

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

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=xh-SZt1nolg>. 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, and Michael Rush. Alternate Commissioner Robert Lauby was participated as the second Virginia commissioner.
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 provided tips on safely moving large equipment.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2022, Public Meeting. Farrar-Dyke. Farrar-Dyke moved for approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2022, Public Meeting. The minutes of the December 13, 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. Hart previewed the day’s meeting, noting it would cover the WMSC’s ongoing safety oversight activities and consideration of final safety event investigation reports.

6.	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Mayer told commissioners that the WMSC continues to oversee the 7000 Series Return to Service plan and all other safety elements of the Metrorail system. He noted the WMSC continues its oversight of Metrorail’s activities related to the possible implementation of automatic train operation. He discussed Metrorail’s failure to require train operator trainees to operate a train on mainline tracks with a training instructor for at least 8 hours without passengers on board before they are permitted to operate a train carrying passengers. He noted Metrorail identified 54 train operators who had not met the requirement. By meeting time, 51 of the 54 had received the training since being identified. He concluded by telling the commissioners that the WMSC is investigating a December 23, 2022, train overrun at the Van Dorn Street Station that resulted in the arrest of the train operator.</p>
7.	<p>7000 Series Railcar Update. Sharmila Samarasinghe, Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Samarasinghe explained the WMSC’s process in determining Metrorail could move from a 4-day to 7-day inspection cycle for the 7000 Series railcar return to service.</p>
8.	<p>Audits. Ashley Rhodes, Program Coordination Specialist.</p> <p>Rhodes noted the WMSC recently released Audits of Track Maintenance and of Metrorail’s Internal Safety Review Program. The WMSC is preparing for an exit conference with Metrorail to discuss preliminary findings from our Structures Audit and will then develop a draft report to transmit to Metrorail. Rhodes said, the WMSC is also currently reviewing documents as part of its Roadway Maintenance Machine Audit. On-site work and interviews will begin soon.</p>
9.	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Davis Rajtik, Audits and CAPs Program Manager.</p> <p>Rajtik noted that since the December 13 public meeting, the WMSC has closed 8 CAPs and approved 8 Metrorail CAP proposals for implementation. There were 127 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>
10.	<p>Safety Certification Status Report. Tino Sahoo, Subject Matter Expert, Traction Power.</p> <p>Sahoo discussed projects that require WMSC concurrence prior to Metrorail activating them in passenger service, including the new Potomac Yard Station and Metrorail’s possible initiation of automatic train operation or automatic door operation.</p>
11.	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Adam Quigley, Investigations Manager; Natalie Quiroz, Investigations Analyst.</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. W-0195 Evacuation for Life Safety at Dupont Circle Station July 30, 2022 2. W-0196 Evacuation for Life Safety near Medical Center Station July 16, 2022 3. W-0197 Evacuation for Life Safety at Eastern Market Circle Station September 9, 2022 4. W-0198 Evacuation for Life Safety at Rhode Island Ave-Brentwood Station September 19, 2022 5. W-0199 Collision at Foggy Bottom Station August 28, 2022 6. W-0200 Evacuation for Life Safety at Carmen Turner Facility September 1, 2022 <p>Bobb did not vote on the safety event investigations or participate in the remainder of the meeting because he needed to leave early. Lauby moved for the adoption of the six reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
12.	<p>Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.</p>