750 First St. NE • Ste. 900 • Washington, D.C. 20002

Office: 202-384-1520 • Website: www.wmsc.gov

WMSC Inspection Report 20260605

ISSUED 6/10/2026

Inspection Details

Title: Rhode Island Ave (B04) Escalator Inspection

Location: Rhode Island Ave Station (B04)

Date of Inspection: 6/5/26

Time of Inspection: 1:45pm to 2:45pm

Unannounced

Risk-Based (Data Review)

Functional Area: Stations, Escalators

Hazard Rating: 4A

Overview

On June 5, 2026, a WMSC Inspector conducted a risk-based inspection of Rhode Island Ave Station (B04), specifically focusing on the escalators and the areas around the escalators. Based on a data review for the May 2026 safety events reported to the WMSC, two reported customer injuries occurred on the same escalator at Rhode Island Ave Station (B04).

This is a risk-based inspection based on a data review: from May 31, 2025, through May 31, 2026, on average there are 11 minor customer injuries reported to the WMSC for the safety event code I-2(a) "Customer injury (minor) requiring immediate treatment by medical professionals away from the scene" each month.[1]

Two of these events occurred within days of each other at Rhode Island Ave Station (B04) on May 15, 2026, and May 22, 2026. Initial notifications to the WMSC provide only limited information. Based on this information, the WMSC determined a risk-based inspection was necessary and also requested the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage for the two incidents from WMATA on June 2, 2026. WMATA provided the footage for both incidents to the WMSC on June 9, 2026, which the WMSC subsequently reviewed. The WMSC waited to receive this footage before finalizing this inspection report. The observations from the CCTV are outlined below in the Defect Observations and Determinations section.

[1] Source: WMSC Safety Events Dashboard, June 8, 2026. The Program Standard (section 7) requires WMATA to report safety events to the WMSC that are comprised of three categories: accidents (also reportable to the Federal Transit Administration), incidents, and occurrences.

After concluding the inspection, the WMSC Inspector conducted a debrief with the station manager 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

Observation 1

The WMSC reviewed the WMATA closed-circuit television (CCTV) description of these two minor injury events described in Metrorail's Maximo[2] database, specifically order 20414986 (May 15, 2026) and 20430359 (May 22, 20226). The WMSC also reviewed the actual CCTV footage. No apparent defect with the escalator played a role in these injuries.

May 15, 2026, Incident

An individual attempted to carry a pushcart up the escalator on May 15, 2026, at approximately 7:24pm. The individual began ascending the unit with the pushcart in front while leaning against the handrail on the left side. Immediately upon entering the ascending unit, as the escalator steps began to rise, the individual lost balance, lost control of the cart, and fell backwards down the escalator a few steps from the bottom of the ascending unit. Approximately 57 seconds after the individual fell, the station manager shut down the escalators and headed up the escalator to assist the individual. At this point, after help from the station manager, the individual walked down the escalator while the station manager carried down the individual's pushcart. At approximately 7:37pm emergency medical arrived on scene. At or around 7:50pm the individual was taken to hospital on a stretcher by the medical team and departed the station.

May 22, 2026, Incident

At 1:07pm an individual began using the ascending escalator. The individual began walking up the moving escalator while reading something in their hands

[2] Maximo is Metrorail's database for asset management; it tracks, manages, and reports all maintenance activity.

which were at waist level. The individual maintained focus on the object in their hands while walking up the ascending escalator. Roughly five steps up the moving escalator, the individual's left shoe clipped the raised escalator step in front of the individual as they were walking up the moving escalator. The clipped shoe caused the individual to fall face first on the moving escalator. The individual appears to hit the front of their head on the escalator stairs in front of them. At 1:08pm Metro security located at the bottom of the escalator moved quickly to turn off the ascending escalator unit. The individual was then assisted the rest of the way up the escalator to platform level by security and moved to address their injury. At 1:10pm the station manager arrived on the platform level with a medical kit to aid the injured individual. A medical team arrived on the platform at 1:20pm and at 1:21pm the individual was assisted onto a stretcher which then departed the station for the hospital at 1:22pm.

Observation 2

Studying the work order and inspection history (May 1, 2025, to June 5, 2026) of the escalator unit X02 (the unit that saw the two injuries in May 2026) at Rhode Island Ave Station (B04) in Metrorail's Maximo database did not identify any unique or abnormal trends in the maintenance, inspection, or mechanical recent history of the escalator. In total, the WMSC Inspector reviewed 61 work orders since May 1, 2025. The inspector specifically studied the 10 most recent work orders in detail, plus the nine most recent inspections conducted on the X02 escalator unit at Rhode Island Ave (B04) from May 1, 2026, through June 5, 2026.

Observation 3

WMSC Inspector noted that the physical condition of all escalators was in normal working conditions and unremarkable. All escalators were clearly marked with pictographs concerning escalator safety.

Photos

Photo 1 (left) and 2 (right): Safety signage clearly marked on escalators at Rhode Island Ave Station (B04).

Observation 4

The escalator step demarcation was marked by visible yellow paint. Additionally, all comb plates were in place and had no breaks.

Photos

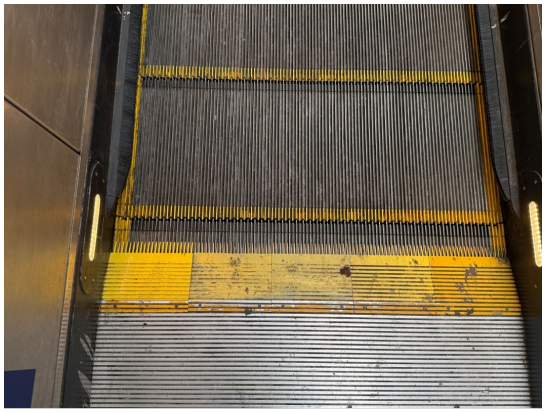

Photo 3: Escalator step demarcation clearly defined along with functional comb plate.

Observation 5

WMSC personnel spoke with the station manager on hand at Rhode Island Ave Station (B04) during the inspection. The station manager was unaware of the May 2026 customer injury events but indicated that events like these are common.

The station manager expressed concern that being outside the station booth they are unable to monitor the live CCTV feed. The CCTV footage, available only in the booth, allows the station manager to monitor many areas of the station at once.

Defect 1

Based on Maximo records, the station's elevator was operational during the two escalator incidents. The WMSC inspector confirmed that the elevator was also operating during the June 5, 2026, inspection. However, WMSC Inspector noted the signage for the elevator was difficult to read due to wear or age.

Hazard Rating: 4A

Photos

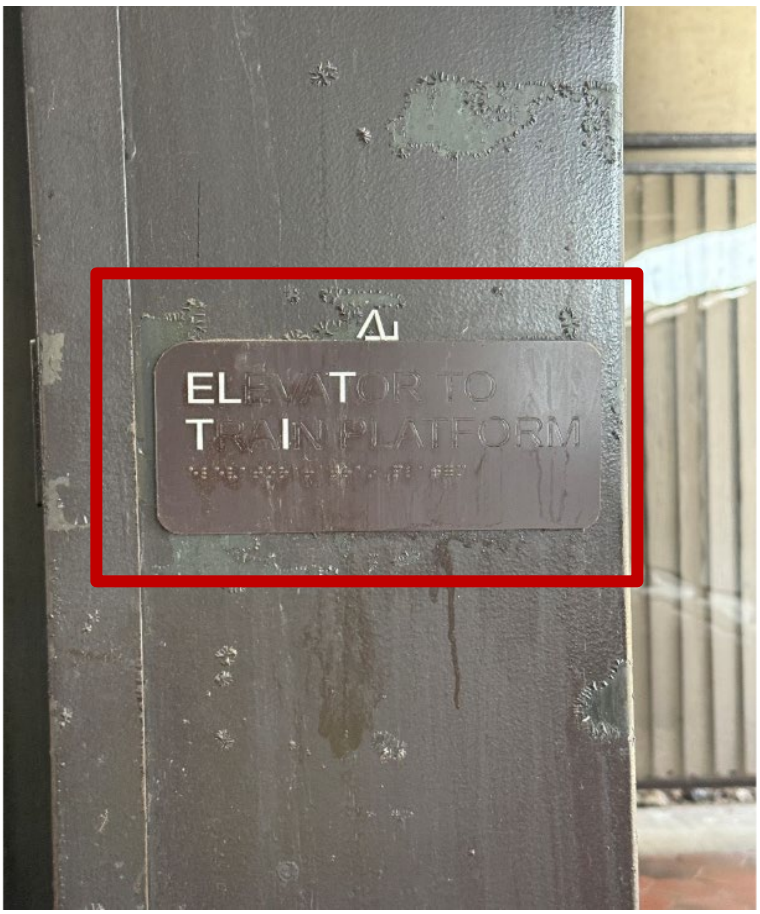

Photo 4: Elevator signage at Rhode Island Ave Station (B04).

Next Steps

Please respond **by Monday, June 15, 2026,** to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.