



SPUR Meeting Notes: Partnerships

September 2022

Meeting Summary

Railroad partnerships can take on many forms to better assist railroads with their specific needs. Forming new partnerships and maintaining the success of existing partnerships involves significant work and coordination. Partners can be at the national or local level, and include rail safety organizations, government agencies, public health departments, crisis support, intervention services and many others. These partners share a common goal of saving lives.

Key Takeaways

- Safety focused organizations, such as Operation Lifesaver, Inc., can help to promote rail safety through public awareness campaigns and education initiatives. They can assist in developing and editing rail safety outreach materials and provide expertise to discuss and share ideas on how to prevent rail tragedies.
- Crisis support organizations such as the Crisis Text Line, and 988 Lifeline may assist in updating or expanding suicide prevention signage and messaging campaigns by providing messaging materials. These campaigns aim to expand awareness of mental health resources for those who interact with the rail system.
 - These partnerships, as well as public health departments, may also allow for coordination and training to transit employees on how to identify when someone is experiencing a crisis and how to help.
- Partnering with local law enforcement and/or transit police can provide a path to more consistent support for trespass and suicide prevention at stations and along the right-of-way, as well as improved incident response.
- Forming a local stakeholder group through local communities, peers, counties, or other railroads with participants from a wide variety of organizations to meet regularly and leverage diverse perspectives and expertise. This group can communicate and exchange ideas of what is and is not working and where they are experiencing challenges, helping to expand upon and grow knowledge as well as empower action.
- Creating a relationship with the local media, showcasing that railroads and the media have a shared goal to reduce fatalities. Communication can help these groups to come together and learn from one another about how to responsibly speak about trespassing and suicide.