



National Capital Region

Transportation Planning Board

Item # 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2015

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Kanti Srikanth,
Director, Department of Transportation Planning

RE: Briefing the Board on follow up actions related to the January 12, 2015 Metrorail L'Enfant Plaza smoke incident.

Background:

Following discussions during the Feb. 18, 2015 meeting I was asked to report to the Board about briefing the Board on the activities following the January 12, 2015 Metrorail L'Enfant Plaza smoke incident. The Steering Committee discussed the matter during its March 6, 2015 meeting with participation from Mr. Stuart Freudberg, COG's Executive Director. Mr. Freudberg is coordinating a few initiatives involving WMATA and other emergency management service (EMS) agencies in the region.

Report:

Due to the ongoing nature of the NTSB's investigation and lack of any additional reports released by the NTSB since its 2/11/2015 Urgent Recommendations report neither WMATA and/or COG staff is able to provide any new information about the Jan. 12, 2015 incident or the investigation of it. COG and WMATA staffs, however, are available and able to brief the TPB during its April 15, 2015 meeting on actions initiated since the incident with regard to safety and communications both within WMATA and between WMATA and various EMS agencies.

COG staff will be able to brief the TPB about its coordinating work with the Fire Chiefs Committee, public safety communication agencies and WMATA in response to letter from Senator Mark Warner. This work involves fire radio testing and corrective action protocol, and additional actions being taken to enhance first responder radio communication. COG staff will also be able to brief the TPB about its coordination work with the Fire Chiefs Committee and Rail Safety Subcommittee with WMATA concerning first responder training for Metrorail emergencies in response to a letter from Senator Barbara Mikulski. Please note that my February 18, 2015 memo to the Board on the subject matter included as

attachments the Senators' letters and an annotated listing of the various COG committees/subcommittees and coordination activities.

WMATA has initiated various actions since the January 12, 2015 incident related to public safety, communications, staff training and emergency response protocols. WMATA staff will be able to brief the TPB on these various initiatives, their scope and status. These initiatives include its January 22, 2015 list of 10 early action safety items and WMATA's response to the NTSB's February 11, 2015 Urgent Safety recommendations.

Unless otherwise advised the Steering Committee will include briefings by COG and WMATA staffs to the Board's April meeting agenda.