

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020
Location: Ronald F. Kirby Training Center
777 North Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

MINUTES

Agenda Item#	Items
	<p>Attendance. Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart, Commissioners Robert Bobb, Debra Farrar-Dyke, John Contestabile, Greg Hull, Michael Rush, and Suhair Al Khatib (alternate). Via phone: None.</p>
1.	<p>Call to Order. Chris Hart, WMSC Chair, called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was achieved.</p>
2.	<p>Safety Message. David Mayer, WMSC CEO, outlined emergency exit procedures for evacuating the Kirby Center.</p>
3.	<p>Approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 public meeting. The motion was seconded.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> The minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.</p>
4.	<p>Public Comments. Chair Hart invited comments from members of the public, and one member of the public rose to speak:</p> <p>Mr. Tino Calabria discussed railcar safety.</p>
5.	<p>Chair’s Remarks. Chair Hart welcomed attendees to the public meeting. Chair Hart stated that during the meeting, the commission would be presented with reports concerning five investigations, receive an update on several new CAPs that the WMSC was requiring Metro to develop, receive a presentation on the WMSC’s audit of Metrorail’s track and structures department, and receive an update from the WMSC’s Finance and Operations Committee.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, WMSC CEO, provided the following comments:</p> <p>Dr. Mayer stated that the previous week, he had joined Paul Wiedefeld and other witnesses to testify before the Maryland House of Delegates’ Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Transportation and the Environment. A portion of the hearing was focused on Metrorail. Dr. Mayer stated that he would appear the following week at a hearing before the D.C. Council’s Committee on Facilities and Procurement that would also be focused on Metrorail.</p> <p>Dr. Mayer discussed the ongoing training of WMSC staff and their efforts to achieve a Transit Safety and Certificate Program (TSSP) designation.</p> <p>Dr. Mayer discussed the WMSC’s involvement in approving WMATA’s Public Transit Agency Safety Plan or PTASP, the deadline for which would be July 20, 2020. The PTASP would replace the current WMATA safety plan. Dr. Mayer discussed how the PTASP would help form the basis of all of the WMSC’s safety assessments of WMATA.</p> <p>Dr. Mayer then discussed the WMSC’s inspection program. Since certification, the WMSC had been conducting inspections of all parts of the Metrorail system including track and tunnel infrastructure, emergency egress shafts, traction power assets, service and inspection shops that maintain rail cars, inspections of rail operations including train operator performance, Advance Mobile Flagger (AMF) activities, and train control rooms, cables and switches. Each of these inspections result in an inspection report. Dr. Mayer stated the WMSC would soon begin posting inspection reports on the WMSC’s website.</p> <p>Dr. Mayer discussed the findings the WMSC released publicly on December 20, 2019 regarding events that transpired on December 10, 2019 on the Red Line.</p> <p>Dr. Mayer announced the audit of rail operations was being expedited and that WMSC staff would soon begin interviews with WMATA’s rail operations staff.</p> <p>Finally, Dr. Mayer announced that the WMSC was continuing to work with WMATA to finalize its investigation into the crash that occurred on October 7 outside Farragut West.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Investigations. Sharmila Samarasinghe, WMSC COO, presented the WMSC with five reports for the WMSC’s adoption. She stated that the investigations pertained to events that took place in 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>Bruce Walker, WMSC Operations Program Specialist, presented the first investigation for adoption (E18292), which concerned a train that passed roadway workers in excess of 10 mph on July 16, 2018.</p> <p>Mr. Walker presented the second investigation for adoption (E19326), which concerned a train operator who failed to service Waterfront station on June 25, 2019.</p>

	<p>Ms. Samarasinghe presented the third investigation for adoption (E18345), which concerned an August 14, 2018 arcing event at a Traction Power Substation (TPSS).</p> <p>Manuel Lopez, SME for rail vehicles, presented the fourth investigation for adoption (E19188), which concerned an undesired uncoupling of railcars on April 15, 2019.</p> <p>Ms. Samarasinghe presented the final investigation for adoption (E18476), which concerned an October 31, 2018 event in which a train made contact with a piece of running rail stored near the track at National Airport station.</p> <p>Ms. Sharmila Samarasinghe proposed that the commissioners vote to adopt each of the reports presented.</p> <p>ACTION: Motions were individually made and seconded to adopt all five reports. All reports were unanimously adopted.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Corrective Action Plans. Ms. Samarasinghe, WMSC COO, and Chris DiFatta, WMSC Manager of Compliance and Oversight, briefed the WMSC on outstanding CAPs.</p> <p>Mr. DiFatta discussed findings that the WMSC had released in previous months regarding the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC), hours of service and reducing fatigue, operator cab cameras, station overruns, unauthorized movement with speed commands, distraction and use of personal electronic devices by operators. For all these matters, the WMSC had found WMATA’s proposed CAPs to be responsive, however, the WMSC had conveyed to WMATA that the timeframe for implementation was not acceptable and that a more expedited schedule would be needed by WMATA in order for the WMSC to approve the CAPs for implementation.</p> <p>Finally, Ms. Samarasinghe and Mr. DiFatta discussed additional findings concerning the ROCC that were released December 20, 2019. The findings concerned apparent chaos and dysfunction during a smoke event on December 10, 2019. Metrorail had submitted draft CAPs, which the WMSC had reviewed. The WMSC would be working with WMATA to make sure WMATA was developing acceptable CAPs in response to these findings.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Audits. Ms. Samarasinghe, WMSC COO, discussed the WMSC’s audit work.</p> <p>Ms. Samarasinghe announced that the WMSC had issued the first of its audit reports. The first report concerned WMATA’s track maintenance and training. Ms. Samarasinghe discussed the WMSC’s audit protocols, procedures and efforts to work with WMATA. She then discussed the audit’s conclusions and findings, which were posted publicly that day.</p> <p>Ms. Samarasinghe and commissioners then discussed different reports and additional audits the WMSC would undertake in future months.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p>WMSC Finance and Operations Committee Report. WMSC Secretary/Treasurer and Commissioner Debra Farrar-Dyke provided an update on the activities of the WMSC Finance and Operations Committee.</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer Farrar-Dyke discussed how the committee met on February 4, 2020 to consider three possible procurement actions: new office space, new office furniture, and new SSOA software. Secretary/Treasurer Farrar-Dyke stated the WMSC would likely need to take these up in the near future.</p> <p>Chair Hart noted that these procurements might need WMSC approval, per the WMSC procurement manual, as they likely would exceed \$50,000.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Resolutions. There were no resolutions for consideration.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Adjournment. Chair Hart adjourned the meeting and noted the next public meeting of would be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the Spire Conference Center, located at 750 First St., N.E.</p>