

# Metrorail Safety Commission

---

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Commissioners of the MSC  
**From:** Christopher Hart  
**Date:** May 1, 2018  
**RE:** Familiarization of MSC Commissioners with WMATA Operations and FTA's WMATA Safety Oversight

---

This memorandum summarizes a proposal on the subject matter.

At the present time, the MSC is still developing a State Safety Oversight Program for Metrorail operations that the MSC will submit to FTA for certification. The MSC is also not fully staffed with subject matter experts in terms of overseeing or assisting in overseeing safety aspects of the Metrorail system. FTA is responsible for safety oversight of the Metrorail system at this time and the TOC remains responsible for a few specific areas of oversight.

During the period when the MSC is yet to be part of FTA certified program and is fully staffed, I believe the Commission would benefit from having an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the operational and safety aspects of Metrorail and an opportunity to observe the safety oversight activities of FTA.

I have had the opportunity to discuss this matter with Ms. Jamie Pfister, FTA's Director of FTA WMATA Safety Oversight team as well as Mr. Patrick Lavin WMATA's Chief Safety Officer. I am glad to report that both WMATA and FTA are supportive of identifying and scheduling appropriate familiarization activities and happy to work with MSC staff on developing a plan and schedule. FTA has already planned a series of briefings for the MSC leadership team, inclusive of the Commissioners, and shadowing activities for the MSC staff, once on board to familiarize us with its oversight activities. Additionally, in order to help the Commissioners learn more about WMATA, WMATA and FTA will plan a board orientation for the Commissioners and incoming CEO, followed by some tours of critical facilities, such as the Rail Operations Control Center.

In the interest of efficiency and avoiding duplication of efforts from WMATA and FTA staff, the board orientation and tours should be scheduled soon after the CEO Dr. Mayer comes on board at the MSC. WMATA and FTA propose that the board orientation and tour take place between June 4-7 and ideally would commence at WMATA Headquarters. Unless members of the Commission have other suggestions, I would advise staff to work with WMATA, FTA and Dr. Mayer to schedule these events. In the interim I advise staff to provide us with information on any training sessions the Commissioners would need to attend in order to participate in these events.