

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 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, and Michael Rush. Alternate Commissioners present: Suhair Al Khatib and Robert Lauby. Alternate Commissioners Al Khatib and Lauby voted, with Commissioner Greg Hull absent. 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, discussed how wellness is as important as safety.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2020, meeting. Debra Farrar-Dyke, WMSC Secretary/Treasurer: Farrar-Dyke moved a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021, public meeting, and Bobb seconded the motion. The minutes of the January 26, 2021, 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 and Acting CEO Resolution WMSC-R-2021-02. Hart. Hart discussed his meeting with Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sharmila Samarasinghe and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board Chair and General Manager. Hart also spoke of CEO Dr. David Mayer’s absence for personal reasons and presented a resolution to designate Samarasinghe Acting CEO, retroactive to February 17, 2021. Hart moved the motion and Bobb seconded. It passed unanimously. Additionally, Hart noted the resignation of Commissioner John Contestabile of Maryland due to moving to another state and thanked him for his service to the WMSC.

<p>6.</p>	<p>CEO’s Remarks. Sharmila Samarasinghe, WMSC Acting CEO and Chief Operating Officer. Samarasinghe provided an update on oversight work of the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) that has found that on at least six days since January 20, 2021, the WMSC found that Metrorail did not follow its approved power restoration procedures for “red tag” outages. The WMSC noted dozens of violations of these procedures at the direction of managers, creating immediate safety risks. A “red tag” outage is where Metrorail procedures require the involvement of the rail controller, the power desk, and the power employees in the field.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Bruce Walker, Subject Matter Expert for Operations; Adam Quigley, Investigations Program Manager.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0061 – Near-miss of a collision between trains near the entrance to the Branch Avenue Yard late on September 3, 2020. Lauby moved the adoption and Farrar-Dyke seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 2. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0062 – Improper Roadway Worker Protection event on September 9, 2020, at Anacostia Interlocking that was created by conflicting instructions from the ROCC and miscommunications within the ROCC. Bobb moved the adoption and Al Khatib seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 3. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0063 – Red signal overrun on the Red Line, outside of the Brentwood Yard on September 11, 2020. Rush moved the adoption and Lauby seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 4. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0064 – Red signal overrun in the Greenbelt Yard on September 15, 2020. Bobb moved the adoption and Lauby seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 5. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0065 – Serious injury to a Metrorail contractor fell approximately eight feet to the bottom of a drainage pumping pit while replacing grates in the Yellow and Green lines’ vent shaft under the National Mall. Rush moved the adoption and Farrar-Dyke seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 6. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0066 – Customer fatality of a disoriented person who fell on the roadway on the Green/Yellow Line at Gallery Place-Chinatown Station on September 14, 2020. Al Khatib moved the adoption and Bobb seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report. 7. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0067 – Improper movement of a 7000-series train that had just gone out of service at Metro Center due to door problems on September 20, 2020. Lauby moved the adoption and Al Khatib seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the report.
<p>8.</p>	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Samarasinghe.</p> <p>Samarasinghe informed the Board that there are 60 open CAPs, and that the WMSC had recently approved a revision to C-0037, a CAP developed in response to the WMSC’s finding in May 2020 that ROCC management routinely rushes power restoration. The revision to the originally approved CAP adjusts Metrorail’s plan for a permanent improvement to the power restoration</p>

	<p>process. Under the revision, the rail controller must confirm that the area is clear of personnel and power is ready to be restored, a power desk controller would also confirm with personnel clearing the roadway that it is safe to restore power, and a power desk assistant superintendent would verify that the rail controller and power desk controller have logged those conversations in an electronic track rights system before activating a function that allows the power desk controller to close the breakers and restore power.</p>
9.	<p>Audits. Samarasinghe.</p> <p>Samarasinghe informed the Board that the WMSC is working on several audits at various levels of progress, including the finalizing for release of the Roadway Maintenance Machine Audit, finalizing the draft for WMATA’s review of the Automatic Train Control and Signaling Audit, and the completion of initial interviews in the Fitness for Duty Audit.</p>
10.	<p>Resolutions. Samarasinghe.</p> <p>Resolution R-2021-03 adopted an ethics policy for the WMSC. Bobb moved the adoption and Rush seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the resolution.</p> <p>Resolution R-2021-04 – authorized the issuance of a request for proposals for State Safety Oversight Agency Support Services. Al Khatib moved the adoption and Farrar-Dyke seconded it. The commissioners unanimously adopted the resolution.</p>
11.	<p>Move to Executive Session and Adjournment. Hart.</p> <p>Hart moved to shift the meeting to executive session, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(2), to discuss internal personnel matters and adjourn the meeting. Farrar-Dyke seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved it. The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.</p>