

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Location: This meeting was conducted as a publicly streamed video conference. The video recording of the meeting is available at [WMSC Public Meeting of the Commissioners - January 23, 2024 - 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 Kathryn Higgins participated but was not required to vote due to participation from both Maryland Commissioners.
1.	Call to Order. Hart. Hart called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. WMSC Attorney-Advisor Brackett Smith called the roll, and a quorum was achieved.
2.	Safety Message. Richard David, Emergency Management Specialist. David discussed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for gas, oil, or coal burning appliances, and provided other safety tips for avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Public Meeting. Farrar-Dyke. Farrar-Dyke sought comments on the proposed minutes. Hearing none, she moved for approval of the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Public Meeting. The minutes of the December 12, 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 viewers that comments may be provided to the WMSC website, through social media, or by email.

5.	<p>Chair’s Remarks. Hart.</p> <p>Hart previewed the day’s meeting, including referencing the National Transportation Safety Board’s (“NTSB”) investigation into the October 12, 2021, Blue Line train derailment and the WMSC’s release of its Automatic Train Control and Signals (“ATC”) Audit.</p>
6.	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Mayer followed Hart’s remarks by again referencing and expounding on the ATC Audit by describing some of the findings and the process used to prepare the audit. He noted the WMSC’s order to address NTSB Safety Recommendation R-23-28, which calls on WMATA to “implement processes and resources to expand the role of trend analysis in identifying and mitigating safety risks,” and later went on to discuss the order in greater detail. He noted the WMSC is continuing to work on its in-depth review of Metrorail’s safety certification work on its Automatic Door Operation and Automatic Train Operation. He discussed additional work the WMSC has completed with respect to the 7000 Series Railcars and their return to service. Additionally, Mayer noted the WMSC is working on its Roadway Worker Protection (“RWP”) Audit, said the WMSC is continuing to work with Metrorail on the lead identified in emergency medical cabinets as part of the implementation of a corrective action plan to address a finding from the WMSC’s Emergency Management and Fire and Life Safety Audit, and is continuing to monitor operator staffing levels in the Rail Operations Control Center.</p>
7.	<p>Audits. Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik noted the WMSC released the ATC Audit and discussed the scope and findings of the audit. Specifically, Rajtik said, “The audit demonstrates that Metrorail has implemented some improvements since our previous ATC audit that was issued in 2021, and has made improvements due to the WMSC’s 2022 Train Control Room maintenance and cleaning order. But the audit also demonstrates that Metrorail is not carrying out some key safety commitments.” Additionally, Rajtik noted the WMSC had transmitted the draft report to WMATA for our Audit of Metrorail’s Power Systems programs, is developing its audit of Metrorail’s Revenue Vehicle Programs, and is scheduled to hold the exit conference for the Roadway or Wayside Worker Protection Audit.</p>
8.	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). John O’Donnell, Audits and CAPs Specialist.</p> <p>O’Donnell noted that since the December 12, 2023 public meeting, the WMSC closed three CAPs and approved for implementation three new CAPs and three open CAP modifications. There were 93 open CAPs as of the meeting date.</p>
9.	<p>Safety Certification Status Report. Paul Smith, Director, Systems Engineering.</p>

	<p>Smith 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 for in-depth review include Metrorail's new 8000 Series railcars, Metrorail's Automated Wayside Inspection System, and Metrorail's work related to Automatic Train Operation and Automatic Door Operation.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>NTSB Investigation. Mayer; Adam Quigley, Program Manager, Investigations.</p> <p>Mayer explained that the commissioners were asked to adopt the NTSB's report on the October 12, 2021, Blue Line derailment, noting that the WMSC Program Standard allows the WMSC to adopt other agencies' reports. The WMSC was a party to the NTSB investigation. Further, the report the commissioners were considering included the WMSC's party submission to the NTSB investigation and an order the WMSC issued to WMATA in response to Safety Recommendation R-23-28. Quigley showed a video produced by the NTSB and further explained the investigation to commissioners. He then discussed other work the WMSC has done and is continuing to do with respect to the existing WMATA train fleet and the future 8000 Series Railcars.</p> <p>The commissioners provided feedback and suggestions on the order issued pursuant to Safety Recommendation R-23-28, noting the specificity of the order and inquiring about the CAP process for the order. Mayer explained that the order was specific because the WMSC determined that the CAP must include these known items in response to the Safety Recommendation.</p> <p>Following discussion, the commissioners voted to adopt the report. Lauby moved for adoption. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Quigley.</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-0251 Collision at Metro Center Station – May 21, 2023 2. W-0252 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Station – September 3, 2023 3. W-0253 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Wheaton Station – May 18, 2023 4. W-0254 Collision at Rhode Island Ave Station – August 23, 2023 5. W-0255 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Shaw-Howard University Station – August 31, 2023 <p>Bobb moved for the adoption of the five reports. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.</p>