

2012 ROW FATALITY & **TRESPASS** PREVENTION WORKSHOP



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2012 Right of Way Fatality and Trespass Prevention Workshop



Highlights of
Working Group Summary of Top Needs
August 16, 2012

Topic Areas

- Topic Area 1: Pedestrian Safety Issues
- Topic Area 2: Hazard Management
- Topic Area 3: Design, Technology and Infrastructure
- Topic Area 4: Community Outreach
- Topic Area 5: Enforcement
- Topic Area 6: Intentional Deaths/Acts

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Pedestrian Safety Issues

Top Four Recommended Actions for Topic Area 1: Pedestrian Safety Issues

- Project 1. Data Collection & Analysis
- Project 2. Engineering Design
- Project 3. Distracted Behavior – Pedestrians and Cyclists
- Project 4. Lack of standard signage (Active and Passive) and evaluation of effectiveness of each type.

Project 1: *Data Collection & Analysis*

- Description—Lack of centralized data collection; Limited access to data from partners and stakeholders; Different interpretation of data; Inconsistent definition of incident types/data submission; Different reporting criteria for different agencies; Innovations not being analyzed for effectiveness
- Rationale— Can't manage what isn't measured
- Benefits— Need a basis for decision making
- Key Implementation Issues— Working group be convened with all affected partners and stakeholders: Single depository for safety data collection & analysis; Create MOU's and other indemnification to allow stakeholder access to database

Project 2: *Engineering Design for Pedestrian Safety*

- Description— Providing an engineering design manual that provides Practical Cost Effective Engineering Design Solutions that will enable railroads to mitigate pedestrian crossing hazards during preliminary design but more importantly before revenue service.
- Rationale— Pedestrian safety needs to receive higher level of significance in design consideration
- Benefits— Reduction in claims against the agency; Reduction in deaths and severe injuries; Standardization of mitigations
- Key Implementation Issues— Coordination with existing APTA, AREMA, MUCTD, DOT, RR & RTA engineering manuals and guidelines to extract pedestrian design criteria.

Project 3: *Distracted Behavior – Pedestrians and Cyclists*

- Description— Distractions such as electronic devices, clothing, reading material, alcohol/drugs, food and beverage cause crossing users to be oblivious to the railroad environment creating a hazard. The distracted behavior results in near misses, walking into trains, injuries, and fatalities.
- Rationale— Develop nationwide campaign to describe results of socially unacceptable behavior in a rail environment. Lobby for distracted pedestrian/biker regulations.
- Benefits— Short Term < 5 years: Lives saved and behavior is socially unacceptable; Long term > 5 years: Regulations nationwide.
- Key Implementation Issues— Urgent need for regulation and information to the public to reduce the hazards they are causing with their own behavior.

Project 4: *Standardize active/passive signage and evaluate effectiveness.*

- Description— A standard list of effective active and passive signage for transit, heavy rail, passenger service and freight, would be of benefit so in our mobile society, the traveling public will receive the same message regardless of location.
- Rationale— Most signage standards are geared towards vehicles – with standard pedestrian signage is lacking.
- Benefits— Standard signage that is consistent throughout the US, which can eliminate confusion and language barriers to understand the messages.
- Key Implementation Issues— Acceptance by all entities; Cost to replace existing signage; “Grandfathering” of existing signs; Most agencies are willing to implement, but standards are not in place; Some signage is proprietary to entities, so will all accept?

Pedestrian Issues Work Group

THANK YOU WORK GROUP MEMBERS

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Hazard Management

Top Three Recommended Actions for Topic Area 2: Hazard Management

- Project 1. Safety Culture
- Project 2. Data Collection
- Project 3. Define Hazard Management

Project 1: *Safety Culture*

- Description—Elevate safety within organizational culture (incorporate safety into roles/responsibilities). Develop model training program on how to implement.
- Rationale—Safety not well ingrained throughout the organization
- Benefits—Increased employee performance, lower org cost
- Key Implementation Issues—none identified

Project 2: *Data Collection*

- Description—Develop best practices (data quality, aggregate vs. disaggregate data, near miss reporting, what tech is effective)
- Rationale—Inconsistency of current data and collection methods
- Benefits—Improved data quality
- Key Implementation Issues—Need consensus across stakeholders

Project 3: *Hazard Management*

- Description—Develop common definition, interpretation and application. Develop a formal committee (TRACS/RSAC).
- Rationale—No consistent definition/process is used throughout the US.
- Benefits—Consistency across agencies on how hazard management is applied. Lead to better data, safety decisions, funding justification
- Key Implementation Issues—none identified

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Design, Technology and Infrastructure

Top Four Recommended Actions for Topic Area 3: Design, Technology and Infrastructure

- Project 1. Fencing Design and Utilization
- Project 2. Barriers Designed to Mitigate Pedestrian Distraction
- Project 3. Exploratory technology research and education
- Project 4. Train-activated in-pavement lights

Project 1: *Fencing Design*

- Description—Establish robust standardize fencing.
- Rationale—Mitigate vandalism.
- Benefits— keeps fencing intact, prevents trespassing.
- Key Implementation Issues— Learn from LIRR and Tri-Met, costs can be reduced when purchased in bulk.

Project 2: *Barriers Designed to Mitigate Pedestrian Distraction*

- Description— R.R. preemption to lock the mechanism against entry upon train detection
- Rationale— Requires physical interaction to open the gate, avoids distraction.
- Benefits— prevents peds making contact w/trains, maintains headways/service.
- Key Implementation Issues— connecting to railroad signal systems.

Project 3: *Exploratory technology research and education*

- Description— incorporate existing technologies from other industries to apply to Rail ROW.
- Rationale— No need to re-invent the wheel.
- Benefits— proven and cost effective.
- Key Implementation Issues— May be challenging due to railroad's reluctance to experiment with new technologies.

Project 4: *Train-activated in-pavement warning lights*

- Description— lights would activate as train approaches to provide additional warning to pedestrians.
- Rationale— technology is being used at highway-rail grade crossings.
- Benefits— Greater visibility/warning for pedestrians. Reduces train strikes.
- Key Implementation Issues— Who will maintain? Systems will be outside of RR maintenance zone, but tied into RR track circuitry.

Heartfelt thank-you to the following DTI members:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
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Community Outreach

Top Four Recommended Actions for Topic Area 4: Community Outreach

- Project 1. Public Awareness Campaign
- Project 2. Community Outreach Partnerships
- Project 3. National Community Awareness Day
- Project 4. Outreach and Awareness Toolkit

Project 1: *Public Awareness Campaign*

- Description—Deliberate, sustained connections within communities. An overarching approach to prevent injury and death that can be customized for specific demographic, cultural and regional aspects. A brand/slogan that is distinctive and memorable. Collaborative, proactive teaming of federal gov, local government and industry bringing stakeholders into the process.
- Rationale—This will create a unified, unilateral means to create visibility and alter perception of the problem leading to change.
- Benefits—An ongoing, consistent sustainable initiative reflected in tactics including an ad campaign, media relations, photography, video and social media
- Key Implementation Issues—none identified

Project 2: *Community Outreach Partnerships*

- Description—A national initiative to gather stakeholders in communities in developing and implementing trespassing reduction program
- Rationale—Proactive need to work within communities
- Benefits—Improved community relations and prevent trespassing
- Key Implementation Issues—may be difficult due to nationwide implementation and costs associated

Project 3: *National Community Awareness Day*

- Description—Implement a railroad trespasser prevention awareness day.
- Rationale—Industry, communities, Fed get together to address the problem; day of dedication
- Benefits—Nationwide exposure
- Key Implementation Issues—very do-able

Project 4: *Outreach and Awareness Toolkit*

- Description—Communications resources providing local relevance addressing ongoing issues and providing a means to problem solve
- Rationale—Need effective way to locally communicate to prevent railroad trespassing
- Benefits—Effective way to locally communicate to prevent railroad trespassing
- Key Implementation Issues—moderately difficult due to stakeholder buy-in

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A large blue rectangular graphic with the word "Enforcement" in white text. The graphic is composed of two horizontal bands: a darker blue top band and a lighter blue bottom band. The word "Enforcement" is centered in the top band.

Enforcement

Top Five Recommended Actions for Topic Area 5: Enforcement

- Project 1. Seek full police authority, across all 50 states, for railroad police officers
- Project 2. Develop specific railroad/transit trespass law that can be applied broadly across the US (consistent language)
- Project 3. (a) Focus on ‘high value’ targets, i.e. trespassers w/ malicious intent, homeless, drug/alcohol, other (b) Strategies for different types of trespassers – casual, impaired, malicious
- Project 4. Strive to have ‘crucial conversations’ with your local courts/prosecutors to prioritize trespass
- Project 5. Seek opportunities to apply for and/or develop law enforcement grants that can target trespass

Project 1: *Railroad Police Authority*

- Description— Seek full police authority, across all 50 states, for railroad police officers
- Rationale— Railroad police have diminished effectiveness in carrying out their mission, when their authority to arrest/apprehend/prosecute changes from state to state
- Benefits— Ability to more effectively contact trespassers, build stronger relationships with other agencies, and create sovereignty
- Key Implementation Issues— NSA, IACP, Police Unions, are often hesitant to support 'new' agencies – private/public difficult to understand

Project 2: *Broad Based Trespass Law*

- Description— Railroad specific trespass law that can be applied broadly across the US (consistent language)
- Rationale— Railroad/transit right-of-way trespass is currently viewed as ‘low priority’ because it falls under the same statute as all other forms of trespass – enforcement requirements change from state to state
- Benefits— A single law, written specifically for our issues, will help to build uniformity and make it easier to educate the public
- Key Implementation Issues – Model legislation is easy to develop, i.e. FRA, but ‘encouraging’ the states to implement is another. Possibly tie trespass laws to grant funding?

Project 3: *Strategic Approach to Different Types of Trespassers*

- Description— Focus on ‘high value’ targets, i.e. trespassers w/ malicious intent, homeless, drug/alcohol (impaired) should be different than your approach to the casual trespasser
- Rationale— We feel that you have to develop specific activities/approaches in order to affect the behavior of different types of trespassers
- Benefits— Be able to reach out to the target audience more effectively, where the data has shown us to be ineffective
- Key Implementation Issues— Will require creative thinking and multiple ‘trial & error’ phases. Will also require a cross-functional effort from all involved parties

Project 4: *Crucial Conversations* *Within the Judicial System*

- Description—There is a need to have ‘crucial conversations’ with your local courts/prosecutors to encourage making trespass on railroad/transit right-of-way a priority
- Rationale— With respect to trespass, we have the data to defend this position. The dangers associated with this type of criminal behavior warrant the courts to take this seriously
- Benefits—When a suspect makes a conscious decision to trespass, the benefits will no longer outweigh the consequences – there is more bite than bark!
- Key Implementation Issues— You have to have the buy-in/personal relationships with your judicial stakeholders. If this is the first time they have heard from you, you will most likely have a harder sell. Squeaky wheel gets the grease?

Project 5: *Law Enforcement Grants for Trespass Enforcement/Abatement*

- Description—Seek opportunities to apply for and/or develop law enforcement grants that can target trespass
- Rationale—Everyone needs money/resources. Many law enforcement agencies want to help, but they just don't have the manpower, technology, etc. to allocate to trespass enforcement
- Benefits—You are simply fostering the 'community' approach. Reduction of trespass incidents/fatalities being the number #1 goal.
- Key Implementation Issues—Where does this money come from? What is the allocation mechanism? Can we model/mirror the Section 130 Program?

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Intentional Deaths/Acts

Top Three Recommended Actions for Topic Area 6: Intentional Death Acts

- Project 1. Education
- Project 2. Eliminating trigger terminology from public communication
- Project 3. Message that trains don't always kill

Project 1: *Education*

- Description—How can message change behavior. How to create deterrent to create a mindset
- Rationale—Lack of message consistency
- Benefits—Increased effectiveness of messages
- Key Implementation Issues—none identified

Project 2: *Eliminating trigger terminology from public communication*

- Description—What terminology can/should be used in media, presentations, websites, and technical reports. Develop guidelines for terms to share info without providing unintentional triggers
- Rationale—Eliminate trigger terminology from communications
- Benefits—Consistency in communication which will prevent unintended triggers or use of rail in intentional deaths
- Key Implementation Issues—none

Project 3: *Message that trains don't always kill*

- Description—Develop campaign/marketing that not all strikes result in fatalities. Also, stop campaigns that trespass will kill you.
- Rationale—People won't attempt suicide by rail for fear of not succeeding.
- Benefits—Should work to reduce both trespass and suicide.
- Key Implementation Issues—none identified

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