



**Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments  
Annual Winter Weather Briefing**



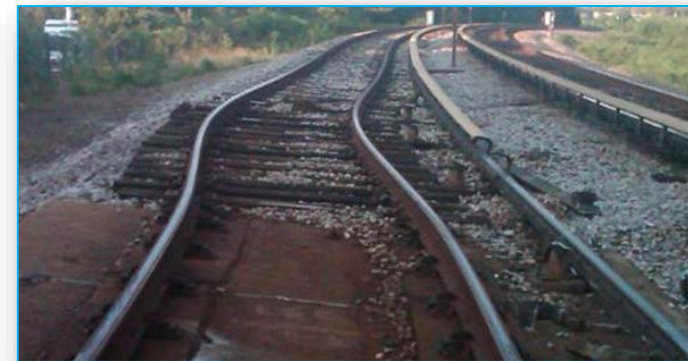
**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

November 7, 2016



# Severe Weather Plan

- **Winter Storms Season** (*October 15 – April 15*)
  - Snow
  - Ice
- **Tropical Storms Season** (*June 1 – November 30*)
  - Hurricanes
  - Winds
  - Flooding
  - Severe Thunderstorms
- **Heat Season** (*May 1 – September 30*)
  - Rail Kinks
  - Air Quality
- **Severe Storms** (*April 1 – September 30*)
  - Power Outages
  - Flooding





# Severe Weather Teams

- **Severe Weather Commanders:**
  - Joseph Leader
    - Metrorail: Andrew Off
    - Metrobus: Rob Potts
- **Director of the Office of Emergency Management:**
  - Ron Bomder
    - OEM Liaisons
- **Emergency Operations Center & Severe Weather Teams:**
  - Representatives from different departments
    - Red Team is a standing day shift
    - Blue Team is a standing night shift





# Severe Weather Decisions



- **Severe Weather Commanders:**
  - Coordinates the Authority's operational preparedness and response
  - With recommendations from the Director of OEM, orders and implements **Readiness, Operations and Recovery Levels**
  - Directs the departments to utilize pre-assigned accounting charge codes
- **Director of the Office of Emergency Management:**
  - Responsible for coordinating the severe weather response levels







# Severe Weather Notifications



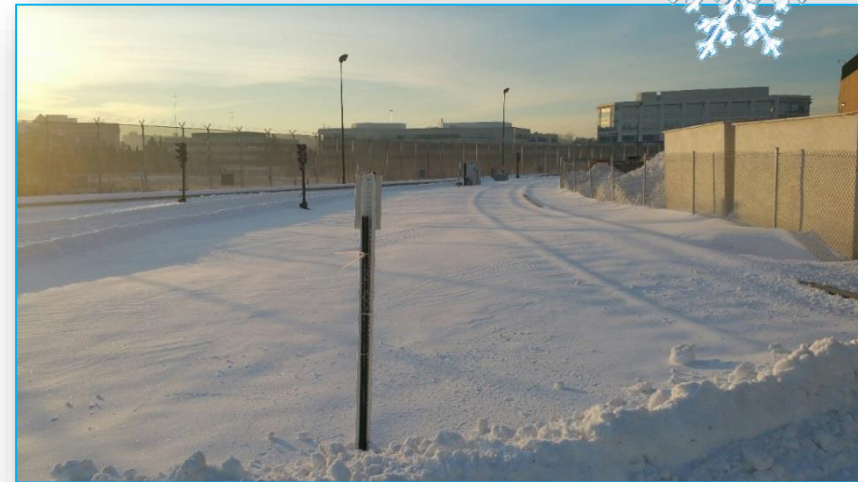
- **Office of Emergency Management Liaison:**
  - Tracks weather forecasts, conditions and projections 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
  - Notifies Emergency Operations Center Teams concerning decisions related to the weather conditions and the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
    - Continues to track weather conditions and provide updates on the forecast a minimum of every 4 hours
    - Represents WMATA on the MATOC Severe Weather Coordination Working Group





# Emergency Operations Center

- **Emergency Operations Center & Severe Weather Teams:**
  - Multi-disciplined team with representatives from Rail, Bus, Maintenance Department's, Transit Police, Safety and Media Relations
  - Staff EOC under a Red/Blue Team concept
    - Works 12.5 hour shifts
    - Teams rotate shifts until the EOC has been deactivated or the Severe Weather Commander declares the emergency over.





# Severe Weather Phases



- **Alert:**
  - Monitor weather forecasts, operations throughout service area, issue weather advisories.
- **Readiness:**
  - Mobilization of resources to include deployment to pre-designated locations.
- **Operations:**
  - Activities required to fight a storm until normal operations are restored.
- **Recovery:**
  - Redirect personnel to provide and restore regular service to Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess.

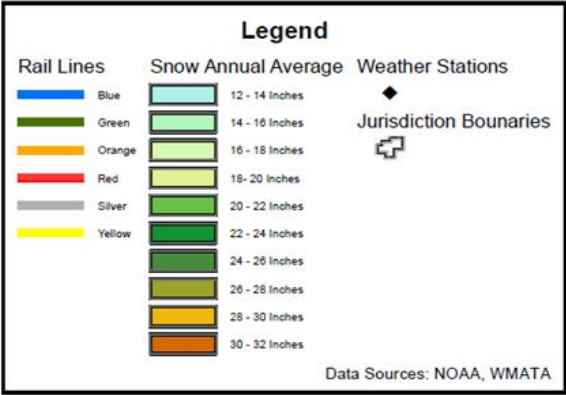
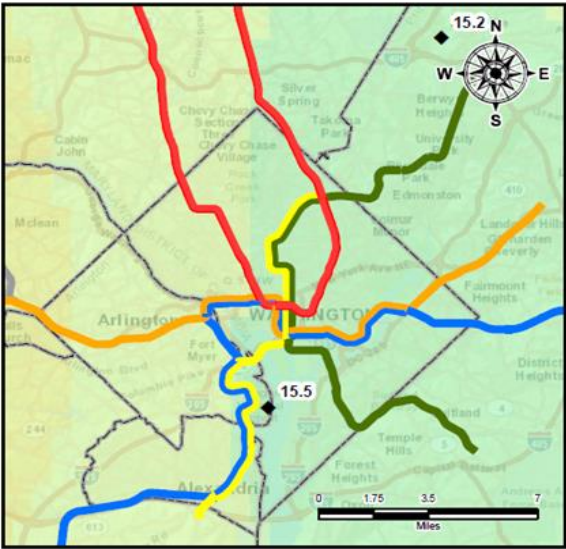
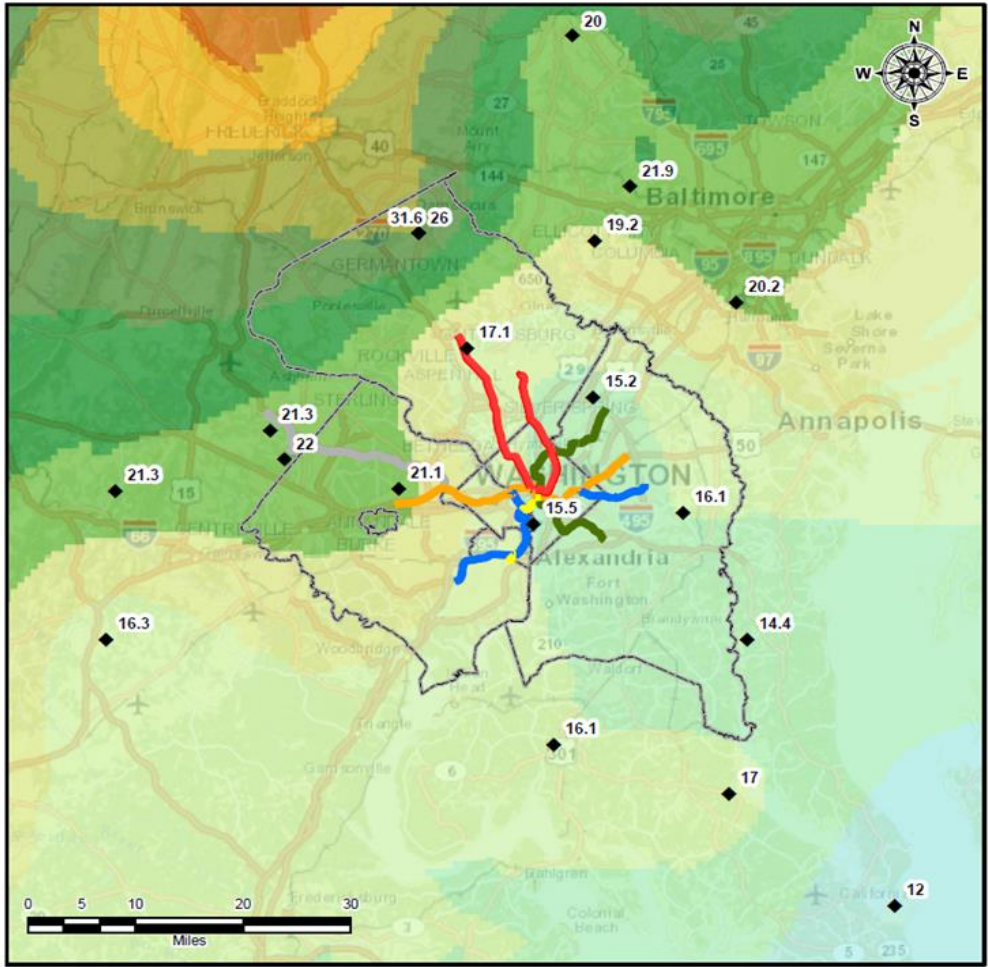




# Forecast Challenges



## 1981 - 2010 Annual Average Snowfall



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013





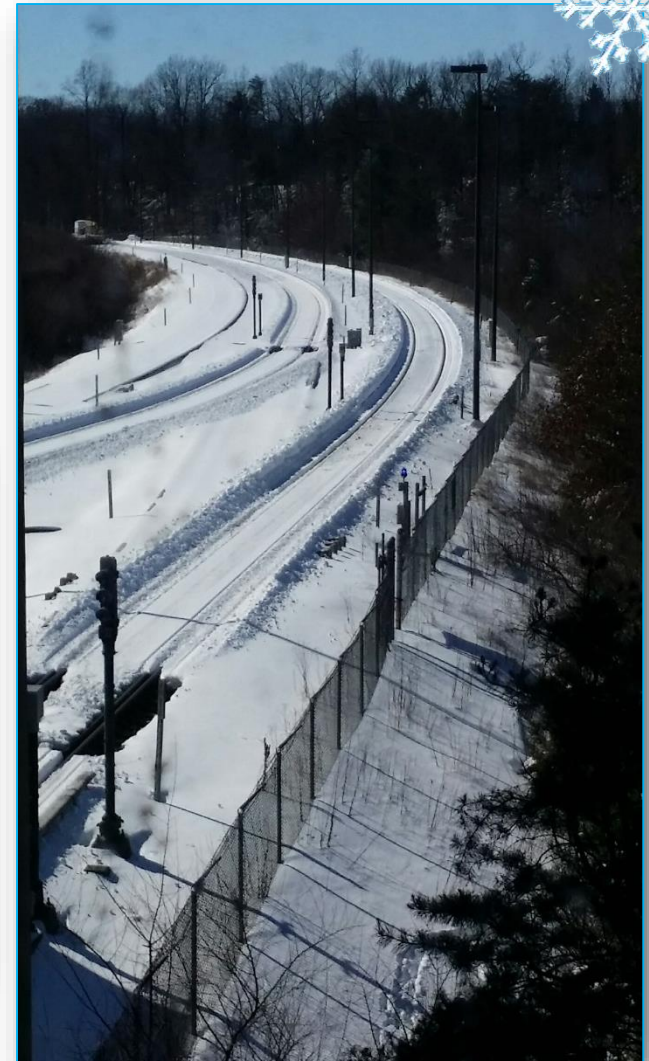
# Operational Challenges





# Winter Weather Readiness/Operations

- **Levels:**
  - Level 1 (0-2")
  - Level 2 (2-4")
  - Level 3 (4-8")
  - Level 4 (8"+)







# Level 1

- **Weather Conditions:**
  - 0” to 2” of snow or light collection of snow on surfaces



## **Metrorail Service**

Normal service schedule.

## **Metrobus Service**

Normal schedule operating as roads and traffic permits.

## **MetroAccess Service**

Normal schedule operating as roads and traffic permits.



## Level 2

- **Weather Conditions:**
  - 2” to 4” of snow

### Metrorail Service

Adjusted service schedule with longer headways.

### Metrobus Service

Service suspended on many routes. Operating routes on snow detours.

### MetroAccess Service

Normal schedule operating as roads and traffic permit. Outbound trips may be curtailed.







## Level 3

- **Weather Conditions:**
  - 4” to 8” of snow



### Metrorail Service

Limited service schedule with longer headways.

### Metrobus Service

Service suspended on all but the busiest routes. Operating routes on snow detours.

### MetroAccess Service

Non-essential trips are canceled.



# Level 4

- **Weather Conditions:**
  - 8” + of snow

## Metrorail Service

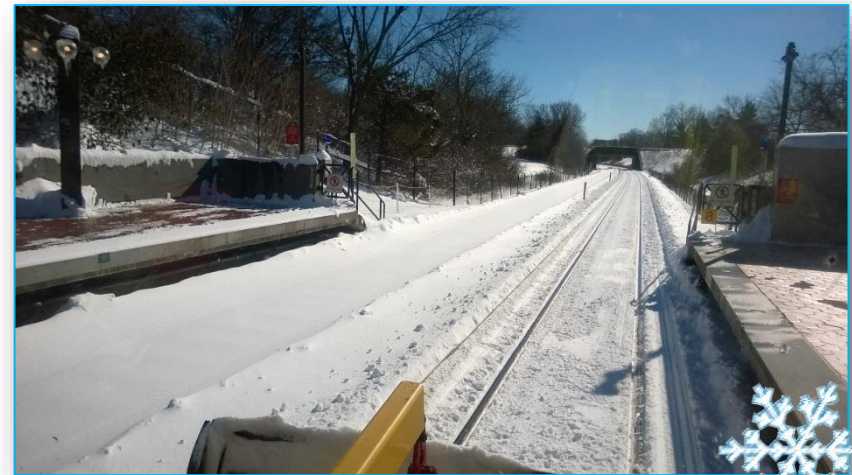
No service or limited underground service.

## Metrobus Service

Provide at least one hour notice before service suspension.

## MetroAccess Service

Suspension of service.

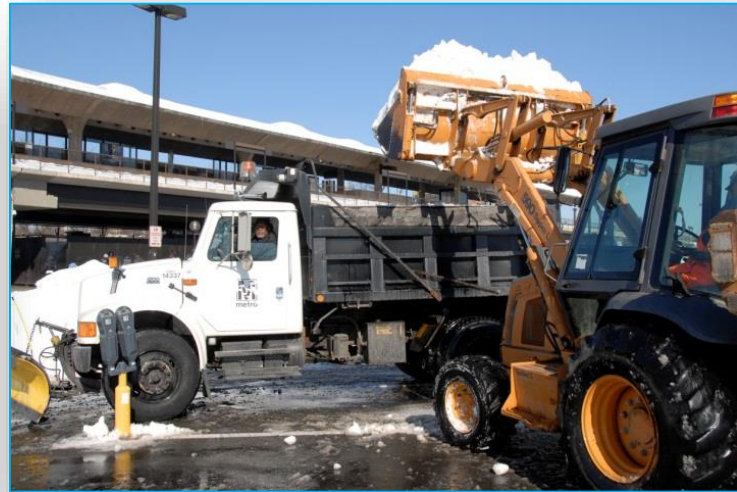






# Recovery

- **Weather Conditions:**
  - As tracks and roads are cleared, Metro will reestablished service based on improved surface conditions





# Questions

