

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

Action Information

MEAD Number:
201735

Resolution:
 Yes No

TITLE:

Briefing on McPherson Square Incident

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

To brief the Board's Safety Committee on the March 14, 2016 McPherson Square incident of a burned rail feeder cable that caused disruption of service on the Orange, Silver and Blue lines.

PURPOSE:

To inform the Board's Safety Committee of the March 14, 2016 McPherson Square incident of a burned rail feeder cable that caused disruption of service on the Orange, Silver and Blue lines.

DESCRIPTION:

On the morning of March 14th, the Orange, Silver and Blue lines experienced delays following a cable fire outside of the McPherson Square station. The fire resulted in single-tracking and delays throughout the day. The investigation is underway to determine the cause and necessary corrective actions. Additionally, one early safety action immediately taken was the complete inspection of all underground jumper cables.

Key Highlights:

- Investigation of the cause and recommended corrective actions is ongoing
- Early safety action was suspension of metrorail service to inspect all underground jumper cables
- Investigation report required to be submitted to FTA WMATA Oversight within 30-days for review and approval

Background and History:

On the morning of March 14, 2016 a report of an arcing insulator outside McPherson Square station on track 2 caused disruptions to the Blue, Orange and Silver line while third rail power was de-energized to permit the mitigation of the situation and investigation to begin. Single tracking was established between Federal Triangle and Foggy Bottom Stations. Customers were informed through MetroAlerts as well as other media outlets such as social media, news outlets and word-of-mouth.

The investigation led by SAFE continues, however preliminary inspection has revealed a 3rd rail feeder cable burned. The cause has yet to be determined.

Discussion:

Under FTA process and procedures, the investigation report will be submitted within 30-days (April 13th) to FTA for their review and approval.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Lou Brown
Project Department/Office:	SAFE All necessary funding within the approved fiscal year 2016 operating budget.

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiated investigation into incident• Completed documented inspection of all underground jumper cables
Anticipated actions after presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete investigation• Brief Safety Committee on Investigation

RECOMMENDATION:

To brief the Board's Safety Committee on the ongoing investigation of the March 14, 2016 McPherson Square incident.



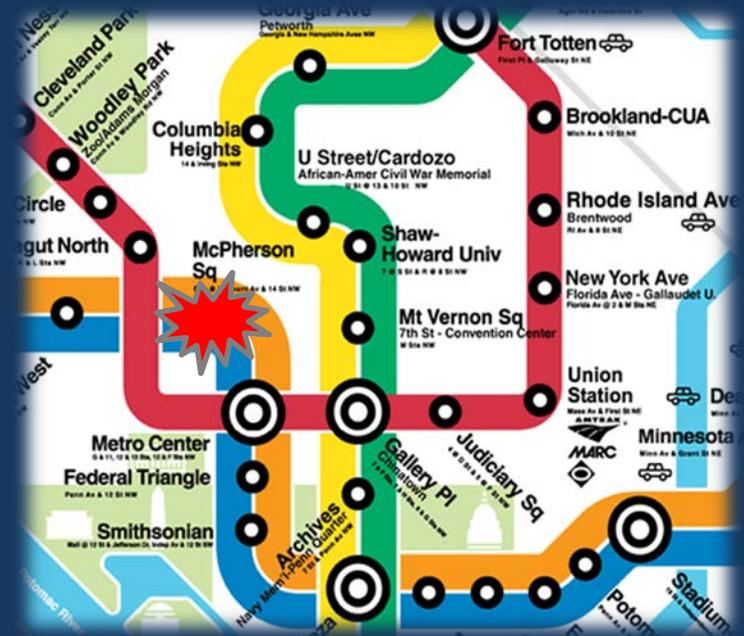
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Briefing on McPherson Square Rail Incident

Safety Committee
March 24, 2016

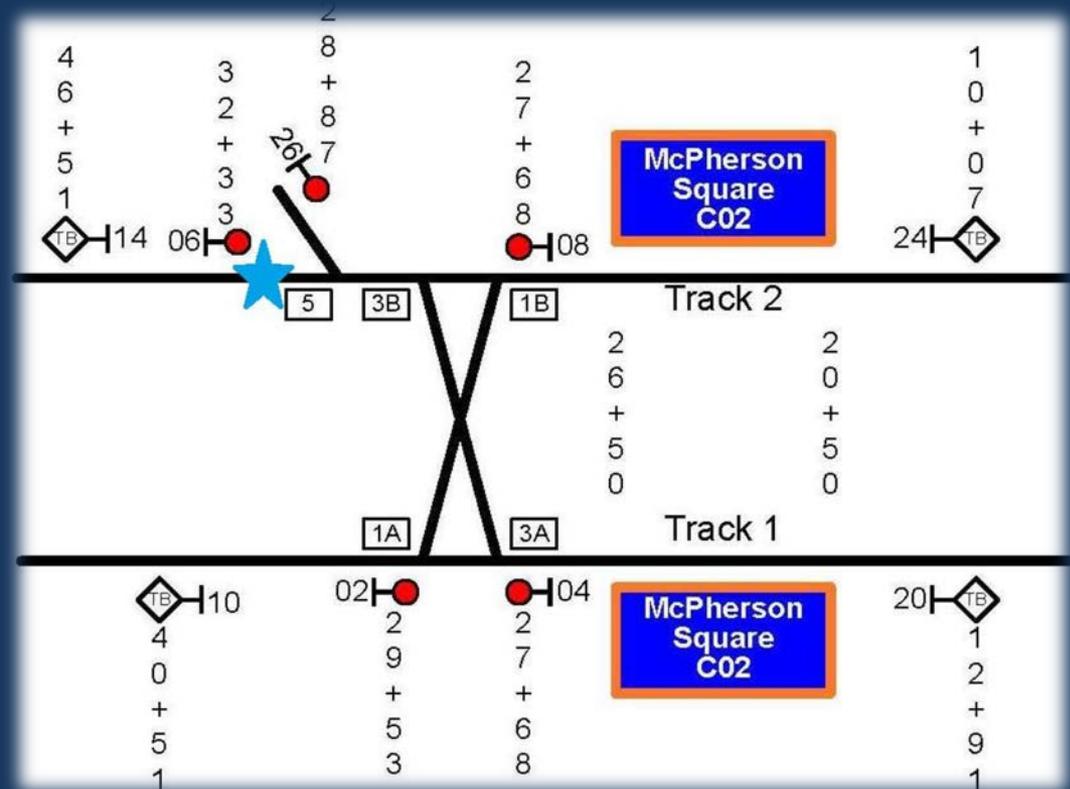
Incident Summary

- March 14, 2016 at 4:33 a.m.
- Report of arcing insulator outside McPherson Square Station, Track 2
- Third rail de-energized
- Emergency personnel notified
- Incident command established
- Single tracking between Federal Triangle and Foggy Bottom Stations



Incident Summary

- Inspection revealed 3rd rail feeder cable burned
- Investigation report submission to FTA within 30-days



Incident Summary

- Investigation ongoing:
 - Interviews
 - Ventilation system
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Training
 - Maintenance activity
 - Infrastructure
 - Water Intrusion
 - Power cables and distribution
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Training/Records
 - Maintenance protocols
 - Human factors
 - Historical activity/actions



Incident Summary



Overview Feeder Cable
Fire CM C2 31+00



Feeder Cable and Conduit
Attached to Interior Wall
CM C2 31+00



Corrective Actions and Next Steps

- Completed inspection of jumper cables underground
- Continue with inspection, repair and revised maintenance procedures for cables
- Submit investigation report to FTA oversight within 30-days