

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. 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

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

April 24, 2017

FTA **sends letter** to WMATA requiring immediate actions to **improve roadway worker protection** or risk the withholding of federal transit funds

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

MSC: 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



Federal Transit Administration