outdated/overdue CAPs require significant effort
- Concerns over minor incident trends



CAP Process Needs Continued Attention

- OEM, MTPD & TRST have made significant strides in the last few months in addressing open CAPs
- Progress during June CAPTURE meetings positive; 12 closed, 8 currently under TOC review as of 6/17/2011
- 257 CAPs are presently open; 54 need to be given a targeted completion date; 103 are currently overdue; 47 are scheduled for completion 7/1/2011.
- WMATA staff have prioritized effort on “high value” CAPs such as major capital projects and NTSB recommendations, based on a hazard analysis approach
- WMATA can save significant effort on the “front end” by better defining CAPs



Internal Audits

- Internal safety and security audits have become a strong point within the agency
- Development of findings and CAPs has been robust, demonstrating interdepartmental buy-in
- TOC met with SAFE audit staff in April to gather additional information on this process
- TOC approved WMATA's Internal Safety & Security Audit Report for 2010 in April
- Required notifications and 30-day submittals to TOC are being made consistently



RWP Program Implementation

- Roadway worker protection training appears to be reaching a maturity point
- WMATA's next significant challenge is coordinating and documenting RWP compliance checks
- Practices such as ROCC controller/track personnel "exchange program" help to foster communications and understanding
- Proper documentation through SMS will assist this
- WMATA has provided additional information on the WAWS/"Amber Light" system, which TOC is reviewing
- Ongoing analysis of staffing levels and job responsibilities will be necessary to support RWP



Rail Yard Compliance Concerns

- TOC has completed its Special Study of rail yard rule compliance efforts, transmitted report to WMATA
- Effective practices and strong compliance support and enforcement exist at some sites
- WMATA needs to formalize and coordinate effective practices, better define roles and responsibilities
- TOC will look forward to WMATA's written response
- TOC appreciates cooperation from operating departments (RTRA, QA) as well as Safety



Rail Yard Compliance (cont)

- Recent incidents (e.g. 6/17/2011 10-car train) highlight ongoing need for management of rail yard hazards
- Immediate WMATA response has been positive
 - Deployment of more supervision into yards
 - Analysis of current training programs
 - Development of Quality Control Plan for rule compliance checks
 - Evaluation of physical characteristics, signage
 - Additional “stick time” for operators
- Analysis of “minor” incidents like these emphasizes a move towards strong safety culture



Accident Investigation Recovery Efforts

- WMATA's accident investigation recovery efforts continue- WMATA recently submitted a revised Recovery Plan
- Revised plan estimates full recovery/completion no later than 8/17/2011
- WMATA has submitted necessary materials in keeping with the revised Plan and is currently on schedule
- Currently, nine investigations cited by the FTA remain open (three of which are awaiting NTSB, not WMATA action)
- The Safety Measurement System (SMS) should help better manage future investigation reports



Hours of Service/Fitness For Duty

- No federal regulations exist governing rail transit hours of service
- TOC notes that WMATA has adopted the APTA Standard on Hours of Service (for train operators) for implementation by 2014
- A long-term WMATA plan is necessary to address employee fatigue among non-rail operators (maintenance technicians, ROCC controllers, etc)
- TOC and WMATA have agreed to evaluate this matter jointly; TOC will report out on progress in September



WMATA Capital Projects & Access

- TOC wishes to note recent progress in gaining access to working-level 7000-series meetings
- TOC continues to attend Safety Certification Review Committee meetings
- Executive Safety Committee process is mature and demonstrates consistent engagement and buy-in from senior leadership
- TOC appreciates access to local, area and departmental safety committees (e.g. 6/16/2011 ASC for railcar maintenance)



FTA SSO Audit Progress

- As of 6/15/2011, FTA had closed eight of 10 WMATA recommendations and six of 11 TOC findings
- Remaining activities to address findings include updates of relevant program documents, analysis of hazard management program compliance
- Accident investigation recovery through March of 2010 will close out additional findings



WMATA Plan Updates & Reviews

- TOC held a June work session with MTPD to continue evaluation of the Security & Emergency Preparedness Plan
- TOC has received draft Accident Investigation Procedures and will transmit comments to WMATA no later than 7/1/2011
- WMATA Safety Rules & Procedures Manual (separate from the Metrorail Safety Rules & Procedures Handbook, or “Rulebook”) still needs updating



Governance Issues

- At the direction of the TOC Execs, TOC provided input and comment on the proposed WMATA Board Bylaws
- TOC Executives and staff continue to analyze legislative and regulatory mechanisms for enhancing TOC's authorities and resources



Safety Measurement System

- TOC members have taken SMS training
- WMATA has committed to providing SMS capability at TOC's JGB workstation
- WMATA still making progress in use of SMS to track non-reportable rail hazards like door incidents, station overruns and red signal violations
- At FTA's request, TOC will conduct an SMS evaluation in the next 9-12 months



Additional Notes

- WMATA has continued to support and host Transportation Safety Institute training courses
- TOC understands WMATA is updating its agreements with jurisdictional fire/EMS response agencies
- TOC appreciates WMATA's willingness to provide space in these classes to TOC members and staff



Questions and Comments

www.tristateoversight.org