



**ORDER OF THE
WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION**

On this day, October 17, 2021, the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission ("WMSC") issues the following order removing specified rail cars from revenue service:

WHEREAS, the WMSC is the designated State Safety Oversight Agency for the WMATA Rail System, as required by 49 U.S.C. § 5329(e)(3)(C);

WHEREAS, the WMSC's powers are established by the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission Interstate Compact (P.L. 115-54; 131 Stat. 1093) ("WMSC Compact"), passed into law by the Commonwealth of Virginia, State of Maryland, and District of Columbia and approved by Congress on August 22, 2017;

WHEREAS, among the powers granted to the WMSC under the WMSC Compact is the authority to "[r]emov[e] a specific vehicle, infrastructure element, or hazard from the WMATA Rail System. . . ." WMSC Compact § 31(c)(4);

WHEREAS, the WMSC Bylaws Art. VI.C.2. authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to act pursuant to WMSC Compact § 31(c)(4);

WHEREAS, the National Transportation Safety Board investigation into the derailment of WMATA Railcar 7200 on October 12, 2021, near Arlington Cemetery Station found that the fourth axle of Railcar 7200 was out of compliance with the 7000 Series specifications for the wheel and axle assembly;

WHEREAS, railcar inspections conducted as part of the derailment investigation have found similar defects in 7000 Series railcars that were not involved in the October 12 accident; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of this defect throughout the 7000 Series railcar fleet is unknown and an inspection interval that is adequate to detect this defect before a safety event occurs has not been determined.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that WMATA will:

- (1) Remove from revenue service all 7000 Series railcars by 5:00 a.m. Monday October 18, 2021; and
- (2) Develop a plan, under the oversight of the WMSC, to assess the cause, and to provide for the detection and prevention of wheel gauge anomalies in 7000 Series railcars; and
- (3) Implement a plan that provides for the safe return to revenue service of each 7000 Series railcar.



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Mayer".

David L. Mayer
Chief Executive Officer
Washington Metrorail Safety Commission