

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 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 - April 9, 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 Robert Bobb (joined the meeting at approximately 2:30), Devin Rouse and Christopher Conklin. Alternate Commissioners Jennifer DeBruhl and Kathryn O’Leary Higgins participated but were not required to vote due to participation from both Virginia and Maryland Commissioners.
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 reminded all to be attentive drivers as we recognized Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Phones should be put away, but also eating, drinking, adjusting car systems and even some passengers can cause distractions. Being focused on driving improves safety for all.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the March 5, 2024 Public Meeting. Hart. Farrar-Dyke sought comments on the proposed minutes. Hearing none, she moved for approval of the minutes of the March 5, 2024 Public Meeting. The minutes of the March 5, 2024 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.

<p>5.</p>	<p>Chair’s Remarks. Hart.</p> <p>Hart thanked the staff for its ongoing oversight work. He reported that the WMSC received Metrorail’s comments in response to the Order issued requiring Metrorail to bring its train operator certification program into compliance with the requirements. He also shared that staff would provide updates on audits, inspections, investigations, and safety certification projects.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>CEO’s Remarks. David Mayer, Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Mayer spoke in greater detail about some of the matters that the Chair introduced, specifically the order issued regarding train operator certification. In its response, Metrorail identified more than 600 operators who did not meet its requirements for certification yet were deemed certified train operators. He also highlighted some of the improvements resulting from WMSC inspections. For example, a Track crew that would be working around the electrified third rail had electrical safety gloves that had expired more than two years prior. The crew stopped its work until it could obtain the proper personal protective equipment. Metrorail also issued a notice to all employees about the use of electrical safety gloves. The draft of the Revenue Vehicle (Railcar) Audit was sent to Metrorail for its 30-day review, and staff will provide updates on other audits. Metrorail is continuing to build replacement wheelsets for the 7000 Series return to service plan, and the railcars with the new wheelsets have operated for 20,000 miles, which is a threshold level in Metrorail’s engineering test plan. Evaluations of the wheels and axles selected under the test plan are continuing through the upcoming months. The WMSC’s work continues on the in-depth review of Automatic Door Operations and Automatic Train Operations. The WMSC provided a revised draft of the Program Standard to Metrorail for its 30-day review. Last, the narrative annual reports will be provided soon for Commissioner review, and following the approval of the Finance and Operations Committee, the annual fiscal budget will be presented to the Commissioners at the May 14 public meeting.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Audits. Davis Rajtik, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Rajtik reported that the WMSC intended to initiate the Fitness for Duty and Occupational Health Programs audit in March 2024. However, Metrorail expressed concern about the scope and burden of the audit and refused to provide many of the requested documents. The WMSC responded to the concerns raised, but Metrorail reiterated that it would not provide documents regarding occupational health, drug and alcohol testing, or further documents or discussion related to the safety hazards of elevated lead levels first discovered in 2023. Following in-person and telephonic contact in hopes of resolving Metrorail’s concerns; instead, it reiterated that it would not provide the documents. Following a review and vote by the Commissioners, the WMSC CEO issued a subpoena for the audit documents. Concerning other audits, the draft of the Revenue Vehicle (Railcar) Program was sent to Metrorail for its 30-day review, and the Roadway/Wayside Worker Protection Program audit is in the final drafting stage. Finally, the planning stages for the Emergency Management and Fire Life Safety Program audit have begun.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Ashley Rhodes, Program Manager, Corrective Action Plans.</p> <p>Rhodes noted Metrorail is developing CAPs to address the Automatic Train Control and Signals Program Audit issued in January 2024 and the January 2024 Order following NTSB Safety Recommendation R-23-28 following the 2021 Blue Line derailment. Additionally, since the March 5 public meeting, the WMSC closed seven CAPs (C-0068 from the 2020 Rail Operations Control Center Audit, C-0144 from the 2021 Revenue Vehicles Programs Audit, and five CAPs from the Emergency Management and Fire and Life Safety Programs Audit: C-0165, C-0174, C-0175, C-0176, and C-1077). There were 88 open CAPs as of the meeting date. Rhodes also explained that information is reviewed to verify Metrorail’s progress on open CAPs.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Safety Certification Status Report. Paul Smith, Director, System Engineering.</p> <p>Smith described the WMSC’s oversight role as Metrorail implements its safety certification program. He identified the following programs that are under in-depth review: the new 8000 Series railcars, Metrorail’s Automated Wayside Inspection System, and Automatic Door Operations and Automatic Train Operations. He noted that the WMSC also is monitoring Metrorail’s consideration of increasing operational speeds as a part of its use of Automatic Train Operations.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Safety Event Investigations. Natalie Quiroz and John DeRenzo, Investigations Analysts.</p> <p>Quiroz highlighted some of the ongoing investigations particularly the February 15 smoke event at Eastern Market Station.</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-0263 Track Worker Injury at D&G Junction east of Stadium-Armory Station – October 7, 2023 2. W-0264 Improper Roadway Worker Protection at Foggy Bottom-GWU Station – January 16, 2023 3. W-0265 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons at Foggy Bottom-GWU Station – October 5, 2023 4. W-0266 Derailment of Roadway Maintenance Machine near East Falls Church Station – June 4, 2023 5. W-0267 Derailment of a Ballast Car near the Greenbelt Station – August 11, 2023 6. W-0268 Improper Rail Vehicle Movement with Zero Speed Command from Federal Triangle Station – January 6, 2023 7. W-0269 Red Signal Overrun at Mount Vernon Square Station – July 11, 2023 8. W-0270 Improper Door Operation in tunnel between U Street and Columbia Heights Stations – March 26, 2023 9. W-0271 Roadway Maintenance Machine collision with personal vehicle at Alexandria Rail Yard – July 21, 2023

	The Commissioners moved for the adoption of the nine reports. The motion passed unanimously.
11.	<p>Resolutions and Other Actions. Kyle Ange, Chief Financial Officer.</p> <p>Ange introduced three procurement-related resolutions. Under the WMSC procurement processes, the Commissioners must authorize the CEO to award procurements when the procurement is expected to exceed \$50,000 in value. A Request for Proposals for HR Generalist services was posted, and two procurements are in development. The first is for IT support services, and the second is for business operations insurance. The Finance and Operations Committee had the opportunity to review these resolutions.</p> <p>The Commissioners moved for the adoption of the three procurement-related resolutions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
12.	Adjournment. Hart adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.