

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 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 - October 24, 2023 - YouTube](#). Commissioner questions and comments are captured in the video recording.

MINUTES

Order of Events	Items
Attendance	Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart, Secretary-Treasurer Debra Farrar-Dyke, and Commissioners Robert Bobb, Devin Rouse, and Christopher Conklin. Alternate Commissioner Jennifer DeBruhl participated as the second Virginia commissioner.
1.	Call to Order. 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.	Safety Message. Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist. David discussed that October is "National Protect Your Hearing Month." He reminded all that noise-induced hearing loss can be permanent, but often is preventable. He asked that we reduce the amount of noise around us, that we use hearing protection, or simply turn down the volume when listening to music.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Public Meeting. Hart. Farrar-Dyke sought comments on the proposed minutes. Hearing none, she moved for approval of the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Public Meeting. The minutes of the August 8, 2023 Public Meeting were approved unanimously.
4.	Public Comments. Hart. Hart invited comments from members of the public who had joined the webinar audience and who identified themselves as speakers. No attendees chose to provide public comments. Chair Hart reminded that comments may be provided to the WMSC website, through social media, or by email.

5.	<p>Chair’s Remarks. Hart.</p> <p>Hart thanked Commissioners Rush and Al Khatib for their service to the WMSC. Both of their terms expired during the summer. He also welcomed the new Commissioners from Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. He previewed the day’s meeting, including the Commissioners’ consideration of Metrorail’s Agency Safety Plan and investigations.</p>
6.	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, Chief Executive 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 as adjustments are made to attain concurrence with the safety certification. He highlighted a workshop that Metrorail hosted that provided a comprehensive review of ADO, as well as the WMSC’s approval to use ADO on the red line for train operator certification. Concerning the return to service plan for the 7000 series railcars, he reported that Metrorail was resuming its wheelset replacement program after pausing it to address too many occurrences when the wheelset did not meet the specifications. Mayer also provided the latest information on the September 29, 2023 derailment south of Reagan National Airport Station. He shared that the train collided with a brake disc that was lying on the roadway after falling from a prior train. WMSC investigators provided information to Metrorail about brake disc failures from the early 2010s. Metrorail’s inspections of brake disc bolts on the 2000 and 3000 series cars discovered broken or loose bolts on a number of brake discs. Metrorail added inspections and preventative maintenance for the brake discs. Additionally, staff are investigating several instances when trains exceeded the maximum allowed speed. Although an overspeed alert is available, Metrorail operations was not using it. Metrorail now is using this alert information and sent reminders to train operators about speed limits. The WMSC continues its close attention on the Railway Worker Protection program and proposed program changes, and whether the materials in Metrorail’s training classes are up-to-date. Last, he reported on two items for the Commissioner’s vote: WMATA’s Agency Safety Plan and draft WMSC Fiscal Year 2025 budget and work program.</p>
7.	<p>Audits. Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik reported that the WMSC issued its audit of Metrorail’s Roadway Maintenance Machines Program, which resulted in five findings. WMSC continues drafting its reports on Automatic Train Control and Signals, and Power Systems, which includes both high and low voltage power and relevant equipment. Last, staff have conducted site visits and interviews for the Railcar Audit.</p>
8.	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Ashley Rhodes, Program Manager, Corrective Action Plans.</p> <p>Rhodes noted that since the August 8 public meeting, the WMSC closed five CAPs and approved two new CAPs for implementation. There were 99 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>

<p>9.</p>	<p>Safety Certification Status Report. Sharmila Samarasinghe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Samarasinghe discussed projects that require WMSC concurrence prior to Metrorail activating them in passenger service. She included further details on Metrorail’s limited activation of automatic door operation on the red line for train operator training and the future use of the 8000 Series railcars.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Adam Quigley, Program Manager, Investigations.</p> <p>The reports referenced below may be found at the following link: https://wmsc.gov/oversight/reports/.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. W-0242 Serious Injury at New Carrollton Rail Yard – April 23, 2023 2. W-0243 Serious Injury of Metrorail contractor at Potomac Yard Station – April 17, 2023 3. W-0244 Evacuation at Fort Totten Station – April 18, 2023 4. W-0245 Evacuation at Crystal City Station – March 16, 2023 5. W-0246 Evacuation at Pentagon City Station – April 9, 2023 6. W-0247 Evacuation at the Greenbelt Rail Yard Railcar Service and Inspection Shop – April 18, 2023 <p>Bobb moved for the adoption of the six reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Resolutions and Other Actions. Hart.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution R-2023-06: The Commissioners reviewed and considered the annual update to the WMATA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, effective December 31, 2023. In this Plan, WMATA states its requirements and responsible offices/divisions to support a strong safety culture. The WMSC oversees the implementation of the Agency Safety Plan and is required to review Metrorail’s updates. <p>DeBruhl moved for the approval of Resolution R-2023-06, approving WMATA’s Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, effective December 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Resolution R-2023-07: Following a review by the Finance Committee, the Commissioners reviewed and considered the draft Fiscal Year 2025 budget and work program. This draft is used by the jurisdictions to prepare recommendations for its leadership to authorize timely payment of the jurisdictional share of the WMSC’s yearly budget. <p>Bobb moved for the approval of Resolution R-2023-07, approving the transmission to the jurisdictions of the draft Fiscal Year 2025 budget and work program. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

12.	Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.