

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

GENERAL ORDER NO. 23

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 30, 2020

Commission Operations in Exigent )  
Circumstances Caused by the )  
COVID-19 Pandemic )

Upon consideration of current circumstances relating to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, including (a) the national emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, the state of emergency declared by the Mayor of the District of Columbia on March 11, 2020, the state of emergency declared by the Governor of Maryland on March 5, 2020, and the state of emergency declared by the Governor of Virginia on March 12, 2020; (b) confirmation, as of today's date, that over 2,666 people in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia have tested positive for coronavirus; (c) guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities that limiting personal contacts and public gatherings are necessary to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and to slow the community spread of the disease; (d) guidance from the CDC that certain categories of persons are at high risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and that such persons should stay home as much as possible; (e) the closing of all area schools, which may negatively impact Commission staffing levels; and (f) other restrictions placed on public gatherings by the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, reflecting the seriousness of the need to combat the community spread of the virus; the Commission has decided to temporarily amend Commission operations and regulations by closing the office to the public and directing all staff to telecommute.

In order to prevent prejudice to parties with matters pending before the Commission, all filing deadlines shall be tolled while the office is closed pursuant to this order. However, this pause in filing deadlines shall not affect the requirement that carriers maintain proof of adequate insurance on file with the Commission at all times.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That effective March 31, 2020, the Commission's physical office will be closed to the public and will not accept public visitors or conduct public operations until further notice.

2. That Commission staff shall work remotely during this state of emergency in order to continue mission-critical functions and be responsive to the public and to carriers.

3. That, except as otherwise provided by law, in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by any rule, regulation, correspondence, or order of the Commission or by the Compact pursuant to Commission Rule No. 7-01, the time period from March 31, 2020, until the last day before the Commission's physical office reopens to the public, shall not be included.

4. That the preceding paragraph shall not be construed to exempt carriers operating under a certificate of authority of the obligation to maintain on file with the Commission at all times acceptable proof of minimum levels of insurance required pursuant to Regulation No. 58.

5. That the Executive Director of the Commission is hereby authorized to issue an order reopening the Commission's physical office to the public upon determining that doing so is safe and in the public interest.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS MAROOTIAN, HOLCOMB, AND RICHARD:



Jeffrey M. Lehmann  
Executive Director