



WMSC Inspection Report 20260203

ISSUED 02/03/2026

Inspection Details

Title: Roadway Job Safety Briefings Inspection

Location: Document Review

Date of Inspection: 2/2/2026

Time of Inspection: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Unannounced

Risk-Based (Audits, Corrective Action Plans)

Functional Area: Roadway Worker Protection

Hazard Rating: 3C

Overview

On February 2, 2026, a WMSC Inspector conducted a review of submitted Roadway Job Safety Briefing (RJSB) forms. These briefings are crucial for ensuring that all personnel are aware of potential hazards, control measures, and operational expectations before commencing work, through displaying a significant role in preventing accidents in transit environments.

This is a risk-based inspection based on an urgent hazard and finding identified during the WMSC's Track, Structures, and Roadway Worker Protection Audit. The finding and details of that urgent hazard may be found [here](#). In brief, the WMSC issued a finding that Metrorail is not following its written process to ensure and document that its roadway workers in charge have demonstrated the knowledge and skills required to do their job safely. The WMSC approved corrective action plan C-0310 on September 30, 2025. To address this finding, Metrorail re-trained and re-qualified all 192 personnel.

This inspection examined submitted roadway job safety briefings, which are an important component of safety when on the roadway. The roadway job safety briefings are completed by the roadway worker in charge and are, therefore, a proxy for assessing risk as it relates to roadway workers in charge and corrective action plan C-0310. A total of 268 roadway job safety briefing forms were reviewed across four departments: Track and Structures (TRST), Communications



(COMM), Automatic Train Control (ATC), and Power. The forms provided for review were dated from September 5–8, 2025, September 19–21, 2025, October 3–5, 2025, and October 17–21, 2025.

The WMSC Inspector conducted a debrief with the Senior Manager of TRST, in accordance with Program Standard Section 6.F.1.

Defects and Corrective Actions

WMSC Inspections identify safety issues that may be classified as defects, findings, or recommendations. Findings and recommendations are defined by Program Standard Section 5.E.2 and 5.E.3, respectively. Ordinarily, issues identified in a WMSC inspection report are classified as defects. Defects are specific safety issues of non-conformance/non-compliance that are identified, and that require remedial action.

This inspection did not identify any findings or recommendations and therefore does not require a WMSC Corrective Action Plan in accordance with Program Standard Section 5.E.4.

Defect Observations and Determinations

Roadway Job Safety Briefing form field	Number of forms with specific defect
Section 1 – Time missing	6
Section 2 – Safety contact missing	2
Section 2 – RWP rule missing	3
Section 4 – Hazards not identified	7
Section 5 – Specialized PPE information missing	12
Section 6 – Emergency Response Plan (Missing nearest hospital)	133
Missing Track time on/off	74
Section 7 – Missing Track Access Guide (TAG) Speed	17
Section 7 – Missing red hot spot info	11
Section 8 – Missing Form of RWP	4
Section 12 – Missing WSAD info	13
Section 13 – Missing Piggyback Info	1
RWP Issues (Good Faith Challenge)	1
New Briefing Form (Not in use)	6

Table 1 – Shows missing information from the 268 roadway job safety briefings reviewed by the WMSC.



Defect 1

A review of 268 briefings revealed notable gaps in critical information, particularly the absence of an emergency response plan, which included details about the nearest hospital in 133 instances. Furthermore, 74 briefings failed to document track time on and off, while 17 lacked track access guide speed information, and 13 did not include warning strobe and alarm device (WSAD) details relevant to the job. It was also observed that 6 briefings conducted on October 3, 4, and 5 used a different RJSB form (includes a QR code), which is currently not in circulation. That different form does not include track time on/off, insulated mat color (signifying whether the mat is out of compliance), piggyback information, and hot sticking chain markers.

Each component of the Roadway Job Safety Briefing (RJSB) is vital, as missing information can create potential hazards. Metrorail Operating Rule (MOR) 17.5.4 states

“The following items must be considered when participating in a Roadway Job Safety Briefing:

- Everyone’s attention and participation,
- Type of On-Track Protection,
- Identification of Adjacent Track(s) and Protection being provided on such track(s),
- Working Limits,
- Track Designations, Track Speeds,
- Predetermined Place of Safety (PPOS),
- Potential distractions,
- Unique workplace hazards,
- Hot Spot Areas (only applicable for Mobile Work Crews),
- Safety Equipment Certification Dates (radios, mats, shunts, gloves, etc.),
- Placement of Watchmen and rotation and relief policy,
- Inspection of watchmen’s equipment,
- Review of Policy and Instruction 10.3 (Electronic Device Policy),
- Brief of new arrivals,
- Re-brief when work or situation changes,
- Complete understanding & documentation,
- Good Faith Challenge process.”

Blank fields indicate such items were not considered during the briefing. The form memorializes the briefing that was completed and is acknowledged (signed) by all who are present for the briefing.

Defect 2

On one form, the Good Faith Challenge was apparently unresolved as the form does not indicate its resolution (i.e. the box was not checked). Under Metrorail Operating Rule (MOR) 17.6.2, “WMATA ensures that each Roadway Worker has the right to challenge the adequacy



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of the RWP at the work site, allowing personnel sympathetic to the challenge to stay clear of the Roadway until the RWIC resolves the issue.” In addition, MOR section 17.6.3.d states that any Good Faith Challenge must be recorded on the Good Faith Challenge Form. The WMSC requested all good faith challenge forms for the corresponding dates noted above, but no good faith challenge forms were provided.

Next Steps

Please respond **by Friday, February 6, 2026**, to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.