

**HEARING ON**  
**THE JUNE 22, 2009 RED LINE METRORAIL ACCIDENT**  
**“BACK ON TRACK: WMATA RED LINE METRORAIL ACCIDENT”**

**Testimony of**  
**Jim Graham, Chairman**  
**WMATA**

**Before the**  
**Subcommittee on Federal Workforce,**  
**Postal Service and the District of Columbia of the**  
**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**

**July 14, 2009, 2:00 p.m.**

**Room 2154**

**Rayburn House Office Building**

Good afternoon Chairman Lynch, Ranking Member Chaffetz, Delegate Norton and members of the Subcommittee. My name is Jim Graham and I am here today in my capacity as the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, commonly known as Metro or WMATA.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Metro WMATA Board of Directors.

June 22, 2009 was and will always be a date of great tragedy for our agency and all who rely on it. Those most directly impacted remain in our hearts and prayers and motivate our every action.

As a first step, our Board did act within 24 hours to authorize the General Manager to provide emergency hardship relief funds to those who were victims of the tragedy. That relief was not contingent on anything, and it was made clear that it had no legal ramifications insofar as ultimate liability. It was rather a humanitarian gesture to relieve immediate hardship.

We believe in our management and we have confidence in the skill and dedication of our General Manager, John Catoe.

We believe our system is safe, and we will do all we can to insure that---once the probable cause or causes of the accident are identified—action will be taken to remedy those problems. Please keep in mind that in all our history, there

has been but one other fatality involving passengers, and that was more than 25 years ago.

But for pressing infrastructure needs, we need real action by Congress to make good on the promise in last's Authorization Act and thereby provide a full payment of \$150 million in FY10 Federal appropriations. Our local jurisdictions today carry nearly the entire burden—DC taxpayers, for example, will send some \$300 million to Metro/Wmata in FY10.

If Congress acts, I am sure that DC and Maryland and Virginia will find the matching funds to provide \$300 million annually for the next 10 years. This money will make a critical difference in our abilities.

But also, we must have the active commitment of President Barack Obama and his administration to find emergency stimulus dollars for immediate assistance with these infrastructure issues.

We appreciate the support of our local Congressional delegation, in its continued work to move all of this forward.

Thank you.