

UTC Project Information	
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>The present study reviewed current efforts of commuter railroads to reduce or prevent suicide on railways and discussed preventative activities affecting rail related suicides. Primary preventative methods have included erecting physical barriers, posting warning signs with telephone numbers for hotline crisis counseling, using video surveillance on platforms, and training key personnel to identify and intervene with at-risk individuals. However, little or no evidence has been reported to demonstrate the efficacy of these methods.</p> <p>The present study also sought to provide information about community awareness and attitudes toward suicide on the railroads and survey data collected from 498 respondents demonstrate that community members feel a strong sense of responsibility for assisting those who are suicidal. However, survey data also revealed a lower sense of self-confidence in knowing what to do to be helpful.</p> <p>Pre-post surveys of railroad personnel involved in workplace suicide prevention training programs examined the effects of an employee training program with a large commuter railroad designed to identify and prevent rail related suicide. Results</p>

	<p>demonstrated that people who completed training obtained higher levels of self-efficacy with respect to understanding, identifying, and assisting people who appeared to be at risk for suicide. Program participants also demonstrated knowledge of the signs and symptoms and risk factors for suicide.</p> <p>Recommendations for prevention strategies include continued efforts to identify hotspots and to erect barriers to reduce access to the railroad right-of-way, and for installing signage with warnings and contact information for crisis services. The use of drones equipped with video monitoring systems working in tandem with trespasser intrusion alert technology could be one way of dealing with more remote locations. Training programs for railroad employees designed to increase their confidence and skill intervening with suicidal individuals is also needed. Additionally railroads should maximize their prevention efforts by partnering with other groups devoted to preventing suicide as well as with government agencies. Suicide is a community-wide concern, community residents feel some responsibility for prevention, and railroads should not be expected to be the sole source of preventive activities for intentional fatalities by rail.</p>
<p>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)</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,</p>

	<p>2014.</p>
<p>Place Any Photos Here</p>	 <p>http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01670/deaths2_1670142c.jpg</p>
<p>Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)</p>	
<p>Web Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Project Website 	<p>Final report (MNTRC Website): http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1129.html</p>