



**Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

# Safety Committee Meeting

## March 2015

### Committee Members

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T. Prendergast, Chair  
F. Ferrer  
A. Albert\*  
J. Ballan  
R. Bickford  
N. Brown\*  
A. Cappelli  
C. Moerdler  
M. Pally  
J. Sedore, Jr.  
V. Tessitore\*  
E. Watt\*  
N. Zuckerman\*

**Safety Committee Meeting**  
2 Broadway, 20th Floor Board Room  
New York, NY 10004  
Wednesday, 3/25/2015  
8:30 - 9:30 AM ET

**1. Public Comments**

**2. Approval of Minutes - February 25, 2015**

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**3. Approval of 2015 Work Plan**

*Safety Committee Work Plan - Page 6*

**4. Report of Chief Safety Officer**

**5. Draft Safety Council Charter**

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**6. Update on Operation Lifesaver Activities**

**7. MTA Bridges and Tunnels Traffic Incident Management Training**

Presentation by MTA Bridges and Tunnels Staff

**8. Safety Program Updates**

Date of next meeting: May 20, 2015 at 8:30 am

**Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Minutes of  
Safety Committee Meeting  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015  
8:30 AM**

**The following members were present:**

**Hon. Thomas F. Prendergast, Chairman & CEO  
Hon. Fernando Ferrer, Vice Chairman  
Hon. Mitchell Pally  
Hon. Allen Cappelli  
Hon. Charles Moerdler  
Hon. Andrew Albert  
Hon. Robert C. Bickford  
Hon. James L. Sedore, Jr.  
Hon. Neil Zuckerman  
Hon. Carl Wortendyke  
Hon. Johnathan Ballan  
Hon. Norman Brown  
Hon. Vincent Tessitore  
Hon. Ira Greenberg  
Hon. Susan Metzger  
Hon. Polly Trottenberg  
Hon. John Molloy**

The following Chief Safety Officers were present:

David Mayer  
Anne Kirsch  
Loretta Ebbighausen  
Cheryl Kennedy  
Stephen Vidal  
James Foley  
Peter Kohner

Carmen Bianco, President, New York City Transit (“NYCT”) , Patrick Nowakowski, President, Long Island Rail Road (“LIRR”), Joseph J. Giuliotti, President, Metro-North Railroad (“MNR”), James Ferrara, President, Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority (“TBTA”), and Michael Horodniceanu, President, MTA Capital Construction (“MTA- CC”), also attended the meeting.

**Chairman Thomas F. Prendergast called the meeting to order.**

Chairman Prendergast asked Mr. Mayer to explain safety measures to be taken in the event of an emergency at 2 Broadway.

### **1. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

There was one (1) public speaker, Murray Bodin, who suggested upgrading railroad crossing signals. Refer to the video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA and maintained in MTA records for the content of speaker's remarks.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the January 2015 Safety Committee were approved.

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS**

Chairman Prendergast opened the floor to Chief Safety Officer, David Mayer, to discuss the sole item on the agenda, grade crossing safety.

### **3. CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

Chief Safety Officer, David Mayer defined grade crossings as locations where a highway or other road crosses railroad tracks at grade. Mr. Mayer went on to summarize national accident, injury and fatality statistics involving grade crossings.

Mr. Mayer explained that the two main federal agencies that play a regulatory role pertaining to crossings are the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), though state and local governments work with the railroads to determine need for interconnections between railroad signal systems and highway traffic signals.

Mr. Mayer then described Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit educational organization whose volunteer speakers provide safety and educational presentations to increase public awareness and safety around railroad tracks.

Chairman Prendergast then stated he would apprise the board of factual information regarding the February 3 grade crossing accident in Valhalla, New York, and he would not discuss analysis or deliberative material. Chairman Prendergast described the basic circumstances of the accident. He noted that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating the accident. He described an eyewitness account that was covered in media reports and also released by the NTSB.

In addition to technical questions about the operation of grade crossing safety devices, the following questions were also asked:

Mr. Albert asked if the fire was caused by impact or the 3<sup>rd</sup> rail. Chairman Prendergast answered the cause of the fire is being investigated.

Mr. Moerdler asked if adding cameras to grade crossing on both railroads would help deter drivers from going through and around grade crossings. Chairman Prendergast answered that cameras would be informative to capture behavior.

Mr. Albert and Mr. Zuckerman asked whether improved signage/communication would help deter people from stopping on grade crossings. Chairman Prendergast stated grade crossing initiatives would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Pally asked who determines what is necessary and required at different crossings. Mr. Mayer stated every grade crossing is unique and therefore every solution is tailored to the specific location. Mr. Mayer went on to say that some responsibilities fall to the local highway municipality and some to the railroad.

Mr. Brown stated that the Board should set standards to include grade crossing improvements in the capital plan. Chairman Prendergast described the hazard analysis process for analyzing investments.

Ms. Trottenberg stated that she thought that Vision Zero has proved to be an effective public education program.

At this point, Chairman Prendergast briefed the Board on Operation Lifesaver, a group that raises public awareness of rail safety. He indicated that the MTA will be working with Operation Lifesaver. He also stated that the MTA will evaluate MNR and LIRR outreach efforts and apply the best practices. Mr. Mayer stated MTA railroads are very active in providing safety presentations based on Operation LifeSaver materials. He also added the railroads work with local and state governments and authorities continuously to update grade crossing safety measures.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, at 9:30 am, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

# 2015 Safety Committee Work Plan

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## I. RECURRING AGENDA ITEMS

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Public Comments	Committee Chair & Members
Approval of Minutes	Committee Chair & Members
Committee Work Plan	Committee Chair & Members
Chief Safety Officer's Report	MTA Chief Safety Officer
Enhanced Safety Actions Update	LIRR and MNR Chief Safety Officers

## II. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

	<u>Responsibility</u>
<b><u>March 2015</u></b>	
Approval of 2015 Committee Work Plan	Committee Chair & Members
Traffic Incident Management Training	MTA Bridges and Tunnels Staff
<b><u>May 2015</u></b>	
Safety Goals for 2015	MTA Chief Safety Officer
Pedestrian / Trespasser Safety Efforts	Safety Staff
Platform Safety	Safety Staff
<b><u>July 2015</u></b>	
Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations Update	MTA Chief Safety Officer
Labor / Management Safety Activities	Safety Staff
Contractor Safety	Safety Staff
<b><u>November 2015</u></b>	
Safety Goals for 2015: Progress Report	MTA Chief Safety Officer
Safety at Maintenance and Repair Facilities	Safety Staff
Evaluation of Safety Committee and Charter	Committee Chair & Members
NTSB Safety Recommendations Update	MTA Chief Safety Officer
<b><u>January 2016</u></b>	
Annual Safety Report for 2015	MTA Chief Safety Officer
Approval of 2016 Work Plan	Committee Chair & Members
Tunnel Safety	Safety Staff
Fatigue and Alertness Management	Safety Staff

## **Detailed Summary**

### **I. RECURRING AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The Committee Chair will request a motion to approve the minutes of the prior meeting of the Safety Committee.

#### **Committee Work Plan**

The Work Plan will list, by meeting, the topics scheduled for review. The Committee will be advised if any changes have been made to the plan.

#### **Chief Safety Officer's Report**

The MTA Chief Safety Officer will report on any major safety accomplishments of progress on key safety goals or activities.

### **II. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **March 2015**

##### **Traffic Incident Management Training**

MTA Bridges and Tunnels Staff will provide an overview of this important safety training by describing the goals and objective of the training as well as scope of the initiative.

#### **May 2015**

##### **Safety Goals for 2015**

The MTA Chief Safety Officer will describe the key safety projects and activities underway at MTA agencies that the Safety Council has selected for particular focus and attention.

##### **Pedestrian / Trespasser Safety Efforts**

Staff will describe efforts and projects underway to improve pedestrian safety and reduce the number of collisions with trespassers.

##### **Platform Safety**

Staff will describe the risks that customers and employees face on station platforms and the efforts and strategies underway to improve safety on our platforms.

#### **July 2015**

##### **Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations Update**

Chairman Prendergast convened a Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) of experts to review safety at the three rail agencies. Specifically, the BRP was asked to (1) assess the safety climate, organizational, funding, and management issues at the agencies; and, to (2) review the agencies' track and track-related infrastructure inspection, maintenance and replacement programs. On August 27, 2014, the BRP issued 19 recommendations to the three rail agencies, and the BRP issued several additional agency-specific recommendations. The MTA Chief Safety Officer along with the Chief Safety Officers from the rail agencies will provide an update to the Committee concerning implementation of these recommendations.

### Labor / Management Safety Activities

Staff will brief the committee on various ways in which labor representatives and managers work cooperatively to assure and improve safety throughout the MTA.

### Contractor Safety

MTA agencies extensively rely on contractors for construction and other important work. Staff will describe the requirements we place on our vendors to ensure workplace safety and the assurance activities conducted by MTA agencies to ensure contractors are safe.

## **November 2015**

### Safety Goals for 2015: Progress Report

The MTA Chief Safety Officer will describe progress underway on the key safety projects and activities at MTA agencies that the Safety Council has selected for particular focus and attention.

### Safety at Maintenance and Repair Facilities

MTA agencies operate a variety of maintenance shops and repair facilities, and the hazards at these facilities are different from those that exist in our revenue operating environments. Staff will describe some of these facilities, the work conducted at these facilities, and discuss how

### Evaluation of Safety Committee and Charter

The Safety Committee Charter specifies that the Committee Chair & Members will review the charter annually.

### NTSB Safety Recommendations Update

In conjunction with accident investigation activities, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued several safety recommendations to MTA agencies. The MTA Chief Safety Officer along with the Chief Safety Officers from the rail agencies will provide an update to the Committee concerning implementation of these recommendations.

## **January 2016**

### Annual Safety Report for 2015

The MTA Chief Safety Officer will provide a review of the major safety activities and accomplishments of the prior year.

### Tunnel Safety

Many of the MTA agencies have safety responsibilities and operational activities that include tunnels. Staff will describe the variety of safety assurance and safety preparedness activities designed to keep tunnels safe.

### Fatigue and Alertness Management

Staff will review differences and similarities across the MTA with respect to employee fatigue and alertness management.

# Metropolitan Transportation Authority Safety Council Charter

## I. Introduction

The entire MTA is committed to and focused on continuously improving safety for our customers and our employees. To that end, the safety officers from across the MTA have come together to form a Safety Council. This charter describes the goals and activities of the Safety Council. The Council will serve to motivate, encourage, recognize, and provide effective leadership to the MTA in its ongoing efforts to create a strong organizational culture that is necessary for safe and effective agency operations.

## II. Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to establish a Council that will provide senior level involvement in the evaluation, authorization, oversight, and support of various safety policies, programs, and initiatives. Specifically, the Safety Council will:

- Implement a sustainable, long-term strategy to continually improve safety across all MTA agencies;
- Serve as a resource to the Board on safety topics; in coordination with agency presidents and senior safety staff, report as necessary to the Board regarding ongoing safety initiatives and efforts to promote a strong safety climate throughout the MTA;
- Provide a forum for representatives from all MTA operating agencies to regularly review safety and operational data to identify safety topics and trends and to share results, safety initiatives, and best practices across all MTA agencies;
- Evaluate safety concerns identified at any MTA agency and determine the extent to which any applicable corrective actions or safety strategies are applicable to other MTA agencies and operations;
- Track and ensure the implementation of third-party safety recommendations at all MTA agencies; and,
- Ensure that the agencies file timely and appropriate comments in response to safety-related requests for public comment issued by state or federal agencies; assist government relations staff in reviewing or drafting safety-related state or federal legislation;

### **III. Membership**

The MTA Headquarters Chief Safety Officer shall chair the Safety Council. Membership of the Safety Council shall be comprised of the senior safety officials at each of the MTA agencies. Additional staff members are welcome to attend council meetings, and ad hoc members may be appointed by the Chair as necessary.

### **IV. Authority**

The Chair of the Safety Council may appoint a Vice Chair and additional members or advisors to the Safety Council as required to conduct the business of the Safety Council.

The Chair may appoint subgroups and/or committees of the Safety Council to accomplish the work of the Safety Council. The Council will ensure that appropriate resources are available to achieve the goals and objectives set forth by the subgroups and/or committees.

### **V. Activities**

The Safety Council's activities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Oversee, review, and update, safety and health-related policies, programs, and initiatives, major incident investigations, and any other subgroup and/or committee initiatives;
- Receive feedback and recommendations from subgroups and/or committees and provide the necessary review and approval to implement.

### **VI. Meetings and Reports**

The meeting of the Safety Council shall be subject to the call of the Chair.

All members are encouraged to attend all meetings of the Safety Council in person. Members of the Safety Council may bring additional staff to attend meetings, and they may be represented by a key staff member if unable to attend. The Chair may invite speakers or guests to attend a meeting for the purpose of providing expertise on areas under consideration.



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