## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA

\* Docket No.: DCA-15-FR-004 STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C. JANUARY 12, 2015

Boardroom and Conference Center National Transportation Safety Board 429 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20694

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing, pursuant to Notice, at 9:00 a.m.

#### **APPEARANCES:**

CHRISTOPHER A. HART, Chairman, NTSB Board of Directors EARL WEENER, Member, NTSB Board of Directors

## NTSB STAFF

ROBERT HALL, Forum Manager

KRISTIN POLAND, Ph.D., Hearing Officer

JOSEPH PANAGIOTOU, Fire Protection Engineer, Panel 1 Chair

STEVE BLACKISTONE, State and Local Government Affairs Coordinator, Panel 2 Chair

MICHAEL FLANIGON, Rail Accident Investigator, Panel 3 Chair

GEORGETTA GREGORY, Chief, Railroad Division, Panel 4 Chair

BARBARA CZECH, Deputy Director, Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations

ROBERT "JOE" GORDON, Investigator in Charge ANN GAWALT, Deputy General Counsel

BENJAMIN ALLEN, Assistant General Counsel BEVERLY DRAKE, audio/visuals and timer

RACHEL GUNARATNAM, audio/visuals and timer

PETER KNUDSON, Public Affairs Officer

## Party Spokespersons

THOMAS LITTLETON, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) SHARMILA SAMARSINGHE, Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC)

JAMES DOUGHERTY, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration (WMATA)

JAMES MADARAS, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 CHRISTOPHER GELDART, District of Columbia Emergency Services

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# 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 (9:05 a.m.)3 CHAIRMAN HART: I'm Christopher Hart, and it is my honor 4 to serve as chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. 5 We are conducting this prehearing conference in accordance with Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 845. 6 7 I would like to introduce my fellow board member, Earl Weener. 8 and the other members, Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr and Member 9 Robert Sumwalt will join me on the Board of Inquiry for the 10 upcoming two-day investigative hearing that this is the prehearing conference for, that will occur on June 23 and 24. 11 12 That hearing will be part of our ongoing investigation

- into the January 12, 2015 accident involving the Washington

  Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail train 302 that

  encountered heavy smoke in the tunnel between L'Enfant Plaza

  Station and the Potomac River Bridge. An additional train that

  was going in the same direction as Train 302 had stopped at

  L'Enfant Plaza and was also affected by the smoke. As a result of
- 19 this accident, 86 people were transported from the accident scene
- 20 to local medical facilities; another 9 later received medical
- 21 treatment, and 1 passenger was fatally injured.
- The purpose of the hearing, which will take place in
- 23 this boardroom on the 23rd and 24th of June, is to discuss and
- 24 gather additional factual information regarding the ongoing
- 25 investigation of this accident. The hearing will not address the

- 1 facts regarding all of the issues raised by the accident, but will
- 2 only address the facts related to the issues that are listed on
- 3 the agenda, which you will be discussing further at this
- 4 prehearing conference. Because I must leave to testify before
- 5 Congress in relation to another railroad accident, the
- 6 Philadelphia Amtrak accident, I will be turning the gavel over to
- 7 Robert Hall, who is the Director of the NTSB's Office of Railroad,
- 8 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigation, and he will
- 9 preside over this prehearing conference.
- 10 As you will hear, this prehearing conference is your
- 11 opportunity to raise any questions or concerns about the conduct
- 12 of the hearing, including witness testimony, exhibits and any
- 13 other issues that may arise. If you have any questions or
- 14 concerns whatsoever about the conduct of the hearing, this
- 15 prehearing conference is the time to raise them.
- Before I leave this morning, I'd like to express my
- 17 appreciation for your participation. You've all been very, very
- 18 cooperative in helping us get to the bottom of this, and I
- 19 encourage you to take an active role both in this prehearing
- 20 conference and in the hearing itself on the 23rd and 24th. Your
- 21 participation will help all of us accomplish our common objective,
- 22 which is finding out what caused this accident and determining
- 23 what needs to be done to prevent it from happening again.
- So, thank you. I hope your prehearing conference is very
- 25 productive. Robert Hall will now take over.

- 1 Director Hall.
- 2 MR. HALL: Thank you Chairman Hart. Thank you all for
- 3 attending this prehearing conference today.
- 4 All parties should have received copies of the
- 5 applicable NTSB regulations, a list of the exhibits, and a
- 6 proposed witness list.
- 7 As Chairman Hart stated, the prehearing conference is
- 8 the time for parties to bring forward any questions or concerns
- 9 regarding witness testimony, hearing issues, or exhibits. You may
- 10 raise these questions or concerns at any point during this
- 11 conference. Any questions you have about the issues or procedures
- 12 for the hearing must be raised at this prehearing conference.
- I would like to recognize the NTSB staff supporting the
- 14 hearing:
- 15 Dr. Kristin Poland is our hearing officer.
- Mr. Joe Panagiotou, Fire Protection Engineer, who will
- 17 chair our technical panel number 1;
- 18 Mr. Steve Blackstone, State and Local Government Affairs
- 19 Coordinator, who will chair technical panel number 2;
- Mr. Mike Flanigon, Rail Investigator, who will chair
- 21 technical panel number 3; and
- 22 Ms. Georgetta Gregory, Chief of the Railroad Division,
- 23 who will chair technical panel number 4.
- Also here, Ms. Barbara Czech, the Deputy Director of
- 25 Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations;

- 1 Ms. Ann Gawalt and Mr. Benjamin Allen, who will provide
- 2 legal support;
- 3 Mr. Joe Gordon, who is the Investigator in Charge for
- 4 our investigation of the incident;
- 5 Ms. Beverly Drake and Ms. Rachel Gunaratnam, who will
- 6 operate the audio/visuals and timer; and
- 7 Mr. Peter Knudson, who will be handling public affairs.
- I want to thank the parties for their cooperation with
- 9 the NTSB investigation today. We are conducting today's
- 10 prehearing conference to familiarize the parties with NTSB rules
- 11 and procedures for the hearing; identify witnesses and discuss
- 12 areas on which the witnesses will be examined; and review the
- 13 exhibits that will be used during the witness testimony.
- 14 The Board has designated the following parties to the
- 15 hearing. When I call your organization's name, I would like the
- 16 designated spokesperson to please respond with your title and
- 17 affiliation for the record. This designation of spokesperson will
- 18 continue in force until completion of the hearing. I note that
- 19 three of the party spokespersons are also witnesses. So also,
- 20 please identify who will serve in the role of party spokesperson
- 21 while you are on the witness panel.
- 22 For our first party, the Federal Transit Administration,
- 23 Mr. Thomas Littleton.
- MR. LITTLETON: Mr. Thomas Littleton, I'm the
- 25 Associative Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight at the

- 1 Federal Transit Administration. I'll be the party spokesman. I
- 2 was also the FTA's Investigator in Charge for this accident. And
- 3 when I'm a witness in Panel 4, Ms. Kimberly Burch, who is our head
- 4 accident investigator, will serve as our party spokesman.
- 5 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Littleton.
- 6 The Tri-State Oversight Committee, Ms. Klara Baryshev.
- 7 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Good morning, Mr. Hall. I'm Sharmila
- 8 Samarasinghe. I'm actually the Vice Chair of the Tri-State
- 9 Oversight Committee. Klara Baryshev, who is the Chair of the
- 10 Tri-State Oversight Committee, is out of the office this week, and
- 11 she will be on the witness panel on the Panel 4; and while she is
- 12 being the witness for the Tri-State Oversight Committee, Mr. Tebo,
- 13 Joe Tebo, will be the spokesperson for the Tri-State Oversight
- 14 Committee.
- MR. HALL: Thank you very much.
- 16 For the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority,
- 17 Mr. James Dougherty.
- 18 MR. DOUGHERTY: Good morning. James Dougherty, Chief
- 19 Safety Officer for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
- 20 Authority, and I will serve as the spokesperson for WMATA.
- MR. HALL: The Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 689,
- 22 Mr. James Madaras.
- 23 MR. MADARAS: Good morning, Mr. Hall. My name is
- 24 James Madaras. I'll be the spokesperson for ATU Local 689; I'm
- 25 the safety officer. And while I'm a witness on Panel 3,

- 1 Marlene Flemmings-McCann will be the spokesperson for ATU.
- 2 MR. HALL: The District of Columbia Emergency Services,
- 3 Mr. Christopher Geldart.
- 4 MR. GELDART: Good morning, sir. Chris Geldart. I'm
- 5 the Director of D.C.'s Homeland Security Emergency Management
- 6 Agency and the Interim Director of the Office of Unified
- 7 Communications.
- 8 MR. HALL: Thank you. The sixth party to the
- 9 investigation is not here today. That's the International
- 10 Association of Firefighters, Local 36.
- 11 The party spokesperson will be the communicator for the
- 12 party table, and will ask all the questions. Other party members
- 13 at the table should funnel their questions through the
- 14 spokesperson.
- 15 Are there any questions or comments regarding the
- 16 parties that have been designated?
- 17 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Mr. Hall, just in terms of
- 18 contingencies, if in case either the spokesperson or the witness
- 19 is for some reason unavailable on the day of the panel, what kind
- 20 of preparations do we have; what contingency planning do we have?
- 21 MR. HALL: Dr. Kristin Poland, our Hearing Officer, will
- 22 address that.
- DR. POLAND: I would appreciate it if you would contact
- 24 me as soon as possible, and then at that point we can discuss what
- 25 the alternatives could be. If there's somebody that could

- 1 potentially take their place, certainly for a spokesperson, we
- 2 could have someone take their place temporarily. For a witness,
- 3 then of course we would have to consult with the panel chairs to
- 4 see what the alternatives would be. But as soon as possible,
- 5 please.
- 6 MR. HALL: Any other questions?
- 7 (No response.)
- 8 MR. HALL: The investigative hearing will convene at
- 9 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the NTSB's Boardroom and
- 10 Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. To
- 11 keep on schedule, we will confine the hearing to the issues
- 12 defined at this prehearing conference. If necessary, as chairman
- 13 of the Board of Inquiry, Chairman Hart will rule on the relevance
- 14 of proffered testimony or exhibits later this week, and any ruling
- 15 will be final. Similarly, Chairman Hart will rule at the hearing
- 16 as well.
- I must emphasize the fact-finding nature of the hearing.
- 18 NTSB investigations are, by regulation, fact-finding proceedings
- 19 with no adverse parties. The Board does not assign fault or blame
- 20 for an accident or incident. At the hearing, witnesses may not
- 21 speculate or analyze the facts, and questions are limited to
- 22 predetermined subject matter of the hearing, which is contained in
- 23 the hearing agenda. Questions related to fault, outside
- 24 litigation, or legal liability in general will not be permitted.
- The purpose of the hearing is to examine the state of

- 1 WMATA's infrastructure, the emergency response efforts, the
- 2 organizational culture, and the oversight efforts for public
- 3 transportation safety.
- I will now pause and ask if there are any questions
- 5 regarding the conduct of the hearing?
- 6 (No response.)
- 7 MR. HALL: Each witness will testify under oath at the
- 8 hearing. To maximize the time during the hearing, we will not
- 9 describe the witnesses' credentials at the hearing itself and,
- 10 instead, have pre-qualified each witness, meaning, we have
- 11 identified in writing the credentials and special qualifications
- 12 of each witness and placed that information in the public docket.
- 13 Each party should have received a copy of all of the hearing
- 14 exhibits. The exhibits in the public docket will be released for
- 15 public viewing the morning of the hearing.
- The witnesses will be questioned in this order: first
- 17 by members of the Board's Technical Panel, followed by the
- 18 spokesperson for each part, and finally by the members of the
- 19 Board of Inquiry.
- Due to time constraints, and as a courtesy to other
- 21 parties, I will ask that the parties keep questioning to 5 minutes
- 22 or less. We have a timer so that people can see how their time is
- 23 expiring; green, yellow, and red lights on the timer: yellow,
- 24 warning that you're close to end of time; and red, warning that
- 25 you're out of time.

1 We anticipate one round of questions. A second round of

- 2 questions will only be entertained to clarify the record or
- 3 address some new matter raised; any such additional questions
- 4 should be brief and not repeat previous questions or answers.
- 5 Once a witness has completed his or her testimony, it is
- 6 possible for the witness to be recalled for further questioning
- 7 later in the hearing. We ask that the witness be present for the
- 8 entire hearing, unless they or their party spokesman have
- 9 coordinated in advance with the Hearing Officer, Dr. Poland.
- Testimony or exhibits not pertinent to the issues in
- 11 this investigation, or merely cumulative, will not be included.
- 12 Let me emphasize that the Board does not permit cross-examination
- 13 of witnesses in the legal sense.
- 14 I request that the parties and the Technical Panel
- 15 refrain from asking questions that: have no factual relationship
- 16 to the subject accident or to the prevention of similar accidents,
- 17 but are merely posed for dramatic value; are narrative questions,
- 18 more in the nature of testimony than a question; are beyond the
- 19 scope of the issues agreed upon; are repetitive; or are
- 20 irrelevant, immaterial, or argumentative.
- 21 I ask that if a party representative objects to any of
- 22 the questions at the hearing, he or she may raise their hand and
- 23 wait to be recognized by Chairman Hart.
- Are there any additional questions or comments regarding
- 25 the witnesses or the questioning of witnesses?

- 1 (No response.)
- 2 MR. HALL: The hearing issues. The hearing will address
- 3 key issues of the investigation through four panels. These four
- 4 panels are: Panel 1, State of WMATA's Infrastructure; Panel 2,
- 5 Emergency Response Efforts; Panel 3, WMATA's Organizational
- 6 Culture; and Panel 4, the Federal Transit Administration and Tri-
- 7 State Oversight Committee's efforts for public transportation
- 8 safety. We will discuss the issue areas for each of the panels in
- 9 more detail later today.
- If any party believes that this list of issues should be
- 11 modified, clarified, or limited, the time to make that request is
- 12 now, at the prehearing conference. During the hearing, we will
- 13 strictly adhere to the issues identified and agreed upon today.
- 14 Please be advised that Chairman Hart will announce these issues in
- 15 his opening statement at the hearing, and they are purposely broad
- 16 in nature.
- 17 In a few minutes, we will describe and agree upon the
- 18 specific issues that the witness will cover in their testimony as
- 19 noted in the witness list
- 20 Are there any questions regarding these broad issue
- 21 areas?
- (No response.)
- 23 MR. HALL: Exhibits. The hearing exhibits have been
- 24 provided to all parties in advance of today's prehearing
- 25 conference. The exhibits contain redactions of all personally

- 1 identifiably information, as well as any confidential business
- 2 information that was the result of negotiations between the
- 3 parties and the NTSB.
- 4 Now, we will identify the witnesses and discuss the
- 5 issue areas and the applicable exhibits for the hearing.
- 6 Dr. Poland.
- 7 DR. POLAND: Thank you, Director Hall. I will briefly
- 8 go over the room layout, the hearing agenda, exhibits list and the
- 9 witness list, and then turn things over to each Technical Panel
- 10 chairman to talk in more detail about the panels. During the
- 11 hearing, the parties will be seated at these same tables.
- With respect to the microphones, whenever the party
- 13 spokesperson is speaking, please be sure to move the microphone
- 14 close to you and switch it on by pushing the mic on/off button at
- 15 the base. The button will illuminate red, as you've already
- 16 noticed; red means on or hot. When finished speaking, please
- 17 press the mic on/off button again; the illumination will turn off.
- 18 There will also be a power strip at each table so that
- 19 laptops can be kept charged. There will be Wi-Fi for the parties
- 20 at the hearing, as there is today; unfortunately the Wi-Fi is
- 21 extremely limited, so we ask that you use the Wi-Fi only for
- 22 critical items and not for everyday email or simple web-surfing.
- 23 The Wi-Fi password today is all lower case, ntsbdc2014,
- 24 ntsbdc2014.
- 25 Each of the parties should have the following materials

- 1 in a folder on their table: the hearing agenda, panel makeup and
- 2 issue areas, exhibits list, witness list, boardroom layout and
- 3 seating charts, and in addition, there's a guidance document in
- 4 your folder that will further explain the investigative hearing
- 5 process. The document provides examples of factual questions and
- 6 several analytical or judgmental questions that we will likely ask
- 7 you to rephrase if they're phrased in a similar manner during the
- 8 hearing.
- 9 Does everyone have those materials at their table?
- 10 (No response.)
- DR. POLAND: I think we're good. Okay.
- The boardroom will be arranged similar to what you see
- 13 today, and as reflected in the seating charts that are in your
- 14 folder. The witness tables will be located on the raised platform
- 15 across the room from where I am seated right now. Witness name
- 16 plates will be put out at the beginning of each panel.
- 17 For the first panel I will call the witnesses to the
- 18 table after our investigator in charge gives his opening
- 19 statement, and then I will swear them in. For each of the
- 20 subsequent panels, we will have the witnesses already seated on
- 21 the dais prior to the beginning of the panel. Behind the witness
- 22 chairs are a row of chairs for witness representatives or for
- 23 counsel. Party tables, as I mentioned, will be located as they
- 24 are today.
- During the hearing, as well as today, exhibits are

- 1 available electronically and can be displayed on the big screens
- 2 on each side of the Board Member seats. You may use laptops to
- 3 peruse exhibits that we provided you, if you choose. We will have
- 4 one backup copy of the exhibits on a separate computer in the
- 5 boardroom in case of a computer or a power problem.
- 6 Each part spokesperson should have electronic copies of
- 7 all of the exhibits. You have an exhibit list in your folder.
- 8 Note that the exhibits are identified by group and number. When
- 9 you refer to an exhibit, please use the alpha-numeric
- 10 identification.
- Group A are administrative exhibits and witness
- 12 biographies used to prequalify witnesses. Group B are Group
- 13 Chairman's factual reports. Group C are exhibits related to the
- 14 first panel, and please note that some of the exhibits may be
- 15 related to more than one panel. Group D are exhibits related to
- 16 the second panel. Group E are exhibits related to the third
- 17 panel, and Group F are exhibits related to panel 4. Group G are
- 18 NTSB introduced interview transcripts. Group H are party
- 19 introduced exhibits, and Group M are reserved for other
- 20 miscellaneous exhibits; none have been identified thus far.
- 21 Also included in the folder on your table is a witness a
- 22 list that identifies the witness by name and the panel on which
- 23 they appear. Please review this list for accuracy and notify me
- 24 of any corrections regarding spelling, titles or affiliations.
- 25 Further, each folder contains an agenda. The agenda

1 describes the four panels in greater detail as well as the timing

- 2 of each panel.
- 3 Lastly, each folder contains a document listing the
- 4 subject of each panel, the NTSB Technical Panelists, the witnesses
- 5 and the issue areas to be explored. This document will provide a
- 6 framework for our discussions this afternoon -- this morning
- 7 actually.
- 8 At this point, I would like to start with Panel 1, and
- 9 ask each Technical Panel chairman to discuss their panel
- 10 objectives, specific issue areas, and the exhibits. Following
- 11 each panel discussion, we will open the floor to questions.
- Mr. Panagiotou, would you please begin?
- MR. PANAGIOTOU: Sure. Thank you, Chris.
- 14 So, Panel 1 is titled the State of WMATA's
- 15 Infrastructure. It basically will contain four topic areas.
- 16 There will be an area that discusses communication. It will look
- 17 at the operation and maintenance of both the D.C. Public Service
- 18 Radio System and the WMATA communication system. The focus will
- 19 be on the underground portions of these two systems, but will
- 20 include discussion of above-ground elements that could affect
- 21 communications in the below-ground area.
- The topics we anticipate touching on include a
- 23 description of operation outlining how each system is designed to
- 24 operate, including the design service coverage areas, and details
- 25 of the troubleshooting and preventative maintenance and testing

- 1 programs used to ensure reliable below-ground radio coverage and
- 2 linkage with above-ground users. It will also touch on a
- 3 discussion of the techniques used to maintain the existing trunk
- 4 radio systems and the challenges involved in operating and
- 5 maintaining digital versus analog radio systems; the history and
- 6 status of the D.C. PSRS transition from the Motorola 4.1 trunk
- 7 radio system to the newer P25 system and any challenges that has
- 8 presented towards operation and maintenance.
- 9 We will also explore what has been done to troubleshoot
- 10 and correct the problems identified during the January 12 accident
- 11 with regards to underground communications in the stations and
- 12 tunnels throughout the WMATA system.
- We will also talk about traction power cables and a
- 14 description of third-rail cables on WMATA's system; and identify
- 15 the type and age of cables currently in service; identify the rail
- 16 lines they are predominantly used on; explain the differences
- 17 between the specs of the different cables used; cable lifecycle
- 18 and WMATA monitoring maintenance programs for cable integrity;
- 19 expected cable lifecycle versus testing or replacement;
- 20 maintenance cleaning programs; cable insulation testing; timeline
- 21 of WMATA meggering tests and decision to discontinue using those
- 22 tests; and the current cable replacement program that is underway.
- 23 We will also discuss ventilation. This will include the
- 24 vent fan usage and smoke management plans; what the purpose of the
- 25 ventilation system is; what design standards it was built to; any

- 1 engineering evaluations of the pre-NFPA 130 ventilation systems,
- 2 which include the accident location; knowledge of the ventilation
- 3 system capability and how that is shared internally within WMATA;
- 4 any pre-planned ventilation system usage during an emergency; and
- 5 changes made to the ventilation system usage in the wake of the
- 6 L'Enfant smoke incident.
- 7 We will also talk about tunnel water intrusion. The
- 8 main areas WMATA's procedures of dealing with water intrusion
- 9 issues in tunnels; preventative maintenance; different types of
- 10 inspections, frequency, funding, follow-up; strategy of dealing
- 11 with recurring leakage, such as observed at the arcing site; and
- 12 risk assessments relating to leakage based on severity and input
- 13 from other departments.
- 14 Those are the topic areas. They are rather lengthy. We
- 15 only have about an hour to deal with it, so clearly we won't be
- 16 able to expand on every single topic, but we do expect the
- 17 witnesses to be prepared for those issues.
- 18 Anything else? No? I guess that sums it up.
- DR. POLAND: Questions for Joe?
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Yes. Looking at the witness list, I
- 21 believe there was a change from Darvin Kelly to Clay Bunting, in
- 22 our packet, that change -- just confirming that change is made,
- 23 right?
- DR. POLAND: That change was made. Is it not on your
- 25 witness list?

- 1 MR. DOUGHERTY: It is not.
- DR. POLAND: I apologize. The change was made.
- 3 MR. DOUGHERTY: Thank you.
- 4 MR. PANAGIOTOU: So Darvin Kelly has been in place of
- 5 Clay Bunting?
- DR. POLAND: Correct. So, it's -- the change has been
- 7 made on the last page that has the anticipated witnesses, but it
- 8 wasn't made on the panel makeup and issues. So, that's correct,
- 9 right?
- 10 MR. DOUGHERTY: That's correct. Thank you.
- DR. POLAND: So instead of Darvin Kelly on Technical
- 12 Panel 1, it should say Clay Bunting.
- MR. DOUGHERTY: That is correct, ma'am.
- DR. POLAND: Yes. Thank you.
- MS. SAMARASINGHE: -- you mentioned that the -- each
- 16 party has been provided with information on the exhibits on the --
- 17 that you guys have in each of these folders. Did you mention that
- 18 that was provided already or --
- DR. POLAND: Correct. That was provided last week to
- 20 Clara.
- 21 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Okay. All right. Thank you.
- 22 DR. POLAND: Are there any other questions for myself
- 23 for the start or for Joe for Panel 1?
- 24 (No response.)
- DR. POLAND: All right. Steve Blackstone, can you

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- 1 please talk about Panel 2?
- MR. BLACKSTONE: Sure. Thank you very much, Dr. Poland.
- 3 Panel 2 is going to look at the emergency response
- 4 immediately following the fire in the tunnel, along with a broader
- 5 view of emergency responses to incidents in underground rail
- 6 operations generally.
- 7 Initially, we're going to obtain a summary of what
- 8 happened both from the perspective of D.C. Fire and EMS and from
- 9 WMATA. The Survival Factors Factual Report, which I believe is
- 10 Exhibit B-9, contains timelines of the response provided by D.C.
- 11 Fire and EMS, WMATA, and D.C.'s Office of Unified Communications,
- 12 which will be critical elements in our discussions. I also
- 13 anticipate that we'll be looking at using a number of the
- 14 interview transcripts, which can be found in Group G. Were there
- 15 conditions in the tunnels that might have created potential
- 16 problems for the responders?
- 17 We plan to explore in greater depths, how communication
- 18 systems worked during the incident. After the first group has
- 19 looked the technical side, we're going to look at the operational
- 20 side and what role did WMATA's ROCC and D.C.'s Office of Unified
- 21 Communications play in the response. This will include reviewing
- 22 the protocols to the response to underground incidents and also
- 23 the training that the personnel in these offices have received.
- We also want to address the training provided to
- 25 emergency responders. This will include both station-level

- 1 familiarization, hands-on working with the tools and equipment
- 2 that's provided, and also participation in larger scenario-based
- 3 drills and exercises.
- In order to provide a context for what happened on that
- 5 day, we also have invited Montgomery County's Department of Fire
- 6 and Rescue Services, which has the largest amount of underground
- 7 rail in the system outside of D.C., to describe its experiences,
- 8 its protocols and its training activities. You'll notice there
- 9 are a number of exhibits provided by Montgomery County who will
- 10 provide some background information for that aspect.
- 11 That, I think, provides a brief description of what we
- 12 anticipate addressing, and will be glad to answer any questions
- 13 that there might be.
- 14 DR. POLAND: And let me just note that there's another
- 15 change. The panel makeup and issues list, instead of -- for
- 16 Technical Panel 2, instead of Deltron Harris, it should be listed
- 17 as Hercules Ballard from WMATA for the witness.
- So, please, questions for Steve?
- 19 (No response.)
- MR. HALL: Thank you.
- 21 MR. BLACKSTONE: If not, thank you very much. And at
- 22 this point I'll turn it over to Mike Flanigon.
- 23 MR. FLANIGON: Good morning. Panel 3, which will be
- 24 looking at WMATA's organizational culture, has the objective of
- 25 understanding the organizational culture, how it has changed over

- 1 time since the Fort Totten accident where there were findings of
- 2 organizational culture being a factor in that accident. And
- 3 lastly, how another organization, Metro-North Railroad, has had
- 4 experience in that area and how their organizational culture has
- 5 played a role in the past in an accident and how that's changed
- 6 since.
- 7 Specific issue areas are the impact of WMATA's
- 8 organizational culture on safety in general and potential impacts
- 9 or interactions regarding this particular incident; the changes
- 10 WMATA has made over time; and WMATA's organizational structure and
- 11 how that relates to communication and coordination between
- 12 departments within WMATA; and then as mentioned, the experience
- 13 that Metro North Railroad has had since their series of accidents
- 14 a year and a half to a couple years ago.
- As far as exhibits, we have 22 specific exhibits
- 16 identified for this panel, and rather than go through each one,
- 17 I'll just kind of go through them grouping. Several of them are
- 18 examples of safety committee minutes and action plans, a number of
- 19 exhibits related to close call reporting, a number of exhibits
- 20 related to employee engagement surveys, and one exhibit related to
- 21 previous WMATA accidents that were investigated by the NTSB. In
- 22 addition, we would be looking at a number of interview transcripts
- 23 and what people have told us regarding WMATA communication
- 24 organizational culture.
- 25 And that sums up the approach we'll take in this panel.

2.4

DR. POLAND: Are there any questions for Mr. Flanigon?

- 2 (No response.)
- 3 DR. POLAND: If not, Ms. Gregory, could you please
- 4 introduce Panel 4?
- 5 MS. GREGORY: Good morning. Panel 4 will explore the
- 6 safety oversight of rail transit as mandated in the CFR, Part 659,
- 7 as well as the Moving Ahead for Progress Act in the 21st Century.
- 8 We will examine the safety oversight efforts of WMATA by the
- 9 Tri-State Safety Oversight Committee, which is the designated
- 10 safety oversight agency. Also, we'll explore the role of the
- 11 Federal Transit Administration in ensuring consistent safety
- 12 oversight of rail transit in execution of regulations and how
- 13 MAP-21 will improve the safety of public transportation.
- 14 Comparatively, the panel will review the experiences of
- 15 an international organization with regulatory oversight of rail,
- 16 and as well as how the Federal Railroad Administration executes
- 17 their safety program of railroads in the United States.
- The safety issues, as I mentioned, include state safety
- 19 oversight of rail transit. The TOC will, as an exhibit, will do
- 20 short presentation on how they go about their responsibilities of
- 21 oversight; the safety oversight efforts of WMATA by the oversight
- 22 committee, that will be covered in that presentation; the Federal
- 23 Transit Administration's role in ensuring consistent rail transit
- 24 oversight; and then we'll touch on the regulatory oversight
- 25 requirements and experiences of the FRA and the international

- 1 organization. We hope to acknowledge successes in safety
- 2 oversight of WMATA, as well as identify any gaps that there may be
- 3 in those programs.
- 4 The exhibits are in Group F. Currently there are 48
- 5 exhibits. Primarily they cover documentations of the different
- 6 programs, the different regulations that are in place; TOC meeting
- 7 minutes from their meetings, as well as some of the Board
- 8 presentations made to the WMATA board. The regulations, as I
- 9 mentioned, MAP-21, Chapter 53, will be an exhibit. Part 659 of
- 10 the Title 49 is an exhibit. The FTA correspondence and
- 11 certification work plan of the TOC to make them eligible for 80
- 12 percent grant funding of that program, the progress on that.
- 13 We did conduct six interviews, which are listed as
- 14 exhibits in Group F. We interviewed the executive committee of
- 15 the TOC as well as some staff at the Federal Transit
- 16 Administration.
- 17 That concludes my brief presentation on the objectives
- 18 of Panel 4.
- MS. SAMARASINGHE: Ms. Gregory, I had a quick question.
- 20 You mentioned that the TOC will be providing a overview
- 21 presentation at the beginning. What's the amount of time allotted
- 22 to us to do that?
- MS. GREGORY: About 3 minutes.
- MS. SAMARASINGHE: Three minutes. Thank you.
- 25 MS. GREGORY: If there are no other questions, I'll turn

- 1 it back over to Dr. Poland.
- DR. POLAND: Thank you. Are there any further questions
- 3 on the witnesses, the issues, or the panels?
- 4 Yes, please.
- 5 MS. SAMARASINGHE: One more quick question, Ms. Gregory.
- 6 Is that -- do you expect in terms of testimony or in terms of a
- 7 slide presentation?
- 8 MS. GREGORY: It is a slide presentation that is in one
- 9 of the exhibits that you have already.
- 10 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Okay. All right. Okay.
- MR. GELDERT: Just a quick question on the issue areas
- 12 that are listed on the panel makeup and issues that we received in
- 13 our folder, specifically for Technical Panel 1, but it also
- 14 applies to a couple others.
- There was a lot that was discussed from the gentleman
- 16 from Technical Panel 1 that will be in the issue areas that
- 17 there's only three bullets. Will there be a more detailed listing
- 18 of those things that will be covered underneath these at any point
- 19 in time?
- MR. PANAGIOTOU: Bullets are the main topic areas. What
- 21 I was reading was further refined details about those topics. I
- 22 suppose we could provide that, yeah. It will probably be --
- 23 perhaps at the end of this week, we can refine that a little bit
- 24 more and we could send it out. What we'll do is, we will send a
- 25 more detailed topic list to each of the witnesses on our panel.

- 1 That way the appropriate people are sure to get it.
- 2 MR. GELDART: Okay. Thank you.
- 3 MR. PANAGIOTOU: Okay. You're welcome.
- 4 MR. DOUGHERTY: Just a quick question, Joe, also, could
- 5 you send the Party Chairs that list also that you're sending the
- 6 witnesses?
- 7 MR. PANAGIOTOU: Sure.
- 8 MR. DOUGHERTY: And if I could ask, just if a party
- 9 spokesperson did have an objection, what would be the grounds to
- 10 base that objection on? Can you kind of -- and we can have
- 11 Dr. Poland or anyone just -- if there was something that we
- 12 objected to, what would be those grounds?
- DR. POLAND: Director Hall, do you want to answer that
- 14 one? Are you passing it to Mr. Allen?
- 15 MR. HALL: If our counsel, Mr. Allen, could address
- 16 that.
- 17 DR. POLAND: Mr. Dougherty, do you want the grounds to
- 18 successfully object or just in general to object?
- MR. DOUGHERTY: I would say successfully.
- 20 MR. ALLEN: Good morning. Successfully objecting to
- 21 exhibits, the most common thing would be if it's proprietary
- 22 information or SSI or things like that. This is not a judicial
- 23 Article 3 court, so things like relevance, we can kind of look at
- 24 that, but it's not as strict as it would be in a court. A lot of
- 25 the other objections that you would find in a judicial proceeding

1 are not relevant here. Foundation and things like that wouldn't

- 2 apply here. So really it's primarily trade secrets, SSI,
- 3 proprietary business functions, things like that, and we can
- 4 address those at the time.
- 5 MR. DOUGHERTY: Would that apply to questions also?
- 6 MR. ALLEN: If the questions elicit information that
- 7 would fall into those categories, then yes.
- 8 MR. DOUGHERTY: Thank you.
- 9 DR. POLAND: And the questions brings up a good point as
- 10 well, because as we've mentioned it's fact-finding, and so if the
- 11 question is phrased in a way that's analytical or judgmental, then
- 12 we'll ask if you can rephrase the question. Usually there is a
- 13 way that you can rephrase the question to get the factual
- 14 information that you're looking for, and there's some examples of
- 15 that in the last document that's provided in your folder. So that
- 16 could also be some grounds for objection; if there was something
- 17 that was analytical, then we may stop and ask for the question to
- 18 be rephrased.
- 19 Are there any further questions?
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Sorry, just one.
- MR. ALLEN: Another one, okay.
- 22 DR. POLAND: Please, this is your time.
- 23 MR. DOUGHERTY: Have we received everything that we
- 24 would expect to receive from any of the exhibits or anything other
- 25 than what Joe had said from the fire side? So, we don't expect

- 1 any more exhibits or changes or anything from this point?
- DR. POLAND: Correct. So, last week we should have
- 3 received -- each of the party spokespeople should have received
- 4 the list of exhibits, and I sent that through Accelian website.
- 5 And then also, I sent a follow-up email with the exhibits list.
- 6 So, if you don't have those or if there's some aspect with those
- 7 that you need to have some correction or re-sent, please let me
- 8 know. I sent yesterday a follow-up email with some of the
- 9 additional transcripts. There were some that had only a cover
- 10 sheet and not the transcript itself. So those should have been
- 11 received and then obviously updated in your files.
- We will, as we mentioned, send a new issues list to each
- 13 of the party spokespeople, and then also to the witnesses in Panel
- 14 1 so that they have additional information. But then obviously we
- 15 can be in communication up until the hearing, but that is all the
- 16 information. There will be no further exhibits added to our
- 17 docket. Those are all of the exhibits that you will see for the
- 18 hearing.
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Thank you.
- DR. POLAND: Okay. As I mentioned, this is your time to
- 21 ask questions, so please ask.
- MR. MADARAS: Yeah, Kristin, I have a couple of
- 23 questions that are not related to specifics of the proceeding
- 24 other than housekeeping. I mean, when do you determine when
- 25 you're going to take a break? I don't see any water or anything

1 here. I mean, are we going to be supplied with water or bring our

- 2 own or how is that going to work?
- 3 DR. POLAND: There's no bread and water, no breaks. We
- 4 -- on the hearing agenda there should be breaks that are listed,
- 5 but possibly I didn't list them yet. So typically we'll have an
- 6 hour -- so we have our initial introductions, which is about a
- 7 half an hour and then there's the hour of the panel, the Technical
- 8 Panel that will ask the witnesses questions, and then we'll take a
- 9 half hour break. And then we'll go for -- I think about on the
- 10 first day it goes until about 12:30, and then we take an hour-and-
- 11 a-half lunch break. And same thing in the afternoon, we'll go for
- 12 about an hour and then we'll take a half-hour break, and then
- 13 we'll go for another hour and a half or something along those
- 14 lines to end it around 5:00.
- 15 So, there's always going to be the start at 9:00 in the
- 16 morning. There's going to be a mid-morning break for about 30
- 17 minutes. Then there will be an hour-and-a-half lunch break, an
- 18 afternoon break for approximately 30 minutes, and then break
- 19 around 5:00. We try to keep on schedule as much as possible, just
- 20 because everything is webcast and so we want people to be able to
- 21 tune into the appropriate areas when they want to.
- 22 On the day of the hearing, I'll also go over some of the
- 23 emergency exits so that when we have a larger group that they will
- 24 know where the emergency exits are in the room and if there's any
- 25 need for medical assistance. It looks like we may have adequate

- 1 staff to handle that here today.
- 2 Any other questions, Mr. Madaras? Mr. Dougherty?
- 3 MR. DOUGHERTY: Sorry, sir.
- 4 As far as procedurally here at the party tables, do we
- 5 sit facing the Board, do we face each other? Is there any
- 6 protocol that we should follow?
- 7 DR. POLAND: So, I guess I would encourage you to be
- 8 comfortable. The way that they're set up right now is just
- 9 because most of the speaking was done up at the head table there,
- 10 so obviously turn towards the head table. But you're going to be
- 11 here from 9 to 5. So if you're more comfortable sitting with
- 12 yourselves turned towards the table and working off your computer,
- 13 please sit how you're most comfortable. If you would like to
- 14 orient yourselves so you're facing the witnesses, that's fine with
- 15 me as well. So, please, go with what's more comfortable for you.
- 16 Don't feel like you have to keep the chairs in exactly the
- 17 positions that we put them in.
- 18 MR. DOUGHERTY: Okay, thank you. And as far as the
- 19 exhibits, everything is released at 9 a.m. on the 23rd to the
- 20 public? Is that when your docket is opened up?
- 21 DR. POLAND: That is when the docket is open, so then it
- 22 will be available on our website. There's access to our docket at
- 23 www.ntsb.gov, and that will be available to the public. In
- 24 addition, the hearing will be webcast, so those that are not here,
- 25 they can go to our NTSB website and view the hearing activities

- 1 from the comfort of their own desk if they would prefer. And as
- 2 you see today, we have a court reporter. We will also have a
- 3 court reporter for the 2-day hearing.
- 4 MR. DOUGHERTY: Thank you. And just one -- and media,
- 5 are they restricted to the media area or are they out -- can they
- 6 be on the floor of the conference room or any rules for them, just
- 7 out of curiosity?
- 8 DR. POLAND: There's definitely rules for them. Whether
- 9 they can -- they can be -- I'm turning towards Director Hall here
- 10 to get confirmation. They can be down on the floor, but I'll let
- 11 him speak to that.
- MR. HALL: Yeah, they, they can be down on the floor,
- 13 but they will be contained in a specific area down on the floor,
- 14 as well as in the media room.
- 15 MR. DOUGHERTY: Will the NTSB be providing the media a
- 16 briefing after each panel, at the end of the day, or at the end of
- 17 the second day? How will they -- well, any of that, I'm sure the
- 18 media is going to have a lot of questions, and would that be with
- 19 Chairman Hart or the Board be providing interviews?
- 20 MR. HALL: Chairman Hart will certainly address the
- 21 media throughout the event, possibly at lunch and at the end of
- 22 the day. So that is the -- you should anticipate that.
- MR. DOUGHTERTY: Thank you, sir.
- DR. POLAND: And I should also point out that although
- 25 the media may be down on the floor, they won't necessarily be

- 1 coming in and around the tables. They usually stay off to either
- 2 side, so it's not like you're going to have the media sitting at
- 3 your table with you. They'll stay a little bit farther away.
- And I just got passed a note down from Ms. Gregory. She
- 5 wanted me to mention that the FTA is planning on releasing some
- 6 documents on June 16th, and that she may plan, during her panel,
- 7 to reference those documents. Is that correct, Ms. Gregory?
- 8 MS. GREGORY: Yes. So we may be adding those as
- 9 exhibits on the 16th, when those are publicly released; they're
- 10 not available at this time.
- DR. POLAND: So obviously if there was something that
- 12 was added to the exhibit list, then we would make sure that
- 13 everyone was aware of those, and I believe we would have the
- 14 opportunity for the parties to weigh-in on those exhibits as well
- 15 before we put them in the public docket. But they would be
- 16 publicly available at that point, you're saying, so in that sense
- 17 we wouldn't be necessarily be releasing them; they are already
- 18 publicly available?
- MS. GREGORY: That's correct.
- DR. POLAND: Okay. Thank you.
- 21 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Dr. Poland, I have a quick question.
- 22 Is it acceptable, not continuously, but for one in a while, if we
- 23 needed to take some information to the witness on our panel, is it
- 24 okay for us to get up and go to that person or go to the person
- 25 who is seated behind that person to provide some updated

- 1 information?
- DR. POLAND: Typically the way that we handle that is
- 3 that you do that through your questioning.
- 4 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Okay.
- DR. POLAND: So if there's some aspect that the witness
- 6 may not have covered, then you would ask a question to say, could
- 7 you please clarify X, Y, Z during your questioning period.
- 8 Typically we don't have members from the party getting up.
- 9 Now, of course, you could somehow message the person
- 10 that's sitting at the -- in their representative's seat and they
- 11 could lean over and mention something to the witness. But that's
- 12 the purpose of their representative behind them, is to be able to
- 13 give that information. Otherwise, I think it does get a little
- 14 bit cumbersome to have people getting up and down, and it's a
- 15 little bit challenging that way. So, I would ask that you somehow
- 16 message their representative or do it through the party
- 17 questioning period.
- 18 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Understood. Thanks.
- MS. POLAND: Yeah.
- I know you have more questions. Jim?
- 21 MR. DOUGHERTY: Just, since we're kind of the topic,
- 22 just looking if we -- you know, party people sit through the whole
- 23 panel, you know, but even between now, when we -- you know, I've
- 24 notified you who the party table folks will be, but, if need be,
- 25 we are able to change those out before the hearing if we so

- 1 desire?
- MS. POLAND: Okay. Let me make sure I understood that.
- 3 So you are asking if you can change who is seated at the party
- 4 table for each of the different panels?
- 5 MR. DOUGHERTY: Yes, except for the spokesperson
- 6 obviously.
- 7 MS. POLAND: That's correct. So the spokesperson needs
- 8 to remain the same unless they're a witness, and then we've talked
- 9 about who the substitutes or the alternates will be for the
- 10 spokesperson during the time period that they're the witness.
- In between panels, of course, you can substitute in and
- 12 out so that -- each panel has a different technical objective and
- 13 so you might want representatives from your party that are more
- 14 familiar with that specific technical objective of that panel. So
- 15 you can switch in and out. We just ask that you don't switch out
- 16 in the middle of a panel, but do it between panels. So have all
- 17 of the people at the party table that you want for that entire
- 18 panel, but don't, like, halfway through have somebody get up and
- 19 leave and somebody else come back, unless, of course, there's an
- 20 emergency.
- 21 MR. DOUGHERTY: And it's our choice. I mean, in other
- 22 words, if we had a consultant that we wanted to sit with us,
- 23 that's okay also?
- DR. POLAND: Correct.
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Thank you.

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- 1 MR. GELDART: Along those lines, though, Dr. Poland, we
- 2 do have folks at this table that may need to go to something that
- 3 may be happening in the city. That is okay if we have a -- to
- 4 include myself?
- DR. POLAND: Please. Take care of the emergencies.
- 6 MR. GELDART: Okay, thank you.
- 7 DR. POLAND: Mr. Geldart, will you need to have an
- 8 alternate in case you need to leave?
- 9 MR. GELDART: That was just going through my mind. I
- 10 think we will have one, if that's okay?
- DR. POLAND: That would be perfect. So, if you don't
- 12 mind, either after this --
- MR. GELDART: Sure.
- 14 DR. POLAND: -- conference you can let me know who that
- 15 might be or you can let me know at sometime in the future, just so
- 16 that we can keep track of that.
- 17 MR. GELDART: Absolutely.
- 18 DR. POLAND: It will also help for the court reporter as
- 19 well.
- MR. GELDART: Okay, thank you.
- DR. POLAND: Mr. Madaras?
- 22 MR. MADARAS: I have a quick question. If the
- 23 questioning of the witnesses becomes analytical and not factual,
- 24 who will be the one to control whether the question is a valid
- 25 question? Chairman Hart or will it be the Technical Panel chair?

- 1 DR. POLAND: The Technical Panel chair who is
- 2 representing the Technical Panel can certainly be the first line,
- 3 but it can also come to me as well if I feel like the questions
- 4 are becoming analytical. If neither of us intervene, then of
- 5 course Chairman Hart would intervene and then ask for that to be
- 6 rephrased. Mr. Allen, our general counsel representative, will
- 7 also be behind me, and so he will intervene as well, I'm sure.
- 8 I'm just getting some additional information. So you
- 9 can also raise your hand if you think that there is -- if it's not
- 10 your period to speak, but you think something is -- a question is
- 11 inappropriate or is analytical, you can raise your hand and then
- 12 we can address that concern as it's happening, if we don't
- 13 intervene but you think there's a need for intervention. Thank
- 14 you.
- MS. SAMARASINGHE: Dr. Poland, one other question on
- 16 analytical versus factual. In terms of answering, can you give us
- 17 one example of how something could be perceived as judgmental
- 18 versus how something can be a factual answer?
- DR. POLAND: I would guess that one way to be judgmental
- 20 would be a comparison, where you were saying this happened so much
- 21 better than a previous circumstance, as opposed to giving factual
- 22 information where you would say factually this is what happened in
- 23 this circumstance; we arrived on a scene at a certain time. You
- 24 could say we were much later than we normally would be to the
- 25 scene because of these factors. I would think that would be more

- 1 of a comparison, more analytical, as opposed to more factual
- 2 information.
- 3 MS. SAMARASINGHE: So I'm thinking in terms of --
- 4 Ms. Gregory, I'm thinking in terms of the Panel 4, which is the
- 5 TOC, FDA, FRA and British Transport. Most of the --
- 6 DR. POLAND: I know it's awkward. You can pick it up
- 7 probably.
- 8 MS. SAMARASINGHE: Most of the questions in our mind
- 9 seem to be policy related, which can turn out to be somewhat
- 10 colored by judgmental answers. So, we just want to make sure we
- 11 phrase the answers in an appropriate manner where we're not going
- 12 to be asked to phrase it again to sound factual. So, if you can
- 13 give us a few tips on how to do that? Because, unlike WMATA,
- 14 where much of it is going to be factual information in the purer
- 15 sense, ours might be, what did you do at this point in time versus
- 16 what do you do at this point in time and what's the delta? And
- 17 that -- the delta discussion might be bordering on judgmental.
- 18 MS. GREGORY: The questions will be, as you mentioned,
- 19 geared mostly towards your policy --
- MS. SAMARASINGHE: Right.
- 21 MS. GREGORY: -- not specific incidents. Where the
- 22 issue areas on this panel are more generic to how you conduct
- 23 the safety oversight of WMATA and if there are any gaps in your
- 24 program. And in reality, this particular accident the TOC is a
- 25 party to the investigation, so -- it won't be accusatory. It'll

- 1 simply be your policy and how you do the oversight.
- 2 If there's -- you know, we're particularly interested in
- 3 the execution of the program; how you are gearing up to be MAP-21
- 4 compliant; how you are resolving the issues in being successful in
- 5 your grant for the state safety oversight; how the different
- 6 committees work together; how the executive committee interacts
- 7 with the TOC staff; and how the TOC interacts with the WMATA
- 8 board.
- 9 DR. POLAND: Please, go ahead.
- MR. GELDART: If that one's done, then just a question
- 11 for the witnesses on the panels. Documentation, they're allowed
- 12 to bring reference material, things like that, to have in front of
- 13 them that are not within the exhibit list, other notes or things
- 14 they may need to?
- DR. POLAND: Of course.
- MR. GELDART: Okay.
- 17 MR. HALL: Note that if a witness refers to a document
- 18 that is not in the exhibits, we will likely ask that that document
- 19 be submitted and added to the exhibits post-hearing.
- MS. GREGORY: It should also be noted that each witness
- 21 is welcome to have somebody sit behind them and assist. They
- 22 won't be able to answer the questions, but you will be able to
- 23 converse with them.
- MS. SAMARASINGHE: Who's going to be navigating for each
- 25 panel? Who's going to be navigating through the exhibits and

- 1 calling up exhibits? Say, for instance, if the TOC witness wants
- 2 a certain exhibit called up on to the screen, how is that enabled?
- 3 DR. POLAND: So if it's something that's known ahead of
- 4 time, they can come and talk to me or they can talk to Rachel, who
- 5 will be taking care of all the audio/visuals, in the back corner,
- 6 and say I plan to bring up Exhibit G-42 during my answers to the
- 7 questions.
- 8 The other way to do that is, during their questions they
- 9 can say, well, to be able to answer that question can you please
- 10 bring up Exhibit G-6, and then we can bring up that exhibit and
- 11 examine it on the screens. Obviously if we know in advance that
- 12 we're going to bring something up, we can have it loaded and
- 13 queued and ready to go. It just takes a little bit longer for
- 14 Rachel to be able to bring it up if she doesn't know in advance.
- And I guess I should also mention that some of the panel
- 16 chairs may prepare some of the exhibits if there's a specific page
- 17 or something from the exhibit that they want to bring up. They
- 18 may prepare a PowerPoint slide so that we're not navigating
- 19 through 100 pages to look at an exhibit; it would just be one
- 20 PowerPoint slide focusing on a single page or a single item in the
- 21 exhibit. So if there is something along those lines that you want
- 22 to bring up, you can tell us in advance and we can prepare that
- 23 area so that it's readable to those folks that are in the room and
- 24 also that are going to be reading the webcast, as opposed to just
- 25 seeing a page of the document, which may be less readable.

- So, we're getting close to the end, so I'm going to give
- 2 you another opportunity to ask the questions that you may have
- 3 lingering before I turn it back over to Director Hall.
- Director Hall, this concludes the Technical Panel review
- 5 of the issues, the exhibits, the witnesses for the WMATA
- 6 investigative hearing. This also includes my statement. Thank
- 7 you.
- 8 MR. HALL: Thank you, Dr. Poland. I'm going to ask you
- 9 all one more time, are there any additional comments about the
- 10 exhibits or any recommendations for additional exhibits?
- 11 (No response.)
- MR. HALL: Also, are there any additional comments about
- 13 the witnesses or any recommendations for additional witnesses?
- 14 (No response.)
- 15 MR. HALL: The hearing transcript and the exhibits will
- 16 be entered into the record and will become part of the NTSB's
- 17 public docket, along with other records of this WMATA
- 18 investigation. The transcripts of the hearings are scheduled to
- 19 be available within 7 days of completion of the hearing. The NTSB
- 20 will provide a copy of the transcript to each party to the hearing
- 21 and to the witnesses to review for accuracy. Any corrections to
- 22 the transcripts must be sent to the Hearing Officer, Dr. Kristin
- 23 Poland, within 20 days following the close of the hearing, in this
- 24 case, by Friday, July 24th, 2015. Any new documents or
- 25 information identified during the hearing that a party or witness

- 1 agrees to furnish to the NTSB should also be sent to the Hearing
- 2 Officer by July 24th, 2015.
- Following the hearing, Dr. Poland will designate a date
- 4 by which submissions related to the proposed findings, probable
- 5 cause and safety recommendations, as defined in Title 49 Code of
- 6 Federal Regulations, Section 845.27, must be submitted.
- 7 The hearing will be webcast live and be posted on the
- 8 NTSB website, where it will remain for several months after the
- 9 hearing.
- 10 Please note that on the day of the hearing, everyone
- 11 will need to pass through security and get settled prior to
- 12 9:00 a.m., the hearing start time. Please give yourself enough
- 13 time to locate your party table and be seated prior to the start
- 14 of the hearing.
- 15 Between now and the hearing, please direct any questions
- 16 to Dr. Poland. Let me also note that Dr. Poland will be out of
- 17 the country from June 6th through June 13th, so if there's an
- 18 urgent matter, please contact Joe Gordon, the IIC for the WMATA
- 19 investigation, during that time.
- Member Weener, did you have anything you wanted to say?
- 21 (No audible response.)
- MR. HALL: Okay, thank you.
- This brings us to the completion of the prehearing
- 24 conference. Thank you for your comments and participation today.

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               We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, June 23rd,
    2015, at 9:00 a.m. Thank you all.
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               (Whereupon, at 10:00 a.m., the pre-hearing conference
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 4
    was adjourned.)
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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

INVESTIGATION OF: WMATA INCIDENT AT L'ENFANT PLAZA

STATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JANUARY 12, 2015

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-15-FR-004

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: June 2, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

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Edward Schweitzer Official Reporter