

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

October 17, 2019

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Metro: Report Card for America’s Subway”

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing to conduct oversight of the operations and management of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail system.

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

WMATA is a \$40 billion system of rail and buses and is essential to the operation of the federal government.¹ Federal employees represent approximately one-third of Metrorail’s peak period commuters and more than half of Metrorail stations serve federal facilities.² The WMATA system serves a vital national security role during times of crisis and the federal government has a responsibility to ensure “America’s Subway” performs safely and reliably. Robust oversight bodies, including the WMATA Inspector General and the newly-formed Washington Metropolitan Safety Commission, are critical to WMATA’s continued progress in the areas of system safety, reliability for riders, and fiscal accountability.

This hearing will examine WMATA’s funding, oversight, and reform efforts, and serve to shape legislation to further improve the Metrorail system’s operations.

¹ Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, *Transit Asset Management Plan* (Oct. 2018) (online at www.wmata.com/about/records/public_docs/upload/TAM-PLAN-Final.pdf).

² Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 2019 Metro Snapshot Fact Sheet (online at www.wmata.com/about/upload/2019-Metro-Snapshot-Fact-Sheet.pdf).

II. WITNESSES

Paul Wiedefeld

General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Paul Smedberg

Chair
Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Geoffrey Cherrington

Inspector General
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Dr. David L. Mayer

Chief Executive Officer
Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

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