



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

*Office of Railroad, Pipeline &
Hazardous Materials Investigations*

**Derailment of Washington
Metropolitan Area Transit
Authority Train near the
Mt. Vernon Sq. Station
Washington, D.C.
January 7, 2007**

NTSB Team

Ruben Payan

Russ Quimby (retired)

Dave Watson

Richard Hipskind

Cassandra Johnson

Kathryn Higgins

Investigator-In-Charge

On-Scene Mechanical

Mechanical

Track & Structures

Event Recorders

Member on Scene

NTSB



Assistance

Dana Sanzo

Meg Athey

Patrick Sullivan

Timeline

Editor

Safety Recommendations

NTSB



Parties

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Tri-State Oversight Committee

NTSB



M System Map

MetroOpenAccess.com
 Customer Information Service: 202/637-6000
 TTY Phone: 202/638-3780

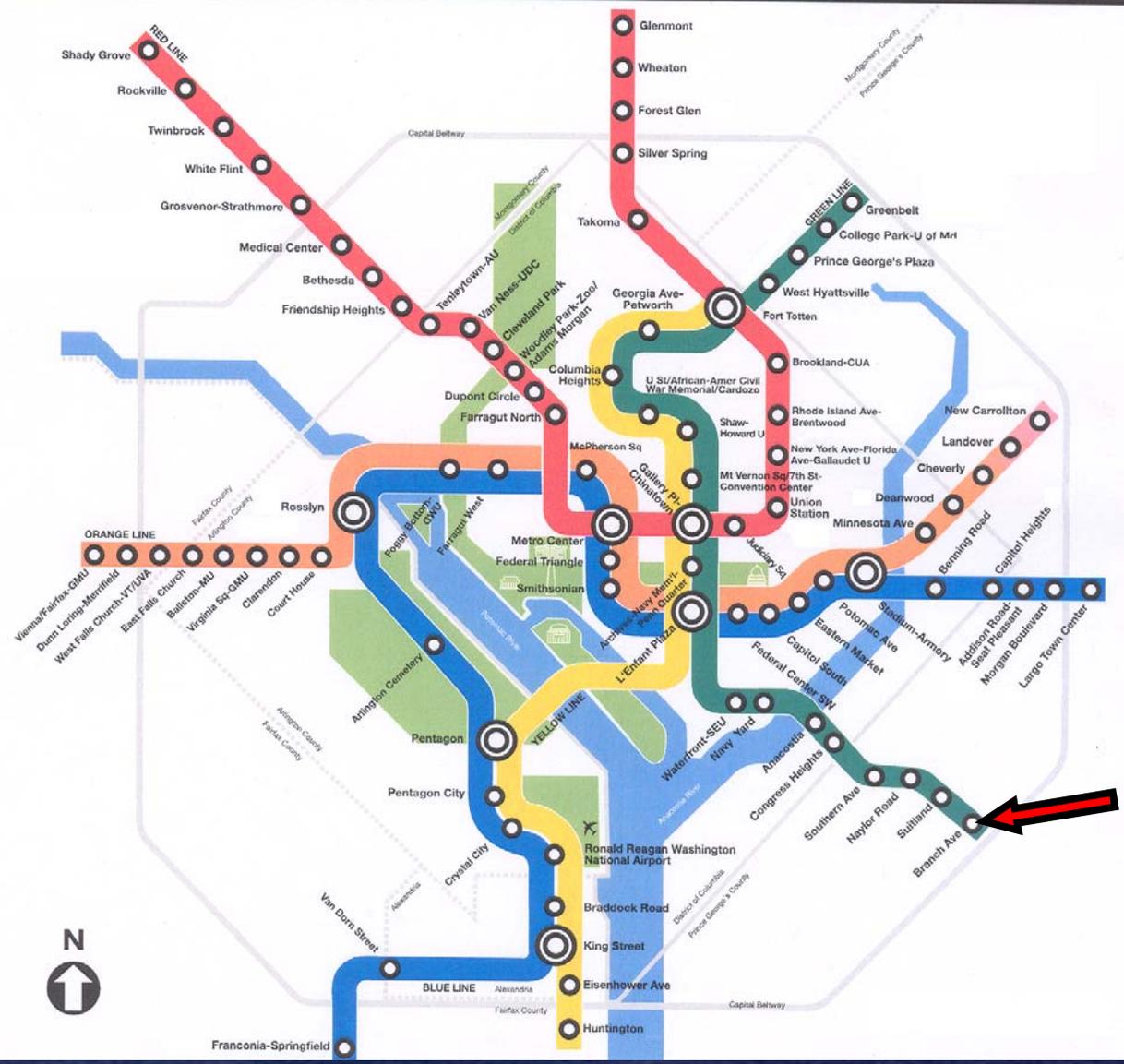
- ## Legend
- Red Line • Glenmont to Shady Grove
 - Orange Line • New Carrollton to Vienna/Fairfax-GMU
 - Blue Line • Franconia-Springfield to Largo Town Center
 - Green Line • Branch Avenue to Greenbelt
 - Yellow Line • Huntington to Fort Totten



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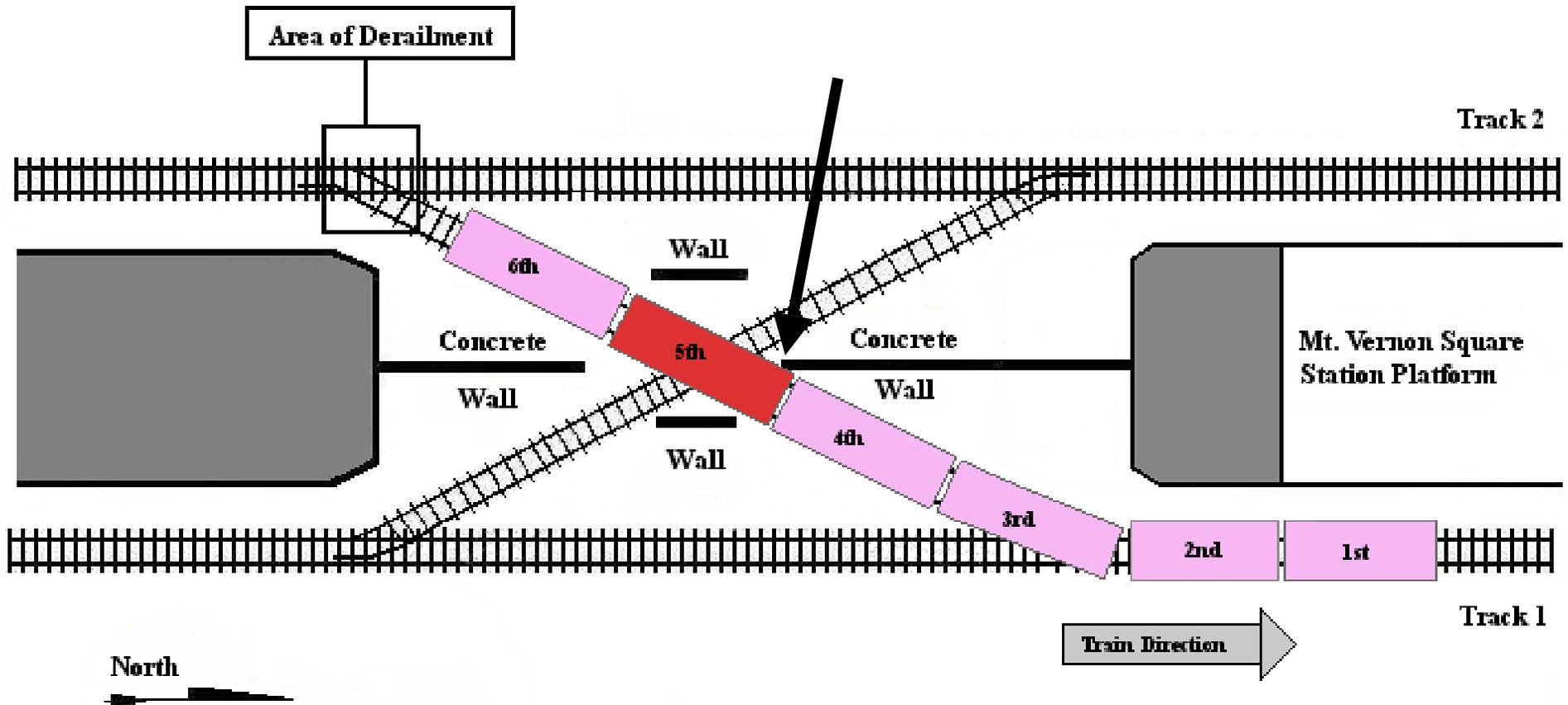
M System Map

MetroOpenData.com
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 TTY Phone: 202/638-3780

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Mt. Vernon Sq. Station



NTSB drawing
Not to scale

Timeline

3:45 p.m. OCC notified of derailment

3:46 to 3:51 Derailed equipment verified,
Handbrakes set on train,
Passengers in first four cars evacuated

3:53 OCC called 911 to report derailment

3:55 Metro employee at Mt. Vernon Sq.
called 911 to request ambulance

Timeline

- 3:57 p.m. Washington, D.C., Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department began dispatching resources
- 4:26 Evacuation from two rear cars began
- 4:47 Evacuation complete

Consequences

- 23 injuries
- \$1000 track and structure damage
- \$3.8 million replacement value of damaged vehicles

Investigation



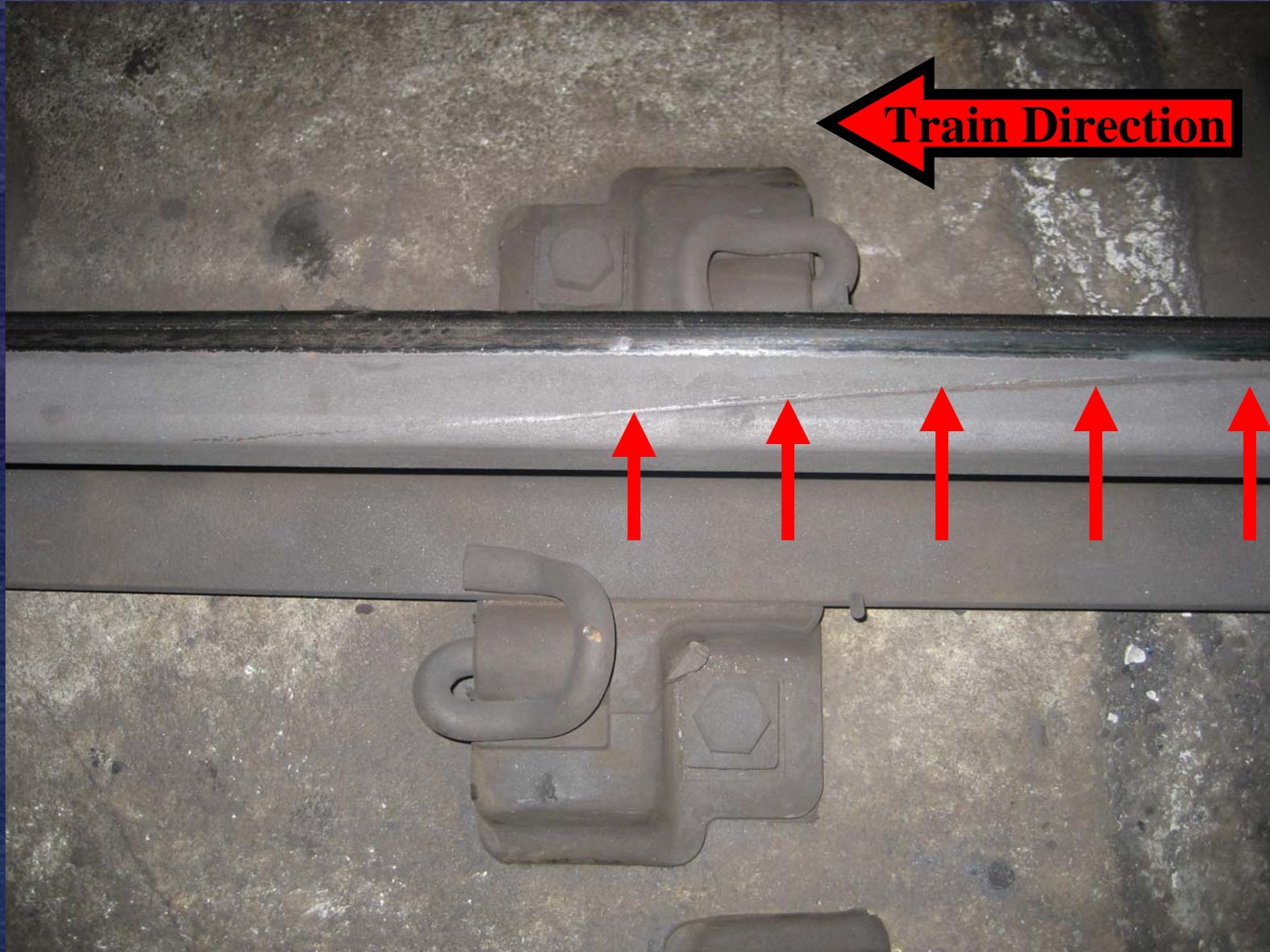
NTSB



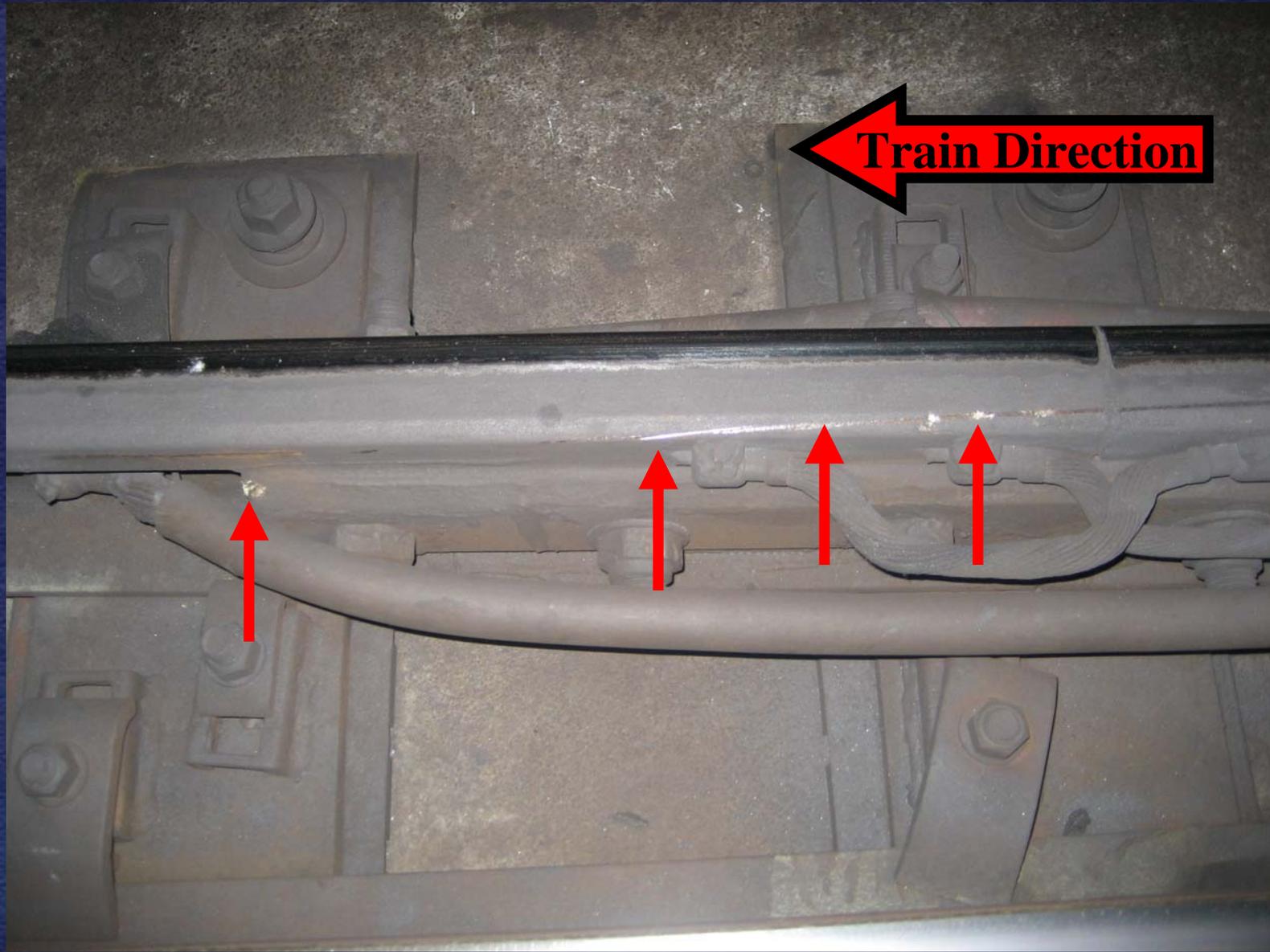
Investigation



Investigation



Investigation



Issues

- Wheel truing procedures
- Mitigating measures for wheel climb derailments
- Interdepartmental coordination

Exclusions

- Operation of the train
- Condition of track
- Track geometry
- Signal system
- Switch point and switch maintenance
- Truck rotation stiffness



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