

**WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023

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

The video recording of the meeting is available at [WMSC Public Meeting of the Commissioners - June 13, 2023 - YouTube](#). Commissioner questions and comments are captured in the video recording.

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**MINUTES**

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	<b>Items</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart and Commissioners Robert Bobb, Debra Farrar-Dyke, Suhair Al Khatib, and Michael Rush. Alternate Commissioner Robert Lauby participated as the second Virginia commissioner.
1.	<b>Call to Order.</b> Hart.  Hart called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. Roll call was taken by WMSC General Counsel Silbaugh, and a quorum was achieved.
2.	<b>Safety Message.</b> Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist.  David discussed the National Safety Council’s designation of June as National Safety Month, highlighting the opportunity to report hazards when identified and to be a safety role model.
3.	<b>Approval of the minutes of the May 16, 2023, Public Meeting.</b> Hart.  Farrar-Dyke moved for approval of the minutes of the May 16, 2023, Public Meeting. The minutes of the May 16, 2023 Public Meeting were unanimously approved.
4.	<b>Public Comments.</b> Hart.  Hart invited comments from members of the public who had joined the webinar audience and who identified themselves as speakers. A potential speaker had difficulty with the sign-in options; instead, they forwarded written comments to the WMSC.gov address.

5.	<p><b>Chair’s Remarks.</b> Hart.</p> <p>Hart congratulated Metrorail on its opening of Potomac Yard Station. He also previewed the day’s meeting, including the Commissioners’ consideration of two annual reports, the 2022 Annual Safety Report and the 2022 Annual Report of Operations.</p>
6.	<p><b>Deputy CEO’s Remarks.</b> Sharmila Samarasinghe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Samarasinghe spoke in detail about the WMSC’s safety certification work leading to concurrence that the certification process was followed to open the Potomac Yard Station. She explained the status of the safety certification process for Automatic Train Operations and Automatic Door Operations, and our efforts to gain the current status of the roadway worker protection program in light of two significant incident in early June. As updates to ongoing matters, Samarasinghe informed the Commissioners that staff continues to review Metrorail’s Train Operator training and certification and Rail Operations Control Center staffing.</p> <p><b>7000 Series Railcar Update.</b></p> <p>Samarasinghe told commissioners that the WMSC continues to work with Metrorail on a Return to Service plan. Metrorail’s data supported extending the back-to-back and journal bearing measurements to 30-day intervals. It also plans to implement design changes for the interference fit of wheels and axles to match industry standards.</p>
7.	<p><b>Audits.</b> Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik said the WMSC sent to Metrorail the draft audit report for the Structures Program. WMSC continues drafting the reports on the Roadway Maintenance Machine Audit and the Automatic Train Control and Signals Audit. We have begun work on the Power Systems Audit, which includes both high and low voltage power and relevant equipment.</p>
8.	<p><b>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).</b> Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik noted that since the May 16 public meeting, the WMSC closed seven CAPs (C-0172, C-0180, C-0190, C-0194, C-0205, C-0115, C-0161). There were 109 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>
9.	<p><b>Safety Certification Status Report.</b> Tino Sahoo, Safety Certification Program Manager.</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 ATO, automatic door operation, and the future 8000 Series railcars.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Safety Event Investigations.</b> Adam Quigley, Investigations Program Manager; Natalie Quiroz, Investigations Analyst.</p> <p>The reports referenced below may be found at the following link:  <a href="https://wmasc.gov/oversight/reports/">https://wmasc.gov/oversight/reports/</a>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. W-0227 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Rosslyn Station – February 8, 2023</li> <li>2. W-0228 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Van Ness-UDC Station – February 26, 2023</li> <li>3. W-0229 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Capitol South Station – February 4, 2023</li> <li>4. W-0230 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Georgia Ave.-Petworth Station – February 10, 2023</li> <li>5. W-0231 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Mount Vernon Square Station – February 4, 2023</li> </ol> <p>Rush moved for the adoption of the five reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Other Actions.</b></p> <p>The Commissioners reviewed and considered the draft 2022 Annual Safety Report and the 2022 Annual Report of Operations. Al Khatib moved for the approval and publication of these Annual Reports and the motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Adjournment.</b> Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:24 p.m.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p><b>Closed Meeting.</b> Hart moved for the Commissioners to meet in a closed meeting to discuss issues that related solely to the internal personnel rules and policies of the agency. General Counsel Silbaugh agreed that pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(2) and (d)(1), discussing internal personnel rules and policies of the agency was an exception to the open meetings requirements and moving into a closed meeting required a majority vote of the Commissioners. The motion passed unanimously.</p>