

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:
202228

Resolution:
☐ Yes ☒ No

TITLE:

Acceptance of one OIG Report

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Audit report submitted to the Executive Committee for acceptance.

PURPOSE:

The Executive Committee's acceptance of OIG's report entitled:

Audit of the Replacement of WMATA's Remote Terminal Units.

DESCRIPTION:

N/A

Key Highlights:

Audit of the Replacement of WMATA's Remote Terminal Units.

Situation: WMATA had not established an overall Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) replacement project, or fully integrated and coordinated the activity. WMATA did not complete several critical project lifecycle management processes, such as a business needs assessment, risk assessment, and project plan. The Information Technology Department (IT) had documented some of the RTU replacement processes, while the Office of Automatic Train Control Systems (ATCS) and the Office of Power had not yet fully documented project requirements. These conditions occurred because: (1) the lack of an enterprise-wide rail modernization plan, (2) organizational fragmentation, (3) inadequate oversight controls, (4) lack of agreed-upon solutions, and (5) not fully following the project management lifecycle process.

Impact: The lack of an integrated and fully coordinated enterprise-wide RTU replacement project put individual RTU projects at risk. The issues raised by OIG prompted management to conclude the interim IT RTU replacement project was infeasible. This project was subsequently cancelled, increasing cost efficiency by putting \$62.9 million to better use. Management estimated the need for \$39.3 million to complete a repurposed RTU replacement project, leaving \$23.6 million (in savings) for other purposes. Further, implementing separate RTU projects may result in conflicting technical requirements and void existing ATCS licenses and safety certifications. There is also a risk of severe service interruptions or train accidents due to decreased visibility over the rail system.

Management Solution: WMATA has taken significant action to adjust the RTU replacement project by cancelling the interim IT RTU project. WMATA agreed to all the recommendations including: (1) to develop an enterprise-wide, integrated strategy and modernization plan for industrial control systems/SCADA to include the RTU replacement project; (2) to complete the permanent future state high-level SCADA architecture; (3) to integrate the RTU replacement project with the permanent fiber optics communication project; (4) to put additional oversight and security controls and processes in place; and (5) to develop a robust communication plan to coordinate the project across the organization. Management agreed to complete all the recommendations by December 2021.

Background and History:

When the Executive Committee determines there is no conflict remaining between the IG's findings and recommendations and management's response, it will accept the report as final, and the report and corrective action plan shall be deemed approved. Acceptance of the final report constitutes the Board's authorization to post the report on the WMATA website provided the Inspector General has conferred with the General Counsel and confirmed that any private or confidential information has been redacted in accordance with applicable law and WMATA policy.

Discussion:

The work highlighted in this report demonstrates OIG's commitment to promoting accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in WMATA's programs and operations and keeping the Board of Directors fully and currently informed about deficiencies in WMATA's activities, as well as the necessity for and progress of corrective actions.

There were no conflicts between the IG's findings and recommendations listed in this report and management's response. The Inspector General has conferred with the General Counsel and confirmed that any private or confidential information has been removed/redacted in accordance with applicable law and WMATA policy.

FUNDING IMPACT:

There is no impact to funding.

TIMELINE:

Anticipated actions after presentation: Executive Committee's acceptance of OIG's report.

RECOMMENDATION:

Executive Committee accepts OIG's report.