

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022

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

These minutes serve as a guide to the video recording of the meeting available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq8KJWoF_bk. Commissioner questions and comments are fully captured in the video recording.

MINUTES

Agenda Item #	Items
Attendance	Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart and Commissioners Robert Bobb, Debra Farrar-Dyke, Suhair Al Khatib, Greg Hull, and Michael Rush. Alternate Commissioner Robert Lauby was present but did not vote.
1.	Call to Order. Hart. Hart called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by WMSC Counsel Brackett Smith, and a quorum was achieved.
2.	Safety Message. Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist/Safety Officer. David discussed things to check when taking medication and mentioned August was National Immunization Awareness Month.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the June 28, 2022, Public Meeting. Farrar-Dyke. Farrar-Dyke moved a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2022, Public Meeting. Rush seconded the motion. The minutes of the June 28, 2022, Public Meeting were unanimously approved.
4.	Public Comments. Hart. Hart invited comments from members of the public who had joined the webinar audience. There were no public comments.
5.	Chair’s Remarks. Hart.

	<p>Hart offered the WMSC’s welcome to WMATA’s new General Manager, Randy Clarke. He also previewed the day’s meeting, noting it would cover the WMSC’s ongoing safety oversight activities, consideration of final safety event investigation reports. He mentioned the WMSC is continuing to work with Metrorail on returning 7000 Series railcars to passenger service and the WMSC’s role in the opening of Phase II of the Silver Line.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, WMSC Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Mayer also offered a welcome to Clarke and noted the two had had a positive first meeting. Covering the WMSC’s activities, Mayer mentioned the WMSC (1) issued an order regarding Metrorail’s ineffective and insufficient Automatic Train Control Room inspection, maintenance and cleaning program; (2) communicated requirements to Metrorail to address a safety concern related to the Train Control Room at Friendship Heights Station; and (3) selected Metrorail’s Automatic Doors and Automatic Train Operation project for in-depth review as part of the WMSC’s oversight of Metrorail’s safety certification process. Mayer also provided some background on the safety event investigations the WMSC has looked into, Metrorail’s activities related to the 7000 Series railcars, and the WMSC’s oversight of Metrorail’s preparation to open the Silver Line Phase 2 extension. Last, Mayer welcomed new WMSC Business Operations Manager Venus Ellison, who started in July.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>7000 Series Railcar Update. Sharmila Samarasinghe, WMSC Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Samarasinghe’s update discussed Metrorail’s Return to Service plan for its 7000-Series railcars. She told the commissioners that the WMSC had seen Metrorail more consistently operating seven or eight 7000 Series trains each weekday. Metrorail’s plan specified that it would run no more than eight 7000 Series trains per day. She noted Metrorail provided drafts of proposed revisions to the current Return to Service plan that focuses solely on manual measurements, while including potential changes to measurement frequencies and the number of railcars in use. Additionally, Metrorail is working to validate its first automated wayside inspection system (AWIS) location, and to determine how the system will be used in practice.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Audits. Davis Rajtik, Audit and CAPs Program Manager.</p> <p>Rajtik noted the final audit of the three-year cycle relates to Metrorail’s communications systems practices, and that the WMSC had prepared a draft audit report for Metrorail’s technical review. He also noted that the next audit cycle will begin with an audit of Metrorail’s programs related to track maintenance and related infrastructure, and that the WMSC had held an exit conference with Metrorail to complete the on-site portion of that audit. Last, he noted that the WMSC’s next audit team is working on its audit of Metrorail’s internal safety reviews and associated corrective actions</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Ashley Rhodes, Program Coordination Specialist.</p>

	<p>Rhodes noted Metrorail currently has 146 open CAPs. She highlighted the closure of CAP C-0127, which addressed a finding from the Fitness for Duty Audit that Metrorail does not provide adequate, clear, understandable information to employees regarding what over the counter medications must be disclosed. She noted the approved CAP had Metrorail revising its policy regarding medication use reporting, issued formal communications to employees, distributing brochures twice a year to Metrorail personnel, and providing the WMSC with a sample of employee medication reporting and disposition.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Silver Line Phase 2 Status Report. Tino Sahoo, Subject Matter Expert, Traction Power.</p> <p>Sahoo said the WMSC is tracking approximately 28 open items currently, out of more than 100 items that that we have tracked over the course of this process. The WMSC will continue to close these items when the work is completed.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Adam Quigley, Investigations Manager; Natalie Quiroz, Investigations Analyst; Jemayne Walker, Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Track & Structures; Bruce Walker, SME for Operations.</p> <p>Safety Event Investigation reports may be found at the following link: https://wmsc.gov/oversight/reports/.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0174 – Improper Worker Protection near Greenbelt Station April 3, 2022. 2. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0175 – Improper Roadway Worker Protection near Stadium-Armory Station April 25, 2022. 3. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0176 – Serious Injury at Queenstown Road Repair and Maintenance Supply Storage Facility April 25, 2022. 4. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0177 – Evacuation for Life-Safety Reasons West Falls Church Yard Building F April 4, 2022. 5. Safety Event Investigation Report W-0178 – Evacuation for Life-Safety Reasons Pentagon City Station April 13, 2022. <p>Bobb moved the adoption of the five reports and Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Resolutions and Reports. Hart.</p> <p>The commissioners considered an update to the WMSC Bylaws that included procedural updates and technical corrections. Rush moved the adoption of the Program Standard and Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.</p>