

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 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=89361DeE11Q>. 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. Darrell Braxton, Operations Specialist. Braxton talked about National Safety Ladder Month and how to properly use safety ladders.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2023, Public Meeting. Farrar-Dyke. Farrar-Dyke moved for approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2023, Public Meeting. The minutes of the January 24, 2023, Public Meeting were unanimously approved, with Bobb not voting.
4.	Public Comments. Hart. Hart invited comments from members of the public who had joined the webinar audience. William Jackson spoke about the questioning of the WMSC by DC Council members, at a February hearing, and his opinion that the members did not seem to understand the role of the WMSC as the state safety oversight entity overseeing the WMATA rail system.
5.	Chair’s Remarks. Hart.

	<p>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. He also offered condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of slain Metrorail employee Robert Cunningham, who died heroically trying to stop a gunman in the Potomac Avenue Station.</p>
6.	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Mayer echoed Hart’s condolences to Robert Cunningham’s family, friends, and colleagues. He 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 National Transportation Safety Board made public part of its docket related to the October 12, 2021, 7000-Series train derailment. He also discussed WMATA’s announced plans to re-press the wheels on the 7000 Series trains as a part of a fix for solving wheel movements. the WMSC continues its oversight of Metrorail’s activities related to the possible implementation of automatic train operation, high voltage power operations, Rail Operations Control Center staffing, and changes to its Roadway Worker Protection Program. Last, he noted that he and Deputy CEO & Chief Operating Officer Sharmila Samarasinghe testified before the DC Council and Maryland House of Delegates, and that the WMSC was finalizing its annual state safety oversight reporting data submission to the Federal Transit Administration</p>
7.	<p>7000 Series Railcar Update. Sharmila Samarasinghe, Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Samarasinghe told commissioners Metrorail placed car 7242 into passenger service March 2 despite it not meeting the requirements of the Return to Service plan. Car 7242 had not been inspected for back-to-back or journal bearing gap measurements to ensure its safety within the required timeframe, and was not intended to go into service. Metrorail notified the WMSC of this safety issue March 2. The WMSC is investigating the circumstances. Samarasinghe also noted that the WMSC continues to work with WMATA on revisions to the Return to Service plan.</p>
8.	<p>Audits. Ashley Rhodes, Program Coordination Specialist.</p> <p>Rhodes noted the WMSC held an exit conference with Metrorail to discuss preliminary findings from the Structures Audit and will then develop a draft report to transmit to Metrorail. Rhodes said the WMSC began on-site work and interviews for its Roadway Maintenance Machine Audit. She further noted on-site activities for the next audit, of Automatic Train Control and signaling, were scheduled for later in March.</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 7 CAPs and approved 5 Metrorail CAP proposals for implementation. There were 125 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<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, Metrorail’s possible initiation of automatic train operation or automatic door operation, and the future 8000 Series railcars.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<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-0201 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons of Court House Station November 7, 2022. 2. W-0202 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons of Friendship Heights Station September 25, 2022. 3. W-0203 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons of L’Enfant Plaza Station September 1, 2022. 4. W-0204 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons of Suitland Station September 13, 2022. 5. W-0205 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons of Forest Glen Station November 14, 2022. 6. W-0206 Derailment Yellow Line October 2, 2022. 7. W-0207 Derailment near Potomac Yard Station September 13, 2022. 8. W-0208 Collision Wheaton Station October 4, 2022. 9. W-0209 Collision Friendship Heights Station October 6, 2022. <p>Hart moved for the adoption of the nine reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.</p>