

On August 15, 2000, there was a second MTA light rail accident at the BWI International Terminal. The details and extent of the accident are still under investigation and are not available at this time.

As of June 30, 2000, the Baltimore Orioles have initiated an arbitration proceeding pursuant to its lease with the Maryland Stadium Authority contending that it is entitled to reductions in rent or credits against future obligation by reason of an alleged lack of parity between the Orioles' Authority Agreement and the Authority's separate lease with the Ravens. This contention has been disputed by the Authority in the arbitration and will be vigorously contested before the panel of arbitrators. A hearing on the Orioles claim is scheduled to begin on November 29, 2000, and a decision is not likely to be rendered until early in 2001. It is not possible at this time to evaluate the outcome or to estimate the possible cost in the event the Authority were to lose on one or more issues.

19. Tobacco Settlement

Legislation enacted by the 1999 General Assembly established the Cigarette Restitution Fund for all revenues received from any judgment against or settlement with the tobacco industry. Expenditures from the fund are made by an appropriation in the annual State budget. The law provides that at least 50% of the appropriations shall be made for tobacco or health related purposes and the remaining appropriations may be for any public purpose. During the 2000 legislative session, appropriations for \$102.5 million for fiscal year 2000, and \$162.3 million for fiscal year 2001 were authorized from the proceeds in the Cigarette Restitution Fund.

As part of the Master Settlement Agreement between the states and the tobacco companies, Maryland's share for fiscal year 2000 was \$185,164,000. Pursuant to an order of the Circuit Court of Maryland, a portion of the proceeds are separately disbursed by the Master Settlement Agreement Trustee to an escrow account for the joint benefit of the State of Maryland and legal counsel which pursued this claim. The funds in the escrow account are held pending disposition of a lawsuit pertaining to the percentage of the proceeds to be allocated to outside counsel. In fiscal year 2000, \$138,837,000 and \$46,327,000 were remitted to the State and escrow agent, respectively.

It is estimated that the payments made to the State pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement for the 10-year period for