

Briefing on COG and WMATA Metrorail Safety Coordination

Presented by:

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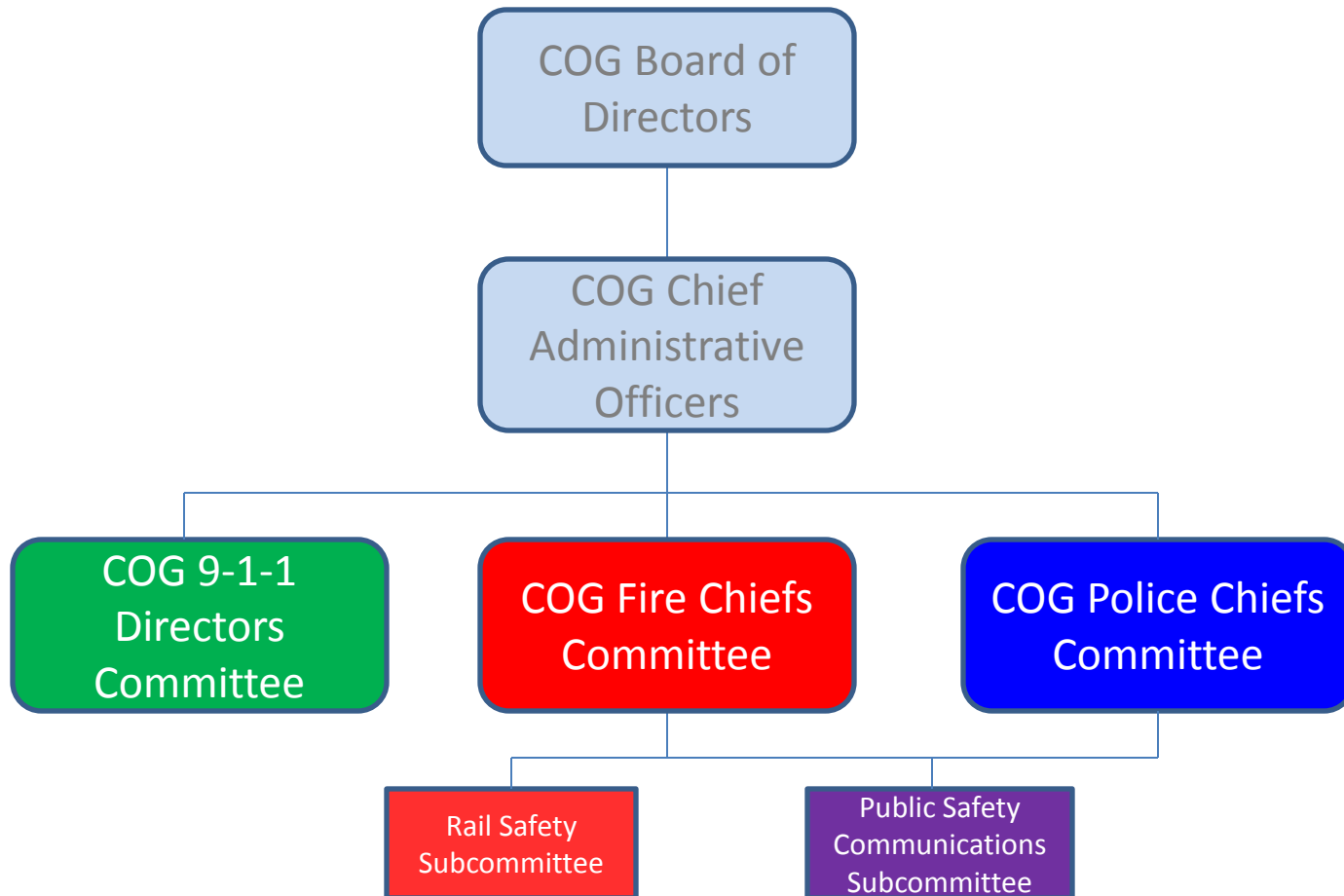
Overview of Presentation

- Overview of 2011 Agreement
- COG Public Safety Committee Structure
- Response to Senator Warner Letter 1/22/15
 - Radio testing; 9-1-1 Report; communications study
- Response to Senator Mikulski Letter 2/9/15
 - Training first responders on Metrorail system
- Next steps

2011 Metro Rail Transit Fire/Rescue Emergency Procedures Policy Agreement

- Signed by COG Fire Chiefs & WMATA
- Maintained by COG Passenger Rail Safety Subcommittee
- Outlines common operating procedures/concepts used during emergencies involving Metro system
 - Does not supplant individual governing procedures for WMATA or any jurisdictional fire department
- Review/Revision of current agreement is in progress
- Updates to 2011 agreement will require review and approval of the CAOs, COG Board and WMATA Board

COG Public Safety Committee Structure and Supporting Technical Committees



Response to Senator Warner's Letter of Jan. 22nd Radio Testing and Protocol

- Report submitted to Senator Warner addresses radio testing assessment and commits to new testing protocol for region
 - Quantified current performance level of radio communication system at 89% reliability
- New protocol includes following elements:
 - **Frequency:** 5 jurisdictions testing on biweekly basis; DC testing on weekly basis; WMATA also has instituted independent testing
 - **Procedure:** Standardized process for testing/reporting across region
 - **Reporting:** New web-based reporting system
 - **Corrective Actions:** Outage reporting to all parties to insure situational awareness

Response to Senator Warner's Letter of Jan. 22nd Report on Cell and 9-1-1 Coverage in Metro

- COG 9-1-1 Directors Committee in cooperation with WMATA conducted cell phone 9-1-1 testing throughout underground Metrorail system in February
- Over 400 calls made on all 4 carriers to 9-1-1
- Results confirmed cell calls to 9-1-1 get through 90% of time at stations and 28% in tunnels
- WMATA Neutral Host project designed to greatly increase cell phone capability

Response to Senator Warner's Letter of Jan. 22nd Communications Study

- New study will evaluate current underground communications system by 6/30/2015
 - Technical Oversight by jurisdiction and WMATA communication subject matter experts
- Purposes of study:
 - Identify near-term solutions to improve radio communications to comply with the public safety grade communications standard
 - Identify options for expediting implementation of new WMATA radio communications system currently targeted for 2021
 - Examine cell phone connectivity issues, options for improvement,
 - Review of WMATA/Public Safety Agency interoperable communications policies and procedures

Response to Senator Mikulski's Letter of February 9th First Responder Training Plan

- Collaboration of Fire Chiefs and WMATA to establish regional training & exercise plan for first responders on Metro system
- Work plan completed and transmitted to Senator Mikulski
- Document current best regional training practices
- Assemble schedule of upcoming training & exercise opportunities
- Identify enhanced training using through assessment of best practices in other regions; national associations
- Prepare regional training plan as appendix to updated COG/WMATA Emergency Procedures / Policy Agreement

Next Steps

- Preparation of reporting on radio testing results
- Update to Procedures / Policy Agreement
 - Include new radio testing protocol (5/30/15)
 - Add new regional training plan as appendix (6/15/15)
- Ongoing WMATA-Fire Chiefs Leadership Coordination