

# A TIMELINE OF USDOT/FTA WMATA METRORAIL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ACTIONS

**July 14, 2015**

USDOT Secretary **meets with VA and MD Governors and DC Mayor** to encourage swift action to create a new SSOA

**Oct. 26, 2015**

FTA **issues Safety Directive 16-1** to the TOC to officially and temporarily assume direct safety oversight of Metrorail

**Nov. 30, 2015**

FTA begins **conducting inspections** of Metrorail

**Feb. 8, 2016**

FTA determines that the TOC is incapable of carrying out safety oversight responsibilities and **sets a one year deadline** for VA, MD and DC to create a new SSOA or risk withholding of federal transit funds

**Mar. 16, 2016**

FTA **launches focused inspections** for Metrorail track integrity, stop signal overruns and rail vehicle securement

**Apr. 28, 2016**

USDOT Secretary **appoints safety experts** to three federal positions on the WMATA board of directors

**May 11, 2016**

FTA sends a letter to WMATA detailing **urgent repairs to reduce smoke and fire risk** prior to the start of the SafeTrack maintenance program

**June 13, 2016**

FTA **approves the use of \$20 million** in Federal capital funds to support the WMATA SafeTrack program

**Aug. 8, 2016**

FTA releases its WMATA Metrorail **track integrity investigation report** and issues **Safety Directive 16-4** to WMATA

**Aug. 18, 2016**

FTA **sends letter to VA, MD and DC DOTs** announcing FTA will use up to \$900,000 in grant funds to support Federal oversight work and transition to a new SSOA

**Dec. 2, 2016**

FTA Executive Director Matt Welbes **testifies** before a U.S. House Government Oversight and Reform Committee panel on the topic of *A Safe Track?: Oversight of WMATA's Safety and Maintenance*

**Feb. 4, 2015**

FTA announces it will **conduct an SMI** of Metrorail following Jan. 2015 L'Enfant Plaza electrical arcing incident and passenger fatality

**June 17, 2015**

FTA **releases SMI findings** and issues **Safety Directive 15-1** to WMATA

**Oct. 9, 2015**

USDOT Secretary directs FTA to **assume temporary and direct safety oversight** of Metrorail from the TOC

**Nov. 2, 2015**

USDOT Secretary **sends letter to VA and MD Governors and DC Mayor** asking them to expedite creation of new SSOA

**Dec. 15, 2015**

FTA issues **Safety Directive 16-2** to WMATA

**Feb. 29, 2016**

USDOT Secretary **sends letter to legislative leaders** in VA, MD, and DC informing them of the one year deadline

**Apr. 18, 2016**

FTA **issues a letter** to WMATA requiring immediate action to address fire and life safety and roadway worker protection safety deficiencies

**May 7, 2016**

FTA issues **Safety Directive 16-3** to WMATA to take urgent and immediate action to address persistent critical safety issues

**May 23, 2016**

USDOT Secretary **appoints a Special Advisor** for WMATA Metrorail Safety Oversight

**Aug. 3, 2016**

USDOT Secretary **sends letter to VA and MD Governors and DC Mayor** acknowledging progress being made to create a new SSOA and remains firm on one year deadline

**Aug. 16, 2016**

FTA releases its WMATA Metrorail **stop signal investigation report** and issues **Safety Directive 16-5** to WMATA

**Aug. 24, 2016**

FTA releases its WMATA Metrorail **rail vehicle securement investigation report** and issues **Safety Directive 16-6** to WMATA

**Dec. 9, 2016**

FTA issues its **traction power electrification system investigation report** and **Special Directive 17-1** to WMATA

## DEFINITIONS

**Safety Directive:** Requires recipient to take one or more specific actions to ensure the safety of their public transportation system.

**Safety Management Inspection:** Evaluates an organization's operations and maintenance programs, safety management capabilities, and organizational structures.

**State Safety Oversight Agency:** Responsible for safety oversight of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems within each State.

**Tri-State Oversight Committee:** State Safety Oversight Agency for the WMATA Metrorail system.

## ACRONYMS

**FTA:** Federal Transit Administration  
**SMI:** Safety Management Inspection  
**SSOA:** State Safety Oversight Agency  
**TOC:** Tri-State Oversight Committee  
**USDOT:** U.S. Department of Transportation  
**WMATA:** Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



**Federal Transit Administration**