



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: May 23, 2016

In reply refer to: R-16-03

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

On May 3, 2016, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning the January 12, 2015, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) L'Enfant Plaza station electrical arcing and smoke accident.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number RAR-16/01.

As a result of this investigation, we issued 31 new recommendations, including 2 to the Federal Transit Administration, 3 to the District of Columbia Office of Unified Communications, 1 to the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, 24 to WMATA, and the following recommendation to the mayor of the District of Columbia:

R-16-03

Convene an independent panel of experts to (1) assess the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department's preparedness to respond to mass casualty events in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) underground system, (2) identify and make recommendations to improve this preparedness, and (3) share the findings of that assessment with the other local jurisdictions with WMATA underground systems.

Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

¹ See *Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority L'Enfant Plaza Station Electrical Arcing and Smoke Accident, January 12, 2015*, Railroad Accident Report RAR-16/01 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2016).

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Chairman