

WMSC R-2019-03
April 8, 2019

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY AND PROCEDURES
GOVERNING COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (“WMSC”) is the state safety oversight authority for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) Metrorail system and was created for the benefit of the people of the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Virginia and the state of Maryland;

WHEREAS, the WMSC holds meetings regularly in order to conduct WMSC business and such meetings are subject to public observation and held in accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 USC § 552b);

WHEREAS, although the WMSC has no obligation to provide a forum for public participation at its public meetings, nonetheless the WMSC desires to invite participation in the form of feedback and comments from private citizens and interested stakeholders at its public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the WMSC desires to establish a structured process at public meetings that facilitates hearing public comments while providing order, ensuring efficient use of the WMSC’s time, and maintaining a sense of respect and decorum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION:

Approves the attached Public Comment Policy.

Adopted by the Metrorail Safety Commission at its meeting on April 8, 2019.

The Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

Public Comment Policy

Section 1 – Policy

It is the policy of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) to invite, through reasonable means, the participation of private citizens and interested stakeholders in its public meetings in order to gain the value of public feedback and aid the WMSC in the performance of its duties.

Section 2 – Procedures

In the interests of order and efficiency, the WMSC must establish a framework to manage public comments. Accordingly, the WMSC hereby establishes the following guidelines to govern public participation:

- (a) Participants shall be physically present at the public meeting in order to provide comment;
- (b) Participants with a disability shall make every effort to inform the WMSC in advance of the meeting of any need for a reasonable accommodation;
- (c) Participants shall provide their name on a written sign-in sheet that will be provided by the WMSC before the commencement of the public meeting;
- (d) Participants shall not speak until recognized by the Chair;
- (e) Each individual participant shall be afforded 2:00 minutes to speak;
- (f) Participants shall be prohibited from transferring all or a portion of their allotted time to other participants;
- (g) Participants' comments shall be made verbally, and any written materials provided by participants shall be reviewed and retained by the WMSC in its sole discretion;
- (h) Participants shall make every effort to speak only as to issues that fall within the purview of the WMSC; and
- (i) The Chair maintains the right to revoke speaking privileges of any participants whose remarks, in the opinion of the Chair, are deemed to be disruptive or inappropriate.

Section 3 – No limitation

Nothing herein shall be construed as to limit in any way the ability of a public citizen or interested stakeholder to alert the WMSC or other authorities of a safety concern or other hazard on WMATA Metrorail.