U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

SA-25-1

Safety Advisory
11/24/2025

Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
Washington, DC

Subject: Reducing Rail Trespassing and Suicide Events

Purpose: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing Safety Advisory 25-1 (SA 25-1) to recommend State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) direct Rail Transit Agencies (RTAs) within their jurisdiction to use their Safety Management System (SMS) to identify hazards related to rail trespassing and suicide events, perform safety risk assessments, identify safety risk mitigations as necessary to reduce safety risk associated with trespassing and suicide events, and utilize safety performance monitoring and measurement procedures to assess the effectiveness of mitigations.

Background: Trespasser- and suicide-related events have been steadily increasing in the transit industry and are the leading source of transit-related fatalities, accounting for 50 percent of all fatalities reported to the National Transit Database (NTD) in calendar year 2024.[1] Trespassing and suicide encompass a variety of different types of events, including but not limited to the following:

- Transit customers intentionally jumping, walking, or lying in front of trains, for the purposes of self-harm, resulting in a collision.
- Transit customers trespassing on the rail right-of-way (ROW) from transit station platforms, resulting in accidental collision with a rail vehicle or fatality or injury due to tripping, falling, or electric shock.
- People trespassing on rail ROW while sheltering in tunnels, resulting in collision, slips and falls, or electric shock.

FTA has analyzed trespass and suicide-related events together due to the overlap of events that may be considered both trespassing and suicide and the overlap in safety risk mitigations for these events. For the purposes of this Safety Advisory, FTA has organized safety event data reported to the NTD into major event,[2] fatality, and injury categories:

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[1] Based on 345 fatalities submitted by NTD Full Reporter bus and rail modes under FTA safety jurisdiction. Calendar Year 2024 data are preliminary and subject to NTD reporter revision.
[2] More information on the event thresholds and definitions used in NTD reporting is available in the *NTD Safety and Security Report Policy Manual*.

Figure 1: Rail Trespasser and Suicide Major Events, Fatalities, and Injuries, Calendar Years (CY) 2016–2024

Rail Trespasser and Suicide Events	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Major Events	200	226	242	266	267	259	272	329	342	2,403
Fatalities	101	98	130	127	133	141	140	163	171	1,204
Injuries	119	146	138	181	157	145	161	190	196	1,433

Rail trespass and suicide major events, fatalities, and injuries steadily increased from 2016 to 2024. Rail trespass and suicide major events increased 71 percent, fatalities increased 70 percent, and injuries increased 65 percent when comparing 2016 to 2024.

Previous FTA Actions:

In December of 2022, FTA published Safety Advisory 22-4: Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit (SA 22-4). The advisory encourages transit agencies to implement, update, or expand suicide prevention signage and messaging campaigns that apply best practices for reducing suicide attempts. Through this advisory, FTA emphasized the importance of signage in reducing suicide-related events and provided recommendations for implementing effective suicide prevention measures.

In 2022, FTA published FTA Report No. 0227: Mitigations for Trespasser and Suicide Fatalities and Injuries. The report included information about the "3 Es" safety framework, which is commonly used to frame engineering, education, and enforcement strategies to mitigate trespasser and suicide events.

FTA has published a Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers web page, which highlights numerous resources from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other organizations.

On May 29, 2024, FTA hosted a webinar on Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Intervention on Transit. This webinar discussed suicide prevention and featured guest speakers from the SAMHSA, San Francisco Suicide Prevention, Bay Area Rapid Transit, and Utah Transit Authority. These agencies shared available tools and resources, as well as experiences and lessons learned from successful interventions. Find the slides for the webinar by clicking here.

Recommended Action: FTA encourages SSOAs to direct the RTAs under their jurisdiction to:

- Review and analyze safety performance data related to trespassing and suicide events to identify related hazards.
- Based on the analysis of safety performance data, conduct a safety risk assessment to assess the associated safety risk, as necessary, using the Safety Risk Management process defined in the RTA's Agency Safety Plan.
- Based on the safety risk assessment, identify any new safety risk mitigations and any

existing safety risk mitigations to be modified as necessary to reduce the associated safety risk.

- Monitor implemented mitigations as part of the performance monitoring and measurement component of the agency's Safety Assurance process, including monitoring safety risk mitigations for effectiveness.

FTA recommends SSOAs obtain any documentation related to the recommended actions outlined above from their RTAs. FTA recommends that SSOAs that receive such documentation submit it to the State Safety Oversight Reporting (SSOR) system within 180 days from the issuance of this Safety Advisory.

Resources: FTA has published expanded data analysis and a list of resources to support SSOA and RTA efforts to monitor safety performance related to trespassing and suicide events, identify trespassing and suicide-related hazards, assess related safety risk, and identify and implement mitigations to reduce risk associated with trespassing and suicide-related events.

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