



September 30, 2010

Ms. Deborah A.P. Hersman
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20584
re: R-10-7

Dear Chairman Hersman:

On August 10, 2010 the National Transportation Safety Board made one recommendation to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors addressing safety oversight by the WMATA Board as a result of the NTSB review of the Metrorail accident which occurred on June 22, 2009. The recommendation by the NTSB to the WMATA Board of Directors was to:

Elevate the safety oversight role of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors by (1) developing a policy statement to explicitly and publicly assume the responsibility for continual oversight of system safety, (2) implementing processes to exercise oversight of system safety, including appropriate proactive performance metrics, and (3) evaluating actions taken in response to National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Transit Administration recommendations, as well as the status of open corrective action plans and the results of audits conducted by the Tri-State Oversight Committee.

Today the WMATA Board of Directors adopted the attached resolution which implements the NTSB recommendation by (1) emphasizing its commitment to safety and to clarify that safety is its top priority by revising the Authority mission statement to state that "Metro operates a safe, reliable, and effective transit system that enhances mobility, improves the quality of life, and stimulates economic development in the Washington metropolitan area," (2) amending the Board of Directors Procedures to explicitly define its role to be "determines agency policy and provides oversight for the funding, operation and expansion of safe, reliable, and effective transit service within the Transit Zone," and (3) creating a committee of the Board to provide safety oversight and develop safety policy proposals with the following responsibilities:

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square—Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown—
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines
By Metrobus:
Routes D1, D3, D6, P6,
70, 71, 80, X2

The **SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE** provides continual oversight to assure that all facilities, equipment, and operations of the transit system are safe and secure for passengers, employees, and the public affected by Metro services, and recommends for Board adoption Authority safety and security policy direction as well as safety and security goals for the General Manager and for the agency. In doing so the Committee reviews the WMATA System Safety Program Plan for consistency with safety goals, receives periodic reports from the Tri-State Oversight Committee and works with the Federal Transit Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board as appropriate to review the status of Metro safety and to assure that all safety recommendations from any internal or external safety review or investigation are handled expeditiously and effectively. The Committee receives regular reports from the Chief Safety Officer and Chief of Police on the status of safety and security, on any significant accidents or incidents, on safety and security metrics, and on the responsiveness of the agency to any safety findings, both internal and external, including the status of corrective action plans. The Committee assures that both employees and the public have accessible channels for reporting safety and security concerns, that such reports are taken seriously, evaluated, and acted upon as appropriate, and that persons reporting such information are protected from reprisals.

In adopting this resolution the WMATA Board believes that it has fully implemented the referenced recommendation by the NTSB. We are aware that we have created a framework to enhance the Board's role in safety oversight. It is our challenge to implement these processes to enhance safety throughout the Authority. We are dedicated to doing so.

WMATA is also making substantial progress in developing corrective action plans and in implementing those plans for the other recommendations made to the Authority, R-10 through -22, as a result of the June 22, 2009 accident. We are committed to carrying out those recommendations to the best of our ability and to enhancing the safety of our passengers, our employees and the public.

Sincerely,



Peter Benjamin
Chair, Board of Directors

Enclosures

SUBJECT: 2010 PROCEDURES AMENDMENT FOR WMATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010-49
RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #2010-07 establishing the 2010 Procedures for WMATA Board of Directors ("Procedures"); and

WHEREAS, On August 10, 2010, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that the Board of Directors, "Elevate the safety oversight role of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors by (1) developing a policy statement to explicitly and publicly assume the responsibility for continual oversight of system safety; (2) implementing processes to exercise oversight of system safety, including appropriate proactive performance metrics; and (3) evaluating action taken in response to National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Transit Administration recommendations, as well as the status of open corrective action plans and the results of audits conducted by the Tri-State Oversight Committee;" and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors desires to emphasize its commitment to safety by creating a committee of the Board to provide safety oversight and develop safety policy proposals; and

WHEREAS, In order to create a new Board committee, it is necessary to amend the Procedures for the WMATA Board of Directors which govern the conduct of the Board and its Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors further desires to modify the Authority's Mission Statement to clarify that safety is the top priority of the agency; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors hereby adopts the Authority's Mission Statement shown in Attachment A; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors hereby amends the 2010 Procedures for WMATA Board of Directors in accordance with Attachment B; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors adopts the modified Committee membership for 2010 as shown in Attachment C; and be it finally

Motioned by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Ms. Hewlett

Ayes: 7 - Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, Ms. Hewlett, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Graham and Mr. Downey

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

Bruce P. Heppner for

Carol B. O'Keeffe
General Counsel