


<b>UTC Project Information</b>	
Project Title	Remedial Actions to Prevent Suicides on Commuter and Metro Rail Systems (Former title: Remedial Actions to Prevent Suicides and Accidental Deaths on Commuter and Metro Rail Systems)
University	San José State University Mineta National Transit Research Consortium
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Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	Research and Innovative Technology Administration University Transportation Centers Program (\$32,500)  California Department of Transportation Office of Research—MS42 (\$32,500)
Total Project Cost	\$65,000
Agency ID or Contract Number	DTRT12-G-UTC21
Start and End Dates	July 2012 – March 2016
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>Railway suicides have received increased attention of late and efforts to understand and address the issues have been initiated by the USDOT Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Research has demonstrated that approximately one third of suicides using rail occur on transit lines. Efforts to reduce suicide on railways have utilized the erection of physical barriers, the posting of warning signs with telephone numbers for hotline crisis counseling, the training of key personnel to identify and intervene with at-risk individuals, and the careful management of publicity and news media following a suicide to minimize copy-cat effects.</p> <p>The present study proposes to evaluate the effectiveness of targeted barriers, posted signage, and an ecologically oriented suicide awareness and intervention training program with a wide range of railroad stakeholders. New Jersey Transit, Metro North on the east coast and Metrolink and Sound Transit on the west coast (east and west coast) have substantial suicide rates and will provide a target for baseline and subsequent comparison evaluation of the proposed interventions suggested and planned in this proposal. The primary interventions examined in this study will consist of training key personnel from security, operations and other groups in awareness, identification, and intervention</p>

	<p>skills needed to address potential suicidal behavior. In addition, to the extent feasible and as adopted by the participating agencies, the posting of signage will be evaluated. Finally, depending upon budgetary considerations and the availability of capital, agencies that install targeted barriers during the study period will also be evaluated in terms of the impact of these barriers on rates of attempted and completed suicide. Comparison of suicide rates following the implementation of these programs will serve as the primary method for evaluating their effectiveness. Changes in percentages and incidence ratios (IR) of actual suicides and suicide attempts will be evaluated for practical and statistical significance. In addition, two surveys will be administered to participants in the training programs to assess as well as demonstrate increases in knowledge of risk factors, indicators of potential suicidal behavior, as well as attitudes and behaviors associated with suicide attempts and completion.</p>
<p>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)</p>	<p>Research in progress.</p> <p>Sherry, Patrick. "Community Attitudes Towards Intentional Death by Rail." Presentation at the Metrolink, Los Angeles, CA, May 25, 2013.</p> <p>Sherry, Patrick. "Preventing Intentional Death By Rail." Presentation at the Transportation Research Forum, San Jose, CA, March 14, 2014.</p> <p>Sherry, Patrick. "Reducing the Occurrence of Pedestrian Fatalities in the Transit Industry Through Suicide Prevention and Safety Promotion." Presentation at the University Transportation Center (UTC) Conference for the Southeastern Region, Atlanta, GA, March 25, 2014.</p> <p>Sherry, Patrick. "The Efficacy of Pedestrian Suicide Prevention and Safety Promotion Interventions in the Public Transit Industry." Presentation at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Convention, Salt Lake City, UT, April 25, 2014.</p> <p>Sherry, Patrick. "Ecologically Framed Suicide Prevention and Community Awareness Intervention in the Transportation Industry." Presentation at the 47th American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, April 10, 2014.</p> <p>Sherry, Patrick. "Promoting Pedestrian Safety Through Community and Employee Intervention in the Rail Industry." Presentation at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2014, Frankfurt, Germany, August 26, 2014.</p>

Place Any Photos Here	 <p><a href="http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01670/deaths2_1670142c.jpg">http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01670/deaths2_1670142c.jpg</a></p>
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	
Web Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports</li><li>• Project Website</li></ul>	Final report (MNTRC Website): <a href="http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1129.html">http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1129.html</a>  Final report (TRB Website): <a href="https://trid.trb.org/view/2016/M/1402011">https://trid.trb.org/view/2016/M/1402011</a>