

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Location: This meeting was conducted remotely as a publicly-streamed video conference

MINUTES

Agenda Item #	Items
Attendance	Commissioners present: Members: Chair Christopher Hart, Commissioners Robert Bobb, Debra Farrar-Dyke, Greg Hull, and Michael Rush. Alternate Commissioners present: Suhair Al Khatib, Victoria Wassmer, and Robert Lauby. Commissioner John Contestabile was absent, and no Alternate Commissioners voted. WMSC Staff and members of the public were also present.
1.	Call to Order. Hart, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by WMSC General Counsel Allison Fultz and a quorum was achieved.
2.	Safety Message. Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist/Safety Officer, encouraged people to practice continued safety while awaiting their dose or doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2020, meeting. Debra Farrar-Dyke, WMSC Secretary/Treasurer: Farrar-Dyke moved a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 public meeting. Hull seconded the motion. The minutes of the November 10, 2020, meeting were unanimously approved.
4.	Public Comments. Hart invited comments from members of the public who had joined the webinar audience. There were no public comments.
5.	Chair’s Remarks. Hart previewed the meeting and congratulated Alternate Commissioner Wassmer on her appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Finance and Budget at the U.S. Department of Transportation.
6.	CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, WMSC Chief Executive Officer. Mayer updated the commissioners on steps the WMSC took to monitor the presidential Inauguration, status of the WMSC’s audit work, on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s (WMATA) 6000-series rail cars that are out of service after car pull-aparts in October and November 2020, on emergency response debriefs with local first responders, and on the

	<p>reporting of safety concerns by WMATA employees, contractors, riders and members of the public. Mayer asked Lahiru Karunaratne, Business Process Specialist, to discuss how the WMSC tracked safety concerns in 2020. Karunaratne noted that in 2020, the WMSC received 15 safety concerns via its safety concerns email, SafetyConcerns@WMSC.gov, or through its online safety concern form. Lastly, Mayer discussed the WMSC’s two-day online staff retreat in January and the promotion of Adam Quigley to Investigations Program Manager and of Richard David to Emergency Management Specialist and Safety Officer.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Manuel Lopez, Subject Matter Expert for Vehicles; Bruce Walker, Subject Matter Expert for Operations; JeMayne Walker, Subject Matter Expert for Track and Structures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0053 – Improper door operation at Largo Town Center Station on August 25, 2020. Rush moved the adoption and Hull seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 2. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0054 – Derailment at the Greenbelt Yard on July 30, 2020. Rush moved the adoption and Hull seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 3. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0055 – Improper operation resulting in an unintended coupling at New Carrollton Yard on August 11, 2020. Hull moved the adoption and Rush seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 4. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0056 – Improper railway worker (RWP) protection event at Fort Totten Station on August 22, 2020. Bobb moved the adoption and Rush seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 5. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0057 – Improper RWP event at Fort Totten and Takoma stations on August 27, 2020. Hull moved the adoption and Rush seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 6. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0058 – Improper RWP event at Silver Spring Tie Breaker Station 2 on August 29, 2020. Rush moved the adoption and Hull seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 7. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0059 – Improper RWP event at Tysons Corner Station on September 3, 2020. Rush moved the adoption and Bobb seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 8. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0060 – Smoke event at Capitol Heights Station on June 6, 2020. Bobb moved the adoption and Rush seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report.
<p>8.</p>	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Sharmila Samarasinghe, Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Samarasinghe informed the Board that the WMSC approved 20 of WMATA’s 21 proposed CAPs relating to the WMSC’s Audit of the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC), and is working with WMATA on the single outstanding CAP.</p> <p>Additionally, the WMSC approved WMATA’s CAP relating to the October train pull apart near Union Station that did not follow the steps required for evidentiary chain of custody and testing.</p>

	<p>WMATA will improve its investigations Standard Operating Procedure by informing Metrorail personnel and contractors about their responsibilities to an investigation.</p> <p>Lastly, Samarasinghe noted that the WMSC recently closed five CAPs, including changes to the approach Metrorail takes to collecting, synthesizing, analyzing and acting upon performance data tied to its assets and systems such as track infrastructure and train control systems. These CAPs collectively promote the use of such data to enable WMATA to improve its inspections and maintenance practices, and to inform decisions regarding future acquisitions of assets and design of its infrastructure.</p>
9.	<p>Audits. Samarasinghe.</p> <p>Samarasinghe informed the Board that the WMSC published its Audit of Elevated Structure Maintenance, Inspection and Training that contains 12 findings and one recommendation to WMATA.</p> <p>She further added that the MSC transmitted its draft of the Roadway Maintenance Machines Audit to WMATA for its 30-day technical review, and noted that interviews were scheduled next month relating to the WMSC’s audit of WMATA’s fitness for duty programs.</p>
10.	<p>Resolutions. Mayer.</p> <p>Resolution R-2021-01 related to an IT Support services contract and an HR Generalist contract, each of which is out for bids now or scheduled to be posted for bids. Each contract has an estimated cost exceeding \$50,000, and therefore required authorization from the Commissioners.</p> <p>Hull moved the adoption and Rush seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the resolution.</p>
11.	<p>Adjourn. Hart.</p> <p>Hart noted that the next WMSC public meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021.</p> <p>Farrar-Dyke moved the motion to adjourn, with Rush seconding it. By voice vote, the Board unanimously voted adjourn at 2:07 p.m.</p>