

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 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 - December 12, 2023 - YouTube](#). Commissioner questions and comments are captured in the video recording.

MINUTES

Order of Events	Items
Attendance	Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart, Vice Chair Robert Lauby, Secretary-Treasurer Debra Farrar-Dyke, and Commissioners Devin Rouse and Christopher Conklin. Alternate Commissioner Jennifer DeBruhl participated but was not required to vote due to participation from both Virginia Commissioners.
1.	Call to Order. Hart. Hart called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. WMSC General Counsel Silbaugh called the roll, and a quorum was achieved.
2.	Safety Message. Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist. David raised awareness of fire hazards as the holiday season approaches. Use extension cords as designed. Ensure that the cords and any power supplies are properly rated. And watch the open flames on candles and blow them out when leaving the room.
3.	Election of Vice Chair. Hart. Hart recognized the service of the former Vice Chair Mike Rush. He stated that Commissioner Lauby indicated his interest in the position and inquired if any other Commissioners also wished to be considered for the position. Hearing no other expressions of interest, he moved to the nomination and vote. Commissioner Lauby received a majority vote and was recognized as the Vice Chair. He thanked his fellow Commissioners for their support.
4.	Approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2023 Public Meeting. Hart.

	<p>Farrar-Dyke sought comments on the proposed minutes. Hearing none, she moved for approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2023 Public Meeting. The minutes of the October 24, 2023 Public Meeting were approved unanimously.</p>
5.	<p>Public Comments. Hart.</p> <p>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 viewers that comments may be provided to the WMSC website, through social media, or by email.</p>
6.	<p>Chair’s Remarks. Hart.</p> <p>Hart thanked the staff for its ongoing oversight work. He acknowledged Metrorail’s progress on the wheelset corrections for the 7000 series railcars, and he congratulated it on the beginning use of automatic doors on the Red Line.</p>
7.	<p>CEO’s Remarks. Sharmila Samarasinghe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Samarasinghe spoke again about the WMSC’s safety certification work for Automatic Door Operations. She identified the work Metrorail completed to attain the WMSC’s concurrence with the safety certification, including developing a concept of operations, testing and data analysis, procedural reviews, training, and certification of the Red Line operators. She also identified that Metrorail completed wheelset replacements on eight 7000 series railcars, and it continues other items, such as a restraining rail study, which were identified following the October 2021 Blue Line derailment. Samarasinghe also provided the latest information on the September 29, 2023 derailment south of Reagan National Airport Station. Metrorail’s inspections of brake disc bolts on the 2000 and 3000 series cars has been added to the regular periodic inspections, and at least two repeat failures were discovered. The WMSC continues its close attention on the Railway Worker Protection program and has initiated an audit under the triennial audit cycle. The WMSC also will be receiving Metrorail’s latest update on its sampling and mitigation plan for the lead discovered in the emergency medical cabinets on station platforms. Last, she reported the Commissioner’s will be reviewing and voting on the annual independent financial audit; and once again, the WMSC received a clean audit report.</p>
8.	<p>Audits. Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik reported that the WMSC transmitted to Metrorail the draft audit report on Automatic Train Control and Signals, and had just received Metrorail’s comments. Those comments will be reviewed and adjustments to the report will be made as needed. Then the report will be issued. Two additional reports are being drafted: Metrorail’s Power Systems programs and its Railcar (Revenue Vehicle) programs. The draft Power Systems audit report will be transmitted to Metrorail for its review and comments. Three open CAPs were identified from the 2021 Power</p>

	<p>audit, which were modified to address the current safety issues. Last, staff held its exit conference with Metrorail for the Railcar audit.</p>
9.	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Ashley Rhodes, Program Manager, Corrective Action Plans.</p> <p>Rhodes noted that since the October 24 public meeting, the WMSC closed ten CAPs and approved four new CAPs and three open CAP modifications for implementation. There were 93 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>
10.	<p>Safety Certification Status Report. Sharmila Samarasinghe, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Samarasinghe discussed projects that the WMSC identified for in-depth review, and thus need the WMSC’s concurrence prior to Metrorail activating them in passenger service. These projects include review of the new 8000 series railcars, the Automated Wayside Inspection System, and Automatic Train Operations and Automatic Door Operations. She included further details on Metrorail’s hazard mitigations for the activation of Automatic Door Operations on the Red Line.</p>
11.	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Adam Quigley, Program Manager, Investigations.</p> <p>Quigley highlighted some of the ongoing investigations. 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-0250 Collision at Gallery Place-Chinatown Station– May 12, 2023 Commissioner requested discussion on: 2. W-0248 Serious Injury of Metrorail employee at Congress Heights Station – April 23, 2023; (Commissioners requested staff seek additional information from Metrorail about actions it took following the investigation, in particular, to better understand the applicable disciplinary process.) 3. W-0249 Serious Injury at McLean Station – March 4, 2023 <p>Lauby moved for the adoption of the three reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
12.	<p>Resolutions and Other Actions. Hart.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution R-2023-08: The Commissioners received a briefing from the independent auditors, and reviewed and considered the annual auditor’s report. This audit assessed the WMSC’s financial statements through the end of June 2023. The auditors found that the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of the WMSC; thus, they

	<p>offered an unmodified, or “clean,” opinion. As required by the Compact, the audit report will be transmitted to the identified recipients.</p> <p>Conklin moved for the approval of Resolution R-2023-08, approving WMSC’s independent financial audit, effective June 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
13.	<p>Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.</p>