



SPUR Meeting Notes: Member Prevention Approach Overview

February 2022

Meeting Summary

Volpe provided a high-level introduction to this working group, presenting survey results to the group of what members hope the future of these meetings will look like. Each railroad was given some time to provide an overview of how their railroad approaches suicide and trespass prevention and what mitigation strategies they are currently employing.

Key Takeaways

The results of the survey indicated how future SPUR meetings will be run. Future meetings will have one or two members provide a perspective on a selected topic. Outside experts may be asked to join a meeting to provide a specific perspective which may be relevant; however, SPUR will not actively promote a specific company or service. The group also reinforced their view that these conversations among the commuter rail representatives are key to the value of SPUR.

These are current ways railroads are approaching suicide and trespass prevention on the railway:

- Creating and fostering relationships with community members, law enforcement, and others is important when handling complex issues like trespassing and suicide. Engaging members of the community who can contribute to prevention is crucial.
- Engaging with the media and educating them about suicide reporting is a top priority to get the right information to the public in a respectful, responsible, and safe way.
- Many transit agencies rely on employing technologies for deterring trespass/suicide. These can include cameras, such as red-light or CCTV cameras, and can be used for a variety of purposes, including identifying hotspots, dispatching law enforcement to active trespasser risks, and issuing educational materials about the dangers of trespassing or circumventing grade crossing safety mechanisms.
- Training employees to identify suicide warning signs and educating employees on what to look out for in one another as well as how to recognize a person in distress on or near the tracks. This can also include educating employees about using responsible language when speaking about suicide incidents.
- Establishing and updating signage on platforms and in certain right-of-way locations with the current 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline information to help individuals in crisis get connected with the right mental health services.