



The Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) is seeking a **Program Specialist - Train Control & Signals** to join our growing team.

The WMSC is the designated State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) responsible for overseeing the safety of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail system, which operates rail transit in Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia. The WMSC is responsible for implementing an oversight program in compliance with Federal and other applicable regulations.

Position Overview

The Program Specialist – Train Control & Signals will assist in conducting independent WMSC inspections, audits, and investigations with a focus on WMATA Metrorail signal, automatic train control, and radio and other communications systems. This position will report to the WMSC Program Manager, Train Control & Signals.

The selected candidate will ensure a commitment to effective safety oversight program administration through collaboration and the establishment of working relationships with WMSC personnel, WMSC contractors, and WMATA personnel.

Responsibilities

- Assist the WMSC Director, Systems Engineering in areas including:
 - Planning and carrying out an itinerary of periodic field inspections of Metrorail system signal and train control systems to ensure that these are properly installed, operated, tested, inspected, and maintained.
 - Auditing technical elements of the Metrorail system related to signals and train control operations, inspection, and maintenance, and associated Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) activities.
 - Verifying and ensuring WMATA's compliance with its own signals and train control maintenance and inspection policies and procedures, WMSC requirements, and industry best practices.
 - Investigating allegations of hazardous conditions or non-compliance from WMATA employees, government officials, and the general public regarding unsafe signals and train control system conditions.
 - Reviewing WMATA Metrorail event (accidents, incidents, and occurrences as defined by 49 CFR 674 and the WMSC Program Standard) investigation reports with considerations of train control and signals design and performance.
 - Developing audit and inspection reports that effectively communicate accurate technical information to a wide audience.
 - Reviewing, interpreting, and conducting trend analysis related to Metrorail signals, train control and communications systems, including analysis related to fault codes and other maintenance-related information.

- Coordinating with multiple WMATA departments to schedule routine activities and special audits.
- Advising the WMSC Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer on technical matters pursuant to signals and train control systems.
- Independently and as part of an effective team coordinate with others, to identify, investigate, analyze, and review hazards related to WMATA's train control & signal system.
- Support other WMSC staff in conducting other oversight such as activities related to Inspections, Investigations, Audits, and Corrective Action Plans.
- Developing, reviewing, and maintaining situational awareness on Metrorail's progress on each corrective action plan (CAP) being carried out by WMATA related to train control, signals, and radio and other communications.
- Prepare written reports and provide other regular updates to the WMSC leadership and Commissioners.
- Perform other responsibilities as assigned.

Qualifications

Experience

A minimum of 5 years of progressively increasing responsibility related to rail transit or railroad signals and train control system maintenance and inspection.

Selected candidate will undergo Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) training and successfully meet all competencies through written and practical RWP examinations. Successful candidates will maintain their RWP qualification throughout their employment with the WMSC and will comply with all applicable RWP requirements in the performance of their work.

Knowledge of and familiarity with applicable Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations is required, as well as knowledge of and familiarity with industry best practices and standards such as those maintained by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) and knowledge of Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations pertaining to Train Control and Signals.

Prior experience with signals, train control, and/or communications related to a rail transit agency as an employee or contractor, and/or related experience conducting oversight as a part of an SSOA is preferred.

Education

A bachelor's degree in engineering or a related technical specialization is desirable. However, professional experience may be considered in lieu of educational requirements.

Residency Requirement

Given the frequency of site visits to the WMATA Metrorail system by WMSC personnel, including the need to respond quickly to an event scene, the incumbent for this position must live within 30 miles of a WMATA Metrorail station.

Physical Requirements

- The ability to safely move for long periods on potentially rocky and uneven surfaces along rail right-of-way, in rail yards, and in maintenance facilities on an occasional basis.

- The ability to safely perform inspections of Signals, Train Control Rooms (TCR) and Wayside Equipment, in and around various job-sites or facilities and in close proximity to railcars, vehicles, and other equipment.
- The ability to position oneself to take measurements.
- The ability to ascend/descend ladders and narrow staircases, and to board and disembark rail vehicles including cars designed for passenger use and maintenance vehicles.
- Successful applicants must be able to detect and observe.
- Work may take place at any time of day as warranted by emergency conditions or scheduled inspections (e.g. responding to a Metrorail event or conducting observations of overnight maintenance work).
- Work may take place on or about WMATA property where WMSC personnel must be alert at all times for the approach of trains or rolling equipment; slips/trips/fall hazards; and hazardous materials.
- While on-site, WMSC personnel must take precautions with electrical hazards associated with passenger and non-passenger vehicles and equipment, the third rail, and other power equipment throughout the Metrorail System.
- WMSC personnel may be exposed to unfavorable weather conditions, including temperature extremes and precipitation, and other environmental discomforts such as insects and vegetation on or about rail property.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required for specific job functions (and will be provided). All WMSC personnel will comply with WMATA requirements for PPE as applicable to the circumstances, as well as with applicable industry standards.
- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Certifications

Candidate must possess and maintain a valid driver's license or provide reliable means to arrive to and leave a rail station, rail yard, maintenance facility, the WMSC office, or other facility or location.

Candidate will be required to enroll in and complete the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCPT) within 3 years of designation by the WMSC and then, upon successful completion, maintain that certification in good standing thereafter. Candidate is encouraged, but not required, to enroll in and complete the Transit Safety and Security Program as well.

Key Qualifications, skills, and abilities:

- Excellent English-language written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to use Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office, SharePoint, and other common software for conducting daily work including, but not limited to, preparing work products such as presentations, reports, graphs, tables, and for ensuring proper record retention.
- Ability to work in a team environment comprised of individuals from diverse cultures and geographies.
- Ability to observe, receive, and otherwise obtain relevant information regardless of the information source.
- Ability to use documented facts, logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.
- Ability and enthusiasm to acquire needed knowledge to perform duties.

- Ability to manage multiple priorities to meet deadlines and commitments.
- Ability to manage projects to fruition, on time.
- Ability to take direction and constructive criticism from supervisor and management.
- Ability to consistently conduct all aspects of the position.
- Ability to be a team player who assists the WMSC in fulfilling its overall safety oversight mandate.
- Ability to independently carry out duties following direction by supervisor/management and recognize any related duties on own initiative.
- Ability to effectively use the internet and other collaboration software to perform assigned work.
- Ability to adhere to strong professional ethics.

Other required:

The ideal candidate will possess the abilities and skills to:

- Understand and detect deviations from:
 - Signals and train control maintenance standards accepted in the industry.
 - WMATA Metrorail's signals and train control standards.
 - WMATA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).
 - APTA Signals and Communications Standards.
- Examine plans and records, make inspections of signals and train control systems, and determine adequacy of stopping distances from prescribed speeds.
- Understand the safety significance of deviations and combinations of deviations.
- Determine and effectively communicate, verbally and in writing, the remedial action required to bring signal and train control systems into compliance with the standards.
- Analyze and interpret SCADA system information and understand how to troubleshoot faults.
- Convey the safety significance of information and requirements and other technical knowledge verbally and in writing to a wide audience of internal and external policymakers and senior managers.
- Be knowledgeable about hazard assessments.
- Availability of a home office or other suitable, professional setting for conducting daily responsibilities. Alternatively, the WMSC office is available for this purpose.

WMSC offers a robust compensation and benefit package

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

Office Location: 750 First Street NE, #900, Washington, DC 20002

Apply by sending your cover letter with salary requirements and resume to hr@wmsc.gov.

The most up-to-date information regarding this job posting is available via the WMSC employment opportunities page at [Employment Opportunities – Washington Metrorail Safety Commission \(wmcs.gov\)](http://www.wmcs.gov/employment-opportunities).