



SPUR Meeting Notes: Post World Cup Review

July 2026

Meeting Summary

The 2026 World Cup was held from June 11th to July 19th, spanning 16 cities across three countries. The United States hosted matches in 11 cities, Mexico hosted matches in 3 cities, and Canada hosted matches in 2 cities. This meeting focused on gathering insight from transit agency and commuter rail carrier experiences during the World Cup and any lessons learned for how to plan for future large-scale events. The insights derived from this and prior meetings will be incorporated into a document describing lessons learned from this World Cup that may be used to prepare for future high-profile events that draw increased system ridership as well as increased foot and vehicle traffic along rights-of-way. The document is intended for commuter rail and transit agency management and personnel involved in the management of these events.

Key Takeaways

- **Communication.** Preparation and strong coordination among partners was crucial for the games' success.
 - Regularly reviewing the plan with all key stakeholders ensured flexibility and accountability.
 - Clear roles and responsibilities were established, e.g., who was going where and when.
 - Conversations early in the process helped set expectations and clarify how events would proceed.
- **Stakeholder engagement.** Ensure all essential personnel are present for event planning to ensure comprehensive coverage.
 - Essential staff can include project sponsors, engineering team for fencing, safety and security teams for risk analysis, customer-facing staff, local police and fire, and others.
- **Local support.** Build good relationships with local police and fire departments and utilize volunteers.
 - Agencies have limited policing capabilities, which makes relying heavily on local police and fire departments critical for support in restoring service if an incident occurs.
 - Increasing police presence and volunteers during the games was crucial in the safe movement of passengers to and from the stadiums and stations.
- **Care for staff and passengers.** Anticipate both passenger and staff needs, including having food and drink on hand in case of emergencies. Overestimate what you think you'll need.
- **Document Successes.** A major success for one agency was managing a fatality. The train involved was going to pick up passengers from the games and a potential delay was avoided because the team had proactively staged extra equipment and crew, along with an additional train on standby, which is outside their usual operations. This allowed them to run a new train to ensure passenger service resumed without delay.