

A TIMELINE OF USDOT/FTA WMATA METRORAIL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ACTIONS



Federal Transit Administration

- 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
- July 14, 2015**
USDOT Secretary **meets with VA and MD Governors and DC Mayor** to encourage swift action to create a new SSOA
- Oct. 9, 2015**
USDOT Secretary directs FTA to **assume temporary and direct safety oversight** of Metrorail from the TOC
- Oct. 26, 2015**
FTA **issues Safety Directive 16-1** to the TOC to officially and temporarily assume direct safety oversight of Metrorail
- Nov. 2, 2015**
USDOT Secretary **sends letter to VA and MD Governors and DC Mayor** asking them to expedite creation of new SSOA
- Nov. 30, 2015**
FTA begins **conducting inspections** of Metrorail
- Dec. 15, 2015**
FTA issues **Safety Directive 16-2** to WMATA
- 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
- Feb. 29, 2016**
USDOT Secretary **sends letter to legislative leaders** in VA, MD, and DC informing them of the one year deadline
- Mar. 16, 2016**
FTA **launches focused inspections** for Metrorail track integrity, stop signal overruns and rail vehicle securement
- Apr. 18, 2016**
FTA **issues a letter** to WMATA requiring immediate action to address fire and life safety and roadway worker protection safety deficiencies
- Apr. 28, 2016**
USDOT Secretary **appoints safety experts** to three federal positions on the WMATA board of directors
- May 7, 2016**
FTA issues **Safety Directive 16-3** to WMATA to take urgent and immediate action to address persistent critical safety issues
- 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
- May 23, 2016**
USDOT Secretary **appoints a Special Advisor** for WMATA Metrorail Safety Oversight
- June 13, 2016**
FTA **approves the use of \$20 million** in Federal capital funds to support the WMATA SafeTrack program
- 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. 8, 2016**
FTA releases its WMATA Metrorail **track integrity investigation report** and issues **Safety Directive 16-4** to WMATA
- Aug. 16, 2016**
FTA releases its WMATA Metrorail **stop signal investigation report** and issues **Safety Directive 16-5** 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
- Aug. 24, 2016**
FTA releases its WMATA Metrorail **rail vehicle securement investigation report** and issues **Safety Directive 16-6** to WMATA
- 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*
- Dec. 9, 2016**
FTA issues its **traction power electrification system investigation report** and **Special Directive 17-1** to WMATA
- Feb. 10, 2017**
VA, MD, and DC fail to meet deadline to obtain an FTA-certified State Safety Oversight Program; FTA **withholds some federal transit funds** from each jurisdiction
- April 24, 2017**
FTA **sends letter** to WMATA requiring immediate actions to **improve roadway worker protection** or risk the withholding of federal transit funds
- Jan. 19, 2018**
FTA issues **Special Directive 18-2** to WMATA related to findings from the TOC's triennial review
- Sept. 6, 2018**
FTA **outlines process** to transition and transfer direct safety oversight to WMSC
- Oct. 29, 2018**
Multi-step transition process begins to **validate WMSC capacity** to perform its safety oversight responsibilities
- Mar. 18, 2019**
FTA **certifies WMSC SSO Program** and direct federal safety oversight of Metrorail ends

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
- WMSC:** Washington Metrorail Safety Commission
- 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