

**WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 8, 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 - August 8, 2023 - YouTube](#). Commissioner questions and comments are captured in the video recording.

---

**MINUTES**

<b>Order of Events</b>	<b>Items</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart, Vice Chair Michael Rush, and Commissioners Robert Bobb, Debra Farrar-Dyke, and Suhair Al Khatib. Alternate Commissioner Robert Lauby participated as the second Virginia commissioner.
1.	<b>Call to Order.</b> Hart.  Hart called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. WMSC General Counsel Silbaugh called the roll, and a quorum was achieved.
2.	<b>Safety Message.</b> Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist.  David discussed that August is back to school month. He reminded students to be aware of their surroundings and not to overload their backpacks. He asked that all abide by school zone rules and never to be distracted by phones or other devices.
3.	<b>Approval of the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Public Meeting.</b> Hart.  Farrar-Dyke sought comments on the proposed minutes. Hearing none, she moved for approval of the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Public Meeting. The minutes of the June 13, 2023 Public Meeting were approved unanimously.
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 speaker shared his thoughts on the benefits of education about transportation incidents and accidents, and safety management systems to address stubborn transportation safety issues, so that we continue to learn even from tragic circumstances. The speaker also forwarded written comments to the WMSC.gov address.

<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Chair’s Remarks.</b> Hart.</p> <p>Hart congratulated Commissioner Lauby on his appointment by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He also previewed the day’s meeting, including the Commissioners’ consideration of corrective action plans and investigations.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>CEO’s Remarks.</b> David Mayer, Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Mayer spoke again about the WMSC’s safety certification work for Automatic Train Operations and Automatic Door Operations, and the continued interactions with Metrorail so adjustments are made to attain concurrence with the safety certification. Concerning the return to service plan for the 7000 series railcars, he reported that there have been five more wheelsets with measurement exceedances found during Metrorail’s inspections. Metrorail removed those wheelsets from service. Updating ongoing matters, Mayer shared the latest information on staff’s review of Metrorail’s Train Operator training and certification and Rail Operations Control Center staffing, the Railway Worker Protection existing program and proposed program changes, instances where Automatic Train Protection cutout without instituting the safety precautions required by Metrorail, and investigations that indicate that train operators were utilizing Automatic Train Operations without permission. Last, he reported that the two annual reports that the Commissioners approved were sent to the recipients identified under the WMSC Compact.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Safety Event Investigations.</b> Natalie Quiroz, Investigations Analyst and Bruce Walker, Operations Specialist.</p> <p>The reports referenced below may be found at the following link:  <a href="https://wmsc.gov/oversight/reports/">https://wmsc.gov/oversight/reports/</a>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. W-0232 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Shaw-Howard University Station – February 9, 2023</li> <li>2. W-0233 Station Overrun and Stranded Train near Van Dorn Station – December 23, 2022</li> <li>3. W-0234 Improper Roadway Worker Protection at Wheaton Station – February 26, 2023</li> <li>4. W-0235 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Clarendon Station – March 7, 2023</li> <li>5. W-0236 Collision at Crystal City Station – March 9, 2023</li> <li>6. W-0237 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at the Transportation and Police Building at Dulles Rail Yard – March 21, 2023</li> <li>7. W-0238 Evacuation due to a reported shooting at Potomac Avenue Station – March 30, 2023</li> <li>8. W-0239 Evacuation due to intentionally set fire at Union Station – March 21, 2023</li> <li>9. W-0240 Evacuation due to an unattended bat at Rosslyn Station – March 24, 2023</li> <li>10. W-2041 Evacuation due to a bomb threat at L’Enfant Plaza Station – March 2, 2023</li> </ol> <p>Farrar-Dyke moved for the adoption of the ten reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Resolutions and Other Actions.</b> Hart.</p> <p>1. Resolution R-2023-04: The Commissioners reviewed and considered the annual revision to the WMSC Program Standard, which states the requirements and deadlines for Metrorail, and the expectations from the WMSC when conducting its authorities under the Compact. Mayer discussed the process to develop the draft Program Standard, which included inviting and reviewing comments from Metrorail. Rajtik highlighted some of the proposed revisions to the Program Standard.</p> <p>Lauby moved for the approval of Resolution R-2023-04, adopting the Annual Program Standard revision effective on September 10, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>2. Resolution R-2023-05: The Commissioners reviewed and considered necessary revisions to the WMSC Bylaws, so they conform with the newly adopted WMSC Program Standard, as well as other technical updates.</p> <p>Bobb moved for the approval of Resolution R-2023-05, adopting the revisions to the Bylaws effective September 10, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Audits.</b> Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik reported that the WMSC issued its audit of Metrorail’s Structures Program, which resulted in two findings. WMSC continues drafting the reports on the Roadway Maintenance Machine Audit and the Automatic Train Control and Signals Audit. The WMSC has begun work on the Power Systems Audit, which includes both high and low voltage power and relevant equipment.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).</b> Ashley Rhodes, Program Manager, Corrective Action Plans.</p> <p>Rhodes noted that since the June 13 public meeting, the WMSC closed seven CAPs (C-0026, C-0149, C-0179, C-0188, C-0198, C-0196, and C-0203). There were 102 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<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 outstanding items on Silver Line Phase 2 and the Potomac Yard Station, Metrorail’s proposed activation of ATO and automatic door operation, and the future 8000 Series railcars.</p>

	<p><b>Automatic Train Operations/Automatic Door Operations.</b> Paul Smith, Train Control and Signals Program Manager.</p> <p>Smith described the required holistic approach to formulating and documenting the ATO and ADO projects, creating test plans and conducting the tests, and mitigating the hazards discovered before any activation of automatic train operations and automatic door operations. The WMSC acknowledged the significant effort that these projects require and is in regular communication with Metrorail as it moves through the steps of safety certification.</p>
12.	<p><b>Adjournment.</b> Hart adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.</p>