



Safety and Operations Committee

Board Information Item III-B

Recertification Safety Review

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

☐ Action ☒ Information

MEAD Number:
203424

Resolution:
☐ Yes ☒ No

TITLE:

Training and Certification Update

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

This presentation describes the progress made and current status of safety critical employee certifications.

PURPOSE:

To keep Metro leadership informed and engaged on the strategy and progress associated with implementing SMS and the Strategic Transformation Plan (STP).

DESCRIPTION:

WSP assists with the revision of the Metro Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook (MSRPH), the Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) program and the Incident Management Framework. **MITRE** assists with the development of the Voluntary Safety Reporting Program, data analysis, and the Safety Culture Assessment.

Key Highlights:

- Metro has achieved and maintained current certifications over the past seven months.
- The remaining bus and train operators who require recertification are returning from extended absences and remain out of service.
- Assessments are underway to identify opportunities for improvements and enhancements to the training and certification function.

Background and History:

In 2016, the FTA published 49 CFR Part 670 *Public Transportation Safety Program*, which states “The FTA has adopted the principles and methods of Safety Management Systems (SMS) as the basis for enhancing the safety of public transportation in the United States.” (49 C.F.R. § 670.3). SMS is a comprehensive, collaborative approach that brings management and labor together to build on the transit industry’s existing safety foundation to

continuously improve how safety risks are identified and assessed with mitigating actions taken before an accident or incident occurs.

Two years later, the FTA published 49 CFR Part 673 *Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan*, that required transit operators that receive federal funds (under the FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grants) to develop ASPs that specify how SMS will be implemented.

Please note that the realignment of Metro's organizational structure created the Department of Safety and Readiness, of which the Department of Technical Training and Development is a part.

Discussion:

Strategy Summary:

Upon discovery of lapsed certifications in May 2022, Metro implemented a corrective action plan to certify lapsed employees and put in place regular reviews to ensure certifications are maintained. This presentation documents the status of required certifications in May 2022 and the status of certifications at year-end.

December 31, 2022, status of all required certifications is as follows:

- Train Operators- 99.3%
 - 4 of 514 Train Operators are out of service awaiting certification
- Rail Supervisors- 100%
 - 108 of 108 Certified
- Interlocking Operators- 100%
 - 43 of 43 Certified
- Terminal Supervisors- 100%
 - 90 of 90 Certified
- Training Instructors- 100%
 - 19 of 19 Certified
- Road Mechanics- 100%
 - 38 of 38 Certified
- Rail Traffic Controllers – 100%
 - 45 of 45 certified
- Bus Operators – 98.8%
 - 29 of 2,507 Bus Operators are out of service awaiting certification

Next Steps

The immediate next steps are as follows:

1. Complete the reorganization of the Safety and Readiness Team
2. Complete benchmarking and expert reviews of training curriculum
3. Develop a simulator program as part of modernizing the training delivery and ongoing skills assessment

FUNDING IMPACT:

The implementation of the STP as through the identified milestones is accounted for in the budget.	
Project Manager:	Theresa Impastato
Project Department/Office:	Department of Safety and Readiness

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	As documented in the STP.
Anticipated actions after presentation	Implementation of SMS and the STP throughout WMATA is planned as a multi-year process. No change to the timeline is proposed.

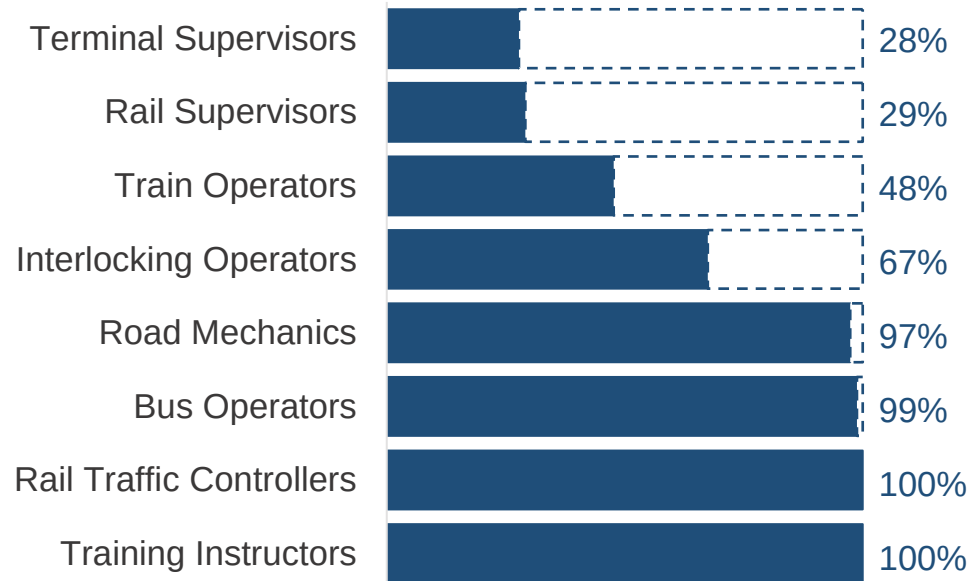
Metro Training & Certification Update

Safety and Operations Committee
January 26, 2023

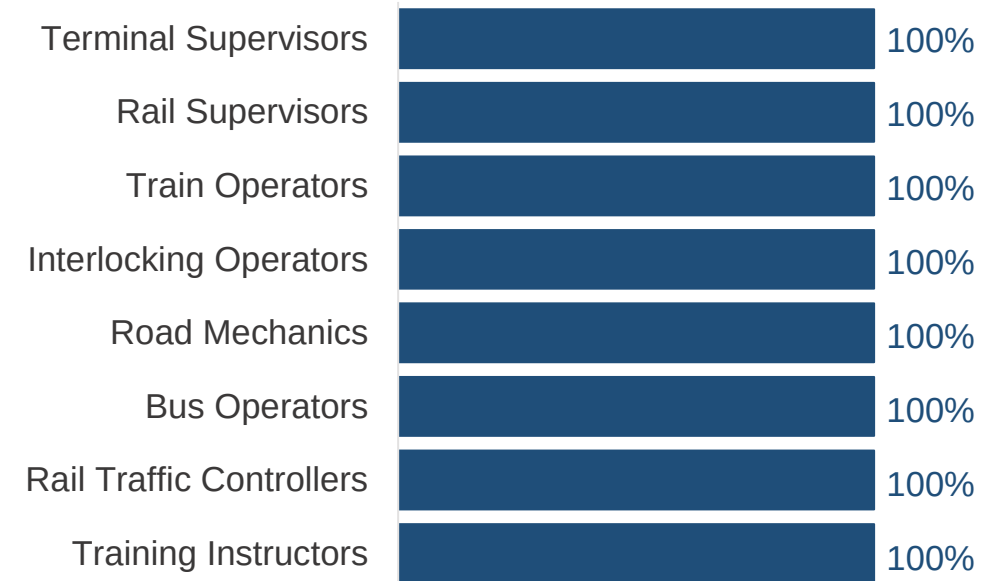


Metro has achieved and maintained current re-certifications over the past 7 months

May 2022 Re-Certification Status



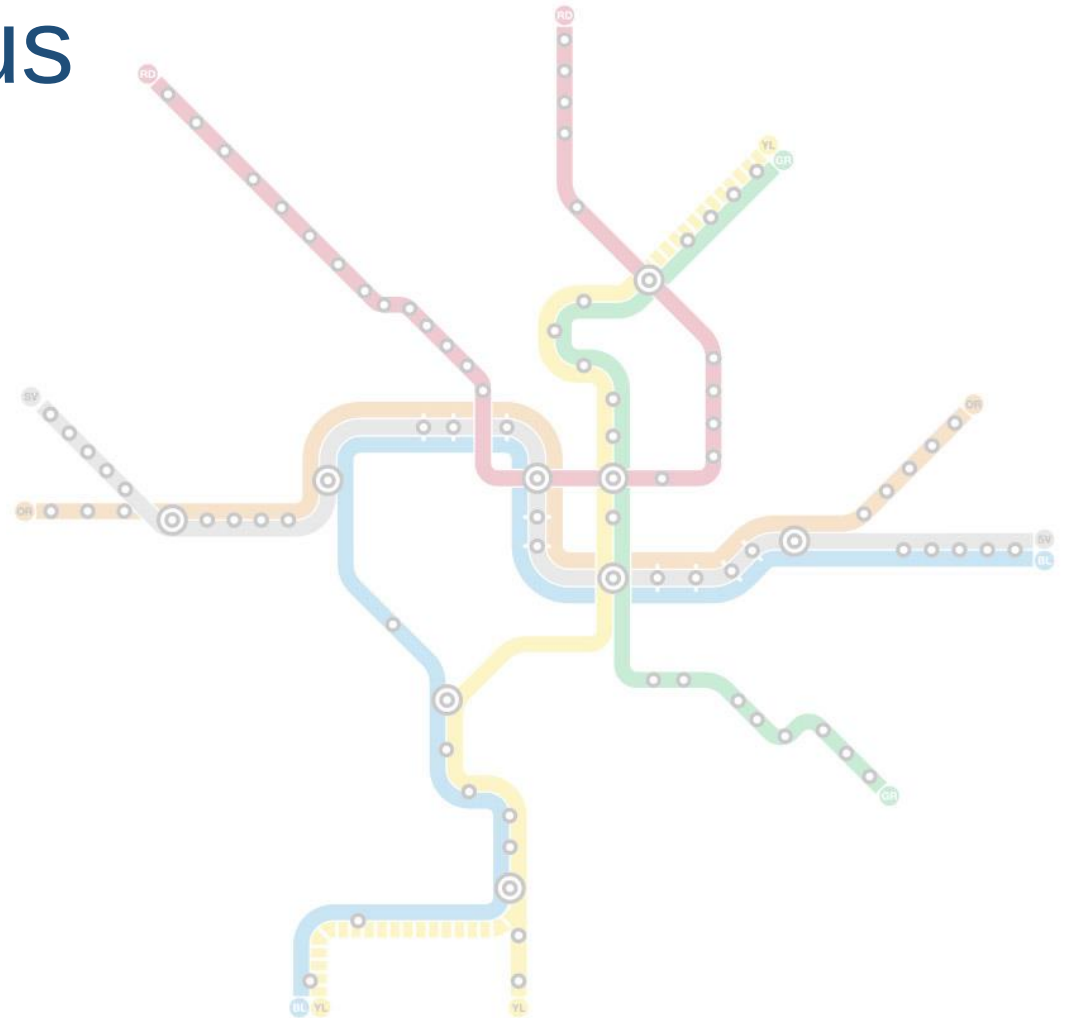
December 2022 Re-Certification Status*



* Active Personnel

Student Train Operator Status

- WMSC granted a stay of the January 13th directive requiring removal from service of up to 54 operators affected by the change to sequence
- Metro has met the requirements of the directive and performed additional training
- An evaluation of the practical training program is currently underway. Until completed, operators will undergo training in accordance with the WMSC directive at the 8:30 ratio



Next Steps

- As part of the Strategic Transformation Plan's organizational realignment, Metro centralized the training and certification function
- Assessments are underway to identify opportunities for improvements and enhancements including:
 - Simulation Programs
 - Content Management
 - Change Management
 - Reviews of On-the-Job and Classroom Curriculum
 - Benchmarking with numerous agencies and industries

