

***Adopt Caltrain  
Corridor Right-of-  
Way Safety  
Strategy***

**JPB Board Meeting  
March 5, 2026**



# Safety Strategy Overview

- Context
- Hazard / Risk Assessments
- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Standard / Procedure Updates

This plan overlaps with the corridor crossing strategy - safety enhancement program

# Trespasser Prevention – The Why

- Caltrain is a regional railroad operating in a dense corridor, with 31 stations and 71 at-grade crossings on an unsealed corridor.
- Trespasser and vehicle strikes, including suicides, are a serious issue for Caltrain operations and communities.
- These incidents cause tremendous negative impacts on family members, friends, train crews, passengers, witnesses, emergency responders and rail operations through delays and damage to property and reputation.
- Enhances security along the right-of-way.



# Understanding the Risk

Caltrain is committed to a risk-based data-driven approach to Safety and Trespasser / Suicide prevention.

- Utilize Near Miss, Safety Reporting, Incident, Inspection data
- Prioritize based on trespasser/suicide data
- Risk Assessments of identified areas
- Determine most cost-effective solution(s) to reduce risk
- Implement solutions to address specific risks
- Monitor for effectiveness



# Safety Strategy Approach

Caltrain is committed to developing this plan to reduce trespasser suicide and the broad ranging impacts following the documented best practice of the “Three E’s” of rail safety: **Engineering, Education, and Enforcement.**



# Hazard / Risk Assessment

- **Update Threat and Vulnerability Assessment (TVA):** Develop an updated corridor-wide TVA that explicitly covers trespass, suicide risk, and grade crossing hazards, incorporating FRA tools and Caltrain data.
- **Update Grade Crossing Hazard Assessment:** Update Hazard Assessment using FRA accident prediction data and local crash/trespass history to rank crossings for separation, closure, or enhancement.

# Engineering – Means Restriction

- Fencing – SOGR, New Fencing Projects in High-Risk Areas; Full alignment risk assessment in progress
- Pedestrian Channelization/Barriers
- Pilot new technologies (e.g. AI intrusion detection, anti-trespass panels)
- Include means-restriction concepts in all new grade separations, station rebuilds and 3rd party projects

# Engineering – Continued

- Copper Theft Mitigation
- Vegetation Management Plan – focused on safety sightlines, tree and limb failure, fire risk and access control
- CCTV Master Plan - integrating grade crossings, stations, yards, and sensitive or high-risk locations into one unified, monitored system.
  - Phase 1 (High risk locations) - funded
  - Phase 2 (rest of corridor) - requires additional funding



# Engineering – Deployed Locations Pilot Projects

## **Intrusion Detection Pilot Project (using Rail Sentry):**

- San Francisco: 16th St
- Burlingame: Broadway Ave
- Palo Alto: Churchill Ave, East Meadow and Charleston Ave, Alma/Palo Alto Ave (to be installed)

## **Anti-Trespass Panel Pilot Project (4 crossings in Palo Alto locations):**

- Data collection – before and after as well as working with Rutgers University



*Anti-Trespassing Panel*

# Education - External Safety Communication

- **Targeted outreach** in communities near high-risk crossings and stations, e.g. schools, senior centers, mental health facilities, services, businesses.
- **Consistent messaging** on “stay off the tracks,” grade crossing 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline on signs, posters, and digital content.
- **Seasonal and event-based campaigns** (back to school, sports events, holidays) using social media, station announcements, and earned media.
- **Continue to Partner with Operation Lifesaver** and local jurisdictions to deliver on-going joint education and enforcement events at stations and grade crossings.



# Education – Mental Health Outreach and Suicide Prevention

- **Provide recurring suicide awareness and deescalation training** for operators, frontline employees, conductors, and security, including how to safely engage and call for specialized help.
- **Install clear, visible 988 and crisis line signage** at stations, pedestrian crossings, and known hotspots, with multilingual messaging.
- **Partner with local organizations** including county mental health departments, Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) style teams, and community nonprofits



# Enforcement

Site enforcement, training and outreach. It requires the commitment of safety and security personnel from Caltrain, and municipalities.

- Grade Crossing Enforcement blitzes – ticketing
- License Plate Recognition Technology Pilot
- Partnerships with Municipal Police Departments
  - Enforcement & secondary employment
- Assess Transit Police Coverage



# Standards Update

- Update Internal Control Documents
- Enhanced ROW Access Procedures
- Updated Unusual Occurrence Reporting System



# Roadmap

Caltrain CROWS Strategy

CY2026

CY2027

CY2028



Roadmap

**•Hazard / Risk Assessments**

- Complete Threat & Vulnerability Assessment
- Update Grade Crossing Hazard Assessment

**•Grade Crossing Risk Mitigation**

- Blitz at high-risk crossings
- Data-driven insights to inform safety decisions
- Develop CCTV project scope for high-risk crossings

**•Education**

- External safety communications
- Mental health outreach and suicide prevention
- Collaborate w/ city officials & law enforcement

**•Engineering**

- Baseline Safety Enhancement Program
  - Solar markers/delineators
  - Crossing/pavement striping
  - Traffic signal timing adjustments

**•Hazard / Risk Assessments**

- Review Threat & Vulnerability Assessment
- Implement Grade Crossing Hazard Assessment

**•Grade Crossing Risk Mitigation**

- License Plate Recognition Technology Pilot
- Data-driven insights to inform safety decisions
- Implement CCTV project scope for high-risk crossings

**•Education**

- External safety communications
- Mental health outreach and suicide prevention
- Collaborate w/ city officials & law enforcement

**•Engineering**

- Baseline Safety Enhancement Program
  - Solar markers/delineators
  - Crossing/pavement striping
  - Traffic signal timing adjustments
- Measure effectiveness of safety enhancements through year-over year trends

**•Hazard / Risk Assessments**

- Implement Threat & Vulnerability Assessment
- Measure Grade Crossing Hazard Assessment

**•Grade Crossing Risk Mitigation**

- Measure # of grade crossing incidents before and after enhancements
- Review of enhanced CCTV surveillance at high-risk crossings
- Review of license plate recognition technology pilot

**•Education**

- External safety communications
- Mental health outreach and suicide prevention
- Collaborate w/ city officials & law enforcement

**•Engineering**

- Measure effectiveness of safety enhancements through year-over year trends
- Identify high-performing safety enhancements for full-scale deployment



# High-Level Timeline

- December – Received general direction and feedback from the board on recommendations
- Feb CAC – Presented to CAC
- **Feb TOPS** – Present strategy for TOPS recommendation to the Board
- **March BOD** – Final Adoption to Caltrain Board
- **Future Strategy Quarterly Updates** – (Detailed action plans, dedicated budget / funding plan in CIP and regular budget, monitoring / KPIs / reporting)

# See Something, Say Something

Do your part to keep the rails safe! **Call Transit Police at 1.877.SAF.RAIL (1.877.723.7245) immediately** to report any unsafe situation or suspicious activity, such as children playing near the tracks or people hanging out along the right of way.

Save the number in your cell phone for quick and easy access.



# Questions and Feedback

