



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

September 24, 2015

Mr. Jack Requa  
Interim General Manager and Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Subject: The FTA's Acceptance of WMATA's Corrective Action Plan Submitted in Response to FTA Safety Directive 15-1**

Dear Mr. Requa:

On June 17, 2015, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued Safety Directive 15-1 to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to address serious safety issues identified by the FTA's Safety Management Inspection (SMI) of your Metrorail and Metrobus systems. The SMI made 54 safety findings and the Safety Directive detailed 91 required actions to be taken by WMATA to improve safety for your passengers and employees.

In compliance with the 90 day deadline under Safety Directive 15-1, WMATA submitted for FTA approval a corrective action plan addressing all 91 required actions. The FTA has reviewed your submission and approved WMATA's corrective action plan. The FTA recognizes the good faith commitment and level of effort demonstrated by WMATA's leadership and staff to develop the plan within the deadline.

Effective implementation of the corrective action plan is critical and the FTA will monitor and oversee WMATA's progress on each of the corrective actions. A corrective action will be closed only after WMATA has met related performance measures and FTA can verify that WMATA has demonstrated its successful implementation. In addition, the FTA will consult, as appropriate, with WMATA's State Safety Oversight Agency, the Tri-State Oversight Committee, before closing corrective actions related to Metrorail.

The safety problems identified in the SMI clearly developed over a long period of time and will take continued, unwavering focus and ongoing attention to fully correct. The SMI and Safety Directive are designed to help WMATA address particular safety issues and move toward stronger management of its safety risks. For WMATA to truly manage its safety risk and make safety the top priority of all agency actions, there must be strong and consistent leadership in combination with the development of a strong safety culture throughout your organization.

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The FTA continues to urge WMATA's leadership and the WMATA board of directors to closely monitor the time and resources made available to carry out these corrective actions, particularly for those related to the Rail Operations Control Center, employee safety training, and the set related to system maintenance, including increasing track time for maintenance work. The support and commitment of the WMATA board, management and employees is necessary to resolve the organizational deficiencies and operational concerns identified by the SMI report.

If you have additional questions, please contact Thomas Littleton, FTA's Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight, at (202) 366-9239. As always, thank you for your cooperation and partnership in transit safety.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Therese W. McMillan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Therese W. McMillan  
Acting Administrator