



The Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) is seeking a **Program Specialist – Rail Systems, Maintenance, and Practices** to join our growing team.

The WMSC is the designated State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) responsible for overseeing the safety of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail system, which operates rail transit in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. The WMSC is responsible for implementing an oversight program in compliance with Federal and other applicable regulations.

### **Position Overview**

This role will assist in WMSC state safety oversight activities as it pertains to risk-based inspections. The candidate must have knowledge of rail and other transportation modal industry best practices and benchmarks to monitor and evaluate the changes required, recommended, or underway at the WMATA Metrorail system.

A risk-based inspection program uses qualitative and quantitative data analysis to inform ongoing inspection activities. Risk-based inspection programs are designed to prioritize inspections to address safety concerns and hazards associated with the highest levels of safety risk. This position will report to the *Program Manager, Risk-Based Inspections*.

The candidate will ensure a commitment to effective safety oversight program administration through collaboration and the establishment of working relationships with internal WMSC personnel, WMSC contractors, and WMATA personnel.

### **Responsibilities**

- Assist in scaling the WMSC's risk-based inspection activities of the WMATA rail system. This independent risk-based inspection program includes conducting inspections of Metrorail's performance of its inspection and maintenance practices, and examining the organizational structure and readiness of personnel at WMATA Metrorail to carry out all of the complex activities to ensure the highest practicable level of rail system safety.
- Use expertise, education, and experience in systems, infrastructure, rail asset conditions and maintenance, and personnel readiness to assist the WMSC in carrying out its risk-based inspections program.
- Review technical documents pertaining to Metrorail operations, rules, procedures, inspections, and maintenance activities.
- Prepare and present technical reports and documentation to various audiences with varying degrees of technical knowledge of rail systems and rail system safety.
- Support Risk-Based Inspections by:
  - Planning and carrying out an itinerary of periodic field reviews and inspections of Metrorail system infrastructure, systems, personnel, procedures, and rules to ensure that Metrorail is operating, testing, inspecting and maintaining its system in compliance with governing rules, procedures and regulations.
  - Investigating allegations of hazardous conditions or non-compliance from WMATA employees, government officials, and the general public regarding unsafe conditions
  - Reviewing, interpreting, and conducting trend analysis of Metrorail vehicle fault codes and maintenance-related information.
  - Communicating and scheduling with multiple WMATA departments for routine activities
  - Advise the WMSC Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer on technical matters pursuant to findings arising from risk-based inspections.

## **Qualifications**

### *Experience*

A minimum of 5 years of experience in rail transit with an emphasis on rail vehicle maintenance and inspection, or rail systems (communication, train control and signals, and/or power) maintenance and inspection is required.

Selected candidate will undergo Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) training and successfully meet all competencies through written and practical RWP examinations. Successful candidate will maintain their RWP qualification throughout their employment with the WMSC.

Knowledge and/or familiarity of applicable Federal, State, and Local laws and industry best practices such as those provided by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA).

### *Education*

A Bachelor's degree in engineering or a related technical specialization is desirable. However, professional experience may be considered in lieu of educational requirements.

### **Residency Requirement**

Given the frequency of site visits to the WMATA Metrorail system by WMSC personnel, including the need to respond quickly to an event scene, the incumbent for this position must live within 25 miles of a WMATA Metrorail station.

### **Physical Requirements**

- The ability to safely move for long periods on potentially rocky and uneven surfaces along rail right-of-way, in rail yards, and in maintenance facilities on an occasional basis.
- The ability to position oneself to take measurements
- The ability to ascend/descend ladders and narrow staircases, and to board and disembark rail vehicles including cars designed for passenger use and maintenance vehicles.
- Successful applicants must be able to detect and observe.
- Work may take place at any time of day as warranted by emergency conditions or scheduled inspections (e.g. responding to a Metrorail event or conducting observations of overnight maintenance work).
- Work may take place on or about WMATA property where WMSC personnel must be alert at all times for the approach of trains or rolling equipment; slips/trips/fall hazards; and hazardous materials.
- While on-site, WMSC personnel must also take precautions with electrical hazards associated with passenger and non-passenger vehicles and equipment, the third rail, and other power equipment throughout the Metrorail System.
- WMSC personnel may be exposed to unfavorable weather conditions, including temperature extremes and precipitation, and other environmental discomforts such as insects and vegetation on or about rail property.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required for specific job functions (and will be provided). All WMSC personnel will comply with WMATA requirements for PPE as applicable to the circumstances, as well as with applicable industry standards.
- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

### **Certifications**

A valid driver's license.

Required to enroll in, complete and maintain good standing under the PTSCPT.

Required to obtain TSSP within 3 years of designation by the WMSC.

**Key Qualifications, skills and abilities:**

- Excellent English-language written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work in a team environment comprised of individuals from diverse cultures and geographies
- Ability to observe, receive, and otherwise obtain relevant information regardless of information source
- Ability to use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems
- Ability and enthusiasm to acquire needed knowledge to perform duties
- Ability to manage multiple priorities to meet deadlines and commitments
- Ability to take direction from management
- Ability to be a team player who assists the WMSC in fulfilling its overall safety oversight mandate
- Ability to adhere to strong professional ethics
- Ability to independently carry out duties following direction by supervisor/management and recognize any related duties on own initiative
- Ability to effectively use the internet and other collaboration software to perform assigned work

**Other required:**

- Understand and detect deviations from:
  - Rail vehicles, track, infrastructure and systems maintenance standards accepted in the industry;
  - WMATA standards pertaining to track, rail vehicles, rail operations, rules and procedures, and PTASP;
- Understand the safety significance of deviations and combinations of deviations.
- Determine and effectively communicate the remedial action required to bring infrastructure, operations or systems into compliance with the criteria, rules and standards.
- Convey safety significance and technical knowledge to a wide audience of internal and external stakeholders.
- Be knowledgeable about hazard assessments.

**WMSC offers a robust compensation and benefit package**

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

Office Location: 750 First Street NE, #900, Washington, DC 20002

Apply by sending your cover letter with salary requirements and resume to [hr@wmisc.gov](mailto:hr@wmisc.gov).

The most up-to-date information regarding this job posting is available via the WMSC employment opportunities page at [Employment Opportunities – Washington Metrorail Safety Commission \(wmisc.gov\)](https://www.wmisc.gov/employment-opportunities).