

DISCOVERY PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS

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DPS RAIL OPERATIONS ISSUES PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON NEAR COLLISION OF WMATA TRAINS 904 AND 992 AT THE SMITHSONIAN STATION, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Silver Spring, MD, February 8, 2016 – About 12:14 AM EST on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, two WMATA Metrorail trains, Train 904 and Train 992 came to rest facing each other head on, while on the same track with approximately one hundred and fifty feet of separation at the Smithsonian Station on the Blue/Orange/Silver Lines. There were no injuries and track damage was minimal.

Our preliminary investigation determines that the primary contributing factors were multiple breakdowns in the communication protocol of issuing and verifying absolute blocks issued to train operators, and also the failure of the train operator of Train 904 to properly scan the track ahead for the misaligned switch.

In this incident Train 904 failed to correctly read back the absolute block issued by the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC), and the ROCC Controller failed to recognize that the train operator had incorrectly repeated the assigned block, resulting in Train 904 failing to stop at Federal Triangle-Track 2 as assigned, and trailing (passing a switch that was selected for reversing traffic) switch D02-1B and approaching Train 992 which was servicing Smithsonian Station-Track 2.

About Us: DPS Rail Operations is a joint venture between MetroHero, MetroReasons, and Discovery Performance Solutions to provide independent monitoring and analysis of rail operational procedures

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If you would like more information about this, please contact Roger Bowles via email (preferred contact method for questions) at roger@discoveryperformance.com or via Twitter [@Roger_Bowles](https://twitter.com/Roger_Bowles)