



March 24, 2022

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Christopher Hart
Chairman
Washington Metrorail Safety Commission
750 First Street, NE, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20002

Dr. David Mayer
Chief Executive Officer
Washington Metrorail Safety Commission
750 First Street, NE, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairman Hart and Dr. Mayer:

We write to advise the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) of the processes that WMATA has undertaken to improve customer service, and to propose iterative approvals from WMSC to restore rail service for the region as soon as possible.

The restoration of 7000 series rail cars is vital to our ability to improve frequencies to match the ridership demand anticipated with post-pandemic travel to workplaces, as well as the launch of Silver Line phase two service to Dulles Airport, five additional stations on the Silver Line, and the Potomac Yard station in Northern Virginia. By sharing the (attached) schedules at the beginning of our rollout, it is our hope that WMSC will work side by side with our Safety and Metrorail staff to ensure that any matters of concern that arise for WMSC will be satisfactorily addressed throughout the process in order to meet the optimum timetables for the safe delivery of service for customers. Leaving WMSC approvals for the end of these processes risks the timely delivery of safe and better service for the region.

While the root cause analysis we have undertaken with the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI) in coordination with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) continues, we are advancing three initiatives to improve customer service:

- Continue the work to return 6000 series rail cars. We have returned (70) 6000 series rail cars and anticipate returning an additional 50 rail cars by May.
- Implement a revised manual inspection protocol which will serve as an early stage restoration process for the 7000 series cars. This protocol will utilize digital equipment capable of performing measurements at the level of precision required to support our inspection efforts. Metro intends to deploy this process as part of a phased return to service of a limited number of 7000 series cars to improve reliability and reduce crowding.
- Install Automatic Wayside Inspection Systems (AWIS), beginning this spring. The first unit will be placed near the College Park Station with real-time and on-going wheel measurements on the Green and Yellow lines. These systems will allow

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/962-1234

*By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square-Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines*

*A District of Columbia
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership*

Metro to develop an inspection and monitoring paradigm that couples manual measurements with the real-time measurement data provided by the AWIS system. Metro intends to install a series of AWIS systems in locations to maximize monitoring of the operation throughout the service area. As we install, test, configure, and commission these units, we intend to transition the manual inspection processes to less frequent intervals. Metro also intends for the manual process to remain as a redundant process to support AWIS in the event the systems are taken offline for maintenance or upgrade. The implementation of the AWIS systems is critical to the safe return of 7000 series trains to service, which also permits better headways.

Once an additional eight, 6000 series train consists are returned to service, we expect to increase Green and Yellow Line service to 15-minute headways in May. Further, we plan to add 7000 series trains to service using the improved manual inspection process, which would immediately provide crowd relief and reliability.

After the AWIS systems are fully approved on the Yellow and Green Lines, Metro intends to migrate the expansion of the manual inspection process to increase service while installing, testing, configuring, and commissioning the AWIS systems on the Red Line. Metro will then migrate efforts to the Blue, Orange, and Silver Lines and, ultimately, shift the manual inspections process to a contingency in the event AWIS is out of service.

In addition, we have attached a detailed milestone schedule for launch of rail transit service for passengers on phase two of the Silver Line. This schedule provides WMSC with our process for commissioning the line, in tandem with Safety Certification, following the transfer of the new line to WMATA from MWAA when “operational readiness” is achieved. After conferring with the jurisdiction for which we are managing construction of the infill Potomac Yard station, we will also share a transparent and collaborative schedule for safety certification.

We appreciate your team’s participation in meetings that have been productive in allowing us to address concerns as we advance static and dynamic testing to support the root cause analysis. This iterative model of cooperation and collaboration -- similar to FRA’s work with Amtrak for Tier II Passenger Rail (aka Acela) under CFR § 238.503 Inspection, testing and Maintenance and CFR § 238.603 Safety planning requirements -- is an important progression to optimize our ability to mutually assure improved rail transit service is safely delivered as soon as possible. The attached timetables depend upon a collaborative process in which WMSC renders decisions at key stage gates that enable WMATA to advance our plan.

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As Congressional and regional leaders have made clear, our ability to work together toward our common goal is crucial as our customers, businesses, employers, and governments are counting on us to get back to work and restore normalcy following the worst public health crisis in a generation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Smedberg
Chairman
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



Paul J. Wiedefeld
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland
The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council Chairman
The Honorable Nuria Fernandez, FTA Administrator
The Honorable Everett Lott, Director, District Department of Transportation
The Honorable Jeff McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Phyllis Randall, Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Secretary W. Sheppard Miller III, Secretary, Virginia Department of Transportation
WMSC Commissioners
WMATA Board of Directors
WMATA Congressional Delegation
William E. Sudow, MWAA Board Chair
John Potter, MWAA President & CEO