

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority  
Board Action/Information Summary**

Action  
 Information

MEAD Number:

Resolution:  
 Yes  No

**PURPOSE**

Request Board approval to adopt the third amendment to the WMATA Board System Safety Policy Statement. The WMATA System Safety Policy Statement was originally adopted by the Board in 1983 and amended in 1987 and 1997.

**DESCRIPTION**

This Policy Statement establishes the system safety requirements for WMATA and directs the development, issuance and implementation of a WMATA System Safety Program Plan.

The major revisions to the existing System Safety Policy Statement include: the addition of MetroAccess as part of the Metro system; a reference to the Federal Transit Administration regulation, 49 CFR, Part 659, Rail Fixed Guideway Systems; State Safety Oversight; Final Rule, which establishes requirements for state safety oversight, system safety program plans, safety and security certification; and a reference to the Tri-State Oversight Committee and its program standards. The final paragraph references changes from the former Board Safety Committee to the existing Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee.

The WMATA System Safety Policy Statement is included in the WMATA System Safety Program Plan.

**FUNDING IMPACT**

The development, issuance, implementation and maintenance of the System Safety Program Plan and state safety oversight requirements are accomplished within the approved budgets.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Board approval of the third amendment to the WMATA System Safety Policy Statement, see attachedment.

PRESENTED & ADOPTED:

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO WMATA SYSTEM SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

PROPOSED  
RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors approved the WMATA System Safety Policy Statement on April 23, 1983; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors amended the WMATA System Safety Policy Statement on May 14, 1987; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors amended the WMATA System Safety Policy Statement on March 13, 1997; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, in response to the Federal Transit Administration's issuance of revised regulation, Title 49 CFR, Part 659, Rail Fixed Guideway Systems; State Safety Oversight, effective May 1, 2006; directs that the General Manager ensures that WMATA complies with the Tri-state Oversight Committee's Program Standard, Program Procedures and the WMATA System Safety Program Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee provides safety management oversight of WMATA activities; and

WHEREAS, Staff is recommending that the safety and security certification process, as required by the Tri-State Oversight Committee Program Standard (for rail), be utilized to ensure that rail and bus facilities, vehicles, systems and equipment are safe for use by customers and employees, prior to their use or commissioning; and

WHEREAS, The Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee has reviewed these changes and recommends their adoption; now, therefore be it

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors approves the attached amendment to the WMATA System Safety Policy Statement that formalizes safety management oversight of WMATA activities by the Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee and establishes the following elements as the basis of the Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee's safety management oversight process of WMATA bus, rail, para-transit, maintenance, support and construction activities: operations and safety data; written


accident/incident reports and staff briefings regarding fatalities, serious injuries, derailments, fires, major collisions (property damage equaling or exceeding \$100,000), safety matters receiving media attention, National Transportation Safety Board and Tr-State Oversight Committee investigations, submission of the Hazard Identification/Resolution Matrix; and annual internal safety audit reports; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the Board reaffirms its commitment to safety for WMATA's customers, employees, and the public-at-large; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee will report to the Board of Directors any safety issues it believes should be addressed by the Board; and be it finally

*RESOLVED*, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency:

  
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Carol B. O'Keeffe  
General Counsel

## **WMATA SYSTEM SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT** **(Amendment 3)**

The primary mission of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is to provide the region with safe, reliable, and attractive public transportation service. Safety shall be a major consideration in every stage of all WMATA activities, including planning, design, construction, testing, operations, and maintenance of the coordinated Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess Systems to ensure the highest practical level of safety for customers and employees. In this regard, the Authority shall comply with the Federal Transit Administration regulations 49 CFR, Part 659, Rail Fixed Guideway Systems; State Safety Oversight; Final Rule and applicable local, state, and federal requirements for the safety of transportation systems and related facilities.

To meet the goal of System Safety, three objectives have been established:

1. To avoid loss of life, injury of persons and damage or loss of property,
2. To instill a commitment to safety in all Authority employees and contractor personnel,
3. To provide for the identification and elimination of safety hazards, the study of safety requirements, the design and fabrication of safe equipment, and a systematic approach to the analysis and surveillance of operational safety for facilities and equipment.

A comprehensive System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) shall be developed and maintained to implement the Authority's safety objectives and should result in the elimination or control of safety hazards and the reduction of accident rates so that WMATA's safety performance will continue to surpass that of similar systems. The SSPP shall comply with Section 10 of the Tri-State Oversight Committee's (TOC) Program Standard. The SSPP shall organize all safety activities into a coordinated and integrated effort directed toward optimizing the safety features of equipment and operation.

The SSPP shall ensure that safety standards are established and that appropriate evaluation and review are accomplished on all facets of the WMATA operations, including system design, construction, testing, system safety and security certification, operations, and maintenance. The SSPP also shall address the procedures required to ensure customer and employee safety. It is recognized that accountability for safety rests with each employee, supervisor, and manager, and that each is responsible for meeting the safety requirements of their position. Individual employees must comply with the safety rules and procedures for his/her position, and supervisors and managers must enforce the safety standards applicable to their departments. The SSPP shall identify the activities and the responsibilities of all

participants who are involved with the design, construction, testing, operation, and maintenance of the transit system.

The General Manager shall designate a specific WMATA office for overall safety management for the development and implementation of the SSPP. The General Manager is also charged with the responsibility of establishing annual WMATA Safety objectives for submission to the Board of Directors in June of each year. The General Manager shall submit to the Board of Directors, at the end of each fiscal year, a safety report on the WMATA operational, industrial, and construction safety performance to confirm that the safety program is being sustained as a top priority and record how the actual safety performance compares with established safety objectives. Further, a quarterly report on safety performance shall be submitted to the Board of Directors to include key safety issues, a summary of significant accidents or incidents, and recommendations for safety improvement.

The Board of Directors provides safety management oversight of WMATA activities through the Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee. The following information shall be provided to the Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee by Authority staff: Quarterly operations, security, and safety data; the Hazard Identification/Resolution Matrix; accident/incident reports; and annual internal safety audit reports. In addition, the Board Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee is provided briefings on internal investigations of fatalities, derailments, major collisions (damage exceeding \$100,000), safety matters, incidents receiving media attention and investigations conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Proposed  
Adopted by the WMATA  
Board of Directors  
April 28, 1983  
Amended on May 14, 1987  
Amended on March 13, 1997  
Amended on October 19, 2006

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Note:

New text - **In**

Removed text - ~~Out~~