



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Investigative Hearing

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail train 302 that encountered heavy smoke in the tunnel between the L'Enfant Plaza Station and the Potomac River Bridge on January 12, 2015

GROUP	
EXHIBIT	

Agency / Organization

Title



MEETING MINUTES
Executive Safety Committee
November 25, 2014

Name	Function	Phone Number
Members Present		
Sarles, Richard	GM/CEO	
Dougherty, Jim	CSO	
Pavlik, Ron	MTPD	
Requa, Jack	AGM, BUS	
Bitar, Rodrigo	AGM, TIES*	
Kent, Christian	AGM, ACCS	
Richardson, Barbara	CHOS	
Pett, Kathryn	COUN	
Burnside, Andrea	CPO	
Ballard, Hercules	Managing Director, Rail Transp.	
Lew, Helen	Inspector General	
Borek, Kevin	AGM, IT	
Brown, Lou	Assistant CSO	
Gilbert, Raquelle	Deputy Chief, Bus Safety	
Kennerly, Manny	Dep. Chief Rail Safety	
Grano, Carla	Deputy Chief, Environmental	
Krukowski, Chad	Deputy Chief, Occupational Safety	
Baryshev, Klara	TOC	
Madaras, Jim	Local 689	
Members Absent (*Represented by staff)		
DGMO*	AGM, CSCM*	CFO
Deputy Chief, Corporate QA*	CHRO	
Other Attendees		
Adams, Dorsey	SAFE	
Beebe, Ryan	SAFE	
Fox, Claire	SAFE	
Hamilton, Jim	RISK	
Haley, Chris	SAFE	
Jones, Thomas	SAFE	
Kupka, Greg	SAFE	
Martin, William	RISK	
McCoy, Darren	SAFE	
McGowan-Thomas, Zina	CSCM*	
McNeil, John	SAFE	
Misczuk, Steve	SAFE	
Morgan, Monic	PPL	
Moses, Curtis	SAFE*	
Murtha, Ann	SAFE	
Prevost, Terry	ACCS	

Rahn, Will	RISK	
Samarasinghe, Sharmila	TOC	

- I. **Call to Order:** Jim Dougherty called the November Executive Safety Committee meeting to order at 11:01 am on November 25, 2014, in the JGB First Floor Meeting Room.
- II. **Safety Contact:** Manny Kennerly provided an overview of the emergency procedures for the building and AED location. The Safety Contact focused on safe travel advice provided by the American Red Cross. With severe weather predicted for Wednesday, November 26, extra precautions and travel time should be planned.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Jim Dougherty asked for any changes to the minutes. The minutes were approved without comment.
- IV. **Statistical Review:** The October EIR decreased to 3.49 injuries per 200,000 hours worked, a 22% reduction from September. This resulted in a CYTD EIR of 4.28, which remains under the CY14 target of < 4.8. The number of injuries decreased from 44 in September to 36 in October. The monthly leading injury types were, in order, Struck By/Against (9), Slip/Trip/Fall (8), and Collision-Related (6). The monthly leading job categories were Bus Operator and Police Officer. To date, there are 29 injuries in November, which projects (using the average number of hours per month) to 37 for the month. BTRA experienced 16 injuries in October a decrease of 2 from September. RTRA experienced two recordable injuries in October. CMNT's CYTD EIR remained at 3.13 after experiencing three injuries. ELES experienced two injuries in October, resulting in a CYTD EIR of 7.55. PLNT had two injuries in October, which lowered their EIR to 2.98. SMNT had no injuries in October, reducing their EIR to 1.17. TRST had one in October, resulting in a CYTD EIR of about 3.97. MTPD's experienced seven injuries seven injuries October, which was no change from September. Their EIR increased 8.02 for the year. October's CIR was 1.54, which is below the corporate target of < 1.8, and down from 2.95 in September. The CIR resulted from 48 reported customer injuries across the system. Bus accounted for 38% of customer injuries, followed by escalators (21%) and Rail Stations (19%).
Discussion: CSO Jim Dougherty noted that SMNT will be recognized for their 2014 safety record after showing a 43% improvement from last year.
- V. **Incident Issues:**
 - A. **Rail: Rail Incidents:** Rodrigo Bitar and Hercules Ballard reported on three significant rail incident investigations.
 - I. **Cab Heather Incident, Metro Center (update from November 4):** *Monday, October 20, 2014 at 1850 hours at Metro Center Station on Track 1, Train #921 had heavy smoke emitting from the non-active cab, in car#5114. The incident was attributed to a failure in a circuit breaker, which allowed the circuit to overheat and cause the thermal event. In response to this incident, a secondary thermal breaker device is being installed on these types of heaters in all rail cars during their next maintenance service. Mr. Bitar noted that there have been no instances of this type of failure before or after October 20, 2014.*
 - II. **Takoma Park Incident, Brookland-Takoma (update from November 4):** *A loss of power incident due to the train striking an obstruction in the roadway. Multiple cars were damaged and one train was unable to continue upon reaching Takoma Park station. It was determined that a Weezy-Bond became dislodged from the roadway and was struck by several trains as they passed. It could not be determined how the equipment became dislodged due to the damage to the unit. There are no other*

recorded instances of this type of event. As mitigation, inspection of these units has been added as a line-item on the regular PMI checklist. They were previously inspected, but now their state must be noted and signed off on the checklist.

- III. **Pocket Track/Customer Self-Evacuation Incident, 11/16:** Mr. Ballard reported that there have been several instances where passengers board trains at the Wiehle-Reston platform that are being taken out of service and stored in the pocket track beyond the platform. In these incidents, customers have self-evacuated from the train and walked back to the platform, which exposes them to third rail power and other hazards. As mitigation, RTRA has instructed Operators to make several announcements that the trains are out of service, to flash the lights and change the destination signs to “No Passengers.” In addition, once the train doors are closed, the train is to be walked from end-to-end and to disembark any passengers that are on the train. PLNT has installed signage advising passengers to be aware of trains that are not in service on the platform. TOC Chairman Klara Baryshev noted that some old/conflicting signage is still in place as of November 23, 2014. Mr. Ballard and Bitar responded that they will correct any deficient signage quickly.

B. Bus: Bus Incidents: Jack Requa reported on two significant bus accidents.

- I. **Bus-to-Bus Accident:** On November 6th, MetroBus #2310 was traveling northbound on North Capitol Street, NW/DC. A male pedestrian was walking southbound on Calvert Street, NW/DC. MetroBus #2361 was standing northbound on North Capitol Street, partially in the travel lane. The operator of #2310 failed to reduce speed and avoid the left rear section of #2361, resulting in 13 claimed injuries. The operator claimed defective brakes. Bus #2310 passed a Brake Test following the accident.
- II. **Bus Accident:** On November 9th, MetroBus #3014 (Shuttle) was traveling eastbound on 26th Street after exiting Bladensburg Division on a green signal when it was contacted by a stolen SUV which ran the opposing red signal. 5 injuries were claimed: 3 from the SUV and 2 Metro employees.

Discussion: Jim Madaras requested that Operator Assaults be included in the monthly report-outs. Communications between operators and BOCC during these events should be a point of emphasis and reported on a specific instance where an operator was assaulted and not contacted by her chain of command until after being released from the hospital. Mr. Requa asked that the findings of those investigations be forwarded in writing for consideration. Chief Pavlik noted that assaults and enforcement strategies are discussed at the monthly MetroStat meetings and invited Mr. Madaras to attend. Chief Pavlik also noted that a Task Force is ramping up at Shepherd Parkway Division with a focus on reducing Operator Assaults.

C. MetroAccess: No updates.

- VI. **Environmental Updates:** Claire Fox provided an update of actions and inspections since the October meeting.

A. Largo Treatment Building:

- I. On November 13, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEEAC) hosted a tour at the new facility for local government officials see the new building. Tour participants

included representatives from EPA Region III in Philadelphia, EPA HQ in DC, a Deputy Secretary from the Maryland Department of the Environment, the COG Executive Director and PG County environmental representatives. The tour was well-received and participated enjoyed seeing the facility, including the solar panels, vegetated green roof and rain garden. Environmental staff from WMATA and the building design engineers were on site to answer questions throughout the building.

B. Spills:

- I. Since the ESC last met, there have been approximately 20 minor spills on the roadways and at our facilities. Some resulted in a release to the storm sewer system. Spills were reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment, when appropriate.

VII. Escalated Items:

- A. Mr. Dougherty noted that this new agenda item is where issues from Departmental Safety Committees that need ESC response or guidance should be raised.
- B. **Landover Division Parking Lot Ponding:** Mr. Bitar responded that PLNT is addressing the issue.

VIII. Hazard Reports:

- A. **Radio Communications:** Chief Pavlik noted that 9 out of 10 reported issues were corrected. One area at College Park needs a new part. He reported that there were 2 repeat reports; at College Park and at Rhode Island Avenue.
- B. **Landover Division Parking Area:** Mr. Sarles asked whether addressing low spots in Parking Areas are within the scope of the current project at Landover Division. Mr. Bitar reported that they are not. Mr. Sarles requested that the areas be addressed by some method before winter.

IX. Safety Programs:

- A. Chad Krukowski provided an update on Safety Training. Eighteen classes were held with a total of 315 available seats, of which 207 were used (66%). 35 employees registered for training but failed to show up for class. Two classes were cancelled due to lack of enrollment. We trained an additional 110 employees in New Employee Orientation. We conducted 24 classes in the field and trained 141 employees. These classes included training for ACCS, BMNT, CMNT, ELES, PLNT, RTRA, and SMNT. The December calendar is available in hard copy and online. Two TSI classes will be held in December. 12 Bus Training Instructors are participating in the first class and the second in Bus System Safety. Between 18 and 20 participants from WMATA are expected. Seven employees are expected to earn their TSSP certification.

X. Rail Safety Oversight:

- A. **Corrective Action Plans:** Darren McCoy reported that 6 CAPs were closed in November with an additional 10 under review by the TOC. NTSB Recommendation 10-016 was submitted for closure on November 20, 2014. Twenty-five NTSB recommendations are closed with four open and one pending response. Mr. McCoy encouraged departments to request CAP review meetings with the TOC prior to the capture meeting to ensure that their CAP submissions meet requirements.

Discussion: It was noted that MTPD was recently awarded a Gold Standard Security Award with a 100% rating. This is their second time receiving the award and the first with a 100% rating.

XI. **Fire & Life Safety Update:**

- A. **Fire & Life Safety Inspections:** Tom Jones reported that Inspections were completed at Judiciary Square Stations, with fire alarm testing to be completed at Columbia Heights and Judiciary Square stations in the evening on November 24.
- B. **FM Global Inspections:** Carmen Turner Facility completed on October 16, 2014. Several items are to be addressed, including storage of materials (e.g., flammables and escalator handrails).
- C. **Hot Work Permit Committee:** A draft policy will be available for the December 16, 2014, meeting.
- D. **Fire Alarm Assessment:** Third-Party Monitoring contract is to be issued for all non-rail locations within the next three months. "Line Drops" will be completed at remaining locations and is to be completed by December 1, 2014. SOP 8 is operating as designed thus far.

XII. **Other Business:**

- A. **Comparing superintendent movements with safety records at BUS Divisions:** Mr. Sarles asked that this data be reviewed and reported at the December meeting. Mr. Requa stated that he would work with Greg Kupka to develop the report.

Closing: Jim Dougherty adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Attendees	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total [†]
GM/CEO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X		10
Chief Safety Officer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		11
CHOS				X	X	X	X			X	X		6
Chief, MTPD	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X		10
DGMO		X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	*		8
CFO	*		X	X		X	X	X					5
Assistant GM, Bus	*	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	*	X		8
AGM, TIES	X	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X		9
Managing Director, Rail Transportation	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		10
AGM, ACCS	X	*	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	*	X		8
Chief Human Resources Officer	X		X			X			X				4
General Counsel	*				*	X	X		X	*	X		4
OIG	X	X	*	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		10
AGM, IT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		11
AGM, CSCM	X	*	*	*		*		*	X	X	*		3
Chief Performance Officer	X	X	X	X		X	*	X	*	X	X		8
Assistant Chief Safety Officer	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		10
Deputy Chief, Rail Safety	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	*	X		9
Deputy Chief, Bus Safety	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		10
Deputy Chief, Environmental	X	X	X	X	*	X	*	X	*	X	X		8
Deputy Chief, Corp QA	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	*		9
Deputy Chief, Occupational	X	X	X	X	*	X	*	X	X	X	X		9
TOC/DDOT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		11
Union	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		11

*Represented by staff

[†]In-Person Attendance Count