

Spotlight on Rail Transit Safety

September 25, 2024



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Casey Goldin

**Division Chief, Safety Enforcement and Drug &
Alcohol Compliance**

Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO)



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Agenda

- Overview
- Introductions
- An Artificial Intelligence- Aided System for Detecting Grade Crossing Violations and ROW Trespassing
- Operation Lifesaver Update
- Hampton Roads Transit Update
- Q&A and Conclusion



Webinar Overview

This webinar will discuss transit rail grade crossing, review related research and safety campaigns to promote safe behaviors around rail grade crossings and highlight available resources to educate and inform transit riders and the communities served.

Speakers:

- **Asim Zaman, New Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) at Rutgers**
- **Rachel Maleh, Executive Director, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI)**
- **Tiffany McClain, Engagement and Outreach Manager, Hampton Roads Transit**

State of Rail Safety

From 2016-2022

4,369

**Total Reported
Transit RGX
Collisions**

116

**Transit RGX
Collisions
Resulting in
Fatalities**

814

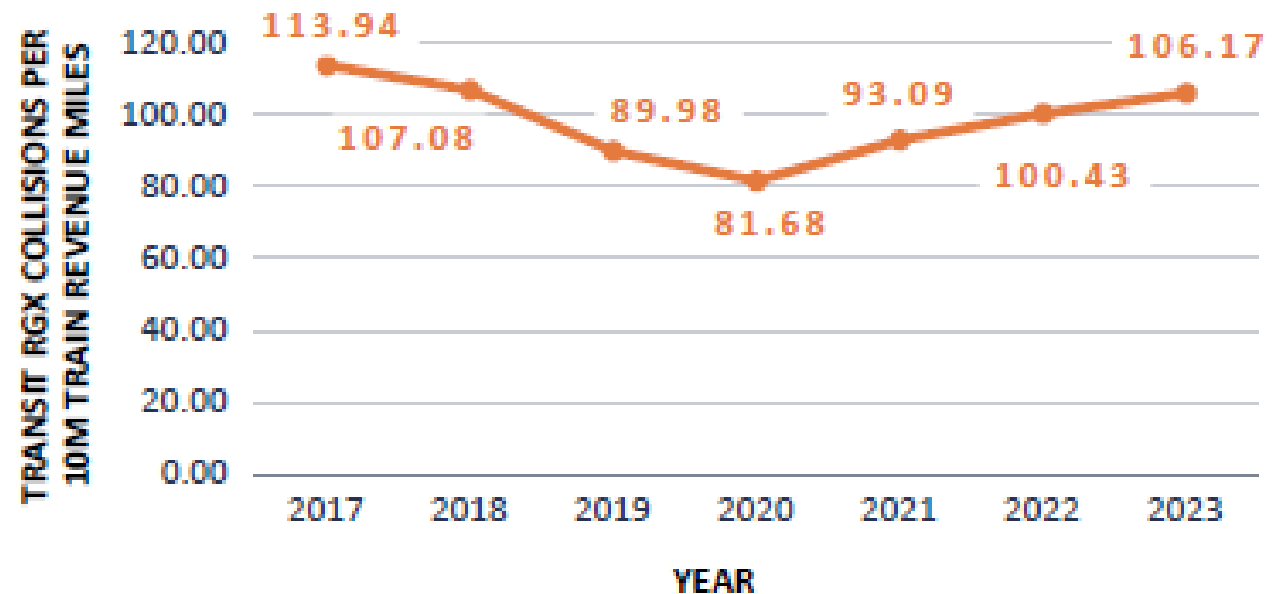
**Transit RGX
Collisions
Resulting in
Injuries**

Source: *FTA Standards Development Program: Rail Transit Roadway/Pedestrian Grade Crossing Exploratory Report* | May 2022.

Transit RGX Collision Trends

From 2017-2023

After reaching a low in 2020, the transit RGX collision rate per train revenue mile (TRM) has increased for the last three years for which data is available.



Data reflects NTD event submissions through May 2, 2023. 2022 NTD data are preliminary.
Source: [FTA Standards Development Program: Rail Transit Roadway/Pedestrian Grade Crossing Exploratory Report](#) | May 2022.

Incident and Collisions Data

Transit RGX are often different from conventional RGX due to the inclusion of pedestrians, cars and street traffic. During a recent FTA survey, incidents reported at street intersection crossings were approximately *10 times higher* than at conventional grade crossings.

Seattle DOT RGX Example



Source: [FTA Standards Development Program: Rail Transit Roadway/Pedestrian Grade Crossing Exploratory Report](#) | May 2022.

RGX Resources for Transit Agencies

FTA's Rail Grade Crossing Resources Website

United States Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

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Rail Grade Crossing Safety Resources for Transit Agencies

Rail Grade Crossing Safety Resources
FTA is raising awareness on this important safety concern and supporting the transit industry by providing data to analyze the current safety landscape and historical trends and resources to educate and inform the public.

What's New
Register: Spotlight on Rail Transit Safety Webinar
This webinar will discuss the importance of making safe choices when driving or walking near rail tracks and trains. FTA will provide an overview and participants will view a presentation from the New Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) at Rutgers University. The webinar will also feature a guest speaker from Hampton Roads Transit who will discuss their agency's efforts to promote safe behaviors around their light rail system and the non-profit, Operation Lifesaver Inc., who will discuss safety education and outreach to transit riders and



Rail Grade Crossing Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
Rail Transit Grade Crossing Safety Data
SUMMARY June 2024

CURRENT TRANSIT RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY LANDSCAPE

FROM 2016 — 2023:

4,369	116	814
Total Reported Transit RGX Collisions	Transit RGX Collisions Resulting in Fatalities	Transit RGX Collisions Resulting in Injuries

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) analyzes data reported to the [National Transit Database](#) (NTD) to monitor transit rail grade crossing (RGX) incidents, injuries and fatalities.

TRANSIT RGX COLLISION TRENDS (2017 — 2023)

SUMMARY ANALYSIS
After reaching a low in 2020, the transit RGX collision rate per train revenue mile (TRM) has increased for the last three years for which data is available.

INCIDENTS AND COLLISIONS DATA

Transit RGX are often different from conventional RGX due to the inclusion of pedestrians, cars and street traffic. During a recent FTA survey, incidents reported at street intersection crossings were approximately **10 times higher** than at conventional grade crossings.

SEATTLE DOT RGX EXA



Available Resources

FTA Safety Advisory 22-4

Recommends transit agencies use suicide prevention signage best practices to reduce events and encourage mental health intervention
bit.ly/3VUBdPo

FTA Safety Bulletin 19-03

Includes Federal actions taken, data analysis and resources
<http://bit.ly/3A0wja6>

FTA Research

FTA Rail Transit Roadway/Pedestrian Grade Crossing Exploratory Report
<http://bit.ly/3ErldfJ>

An Artificial Intelligence- Aided System for Detecting Grade Crossing Violations and ROW Trespassing

Asim Zaman, P.E. Rutgers University & Redstone Technologies,
LLC



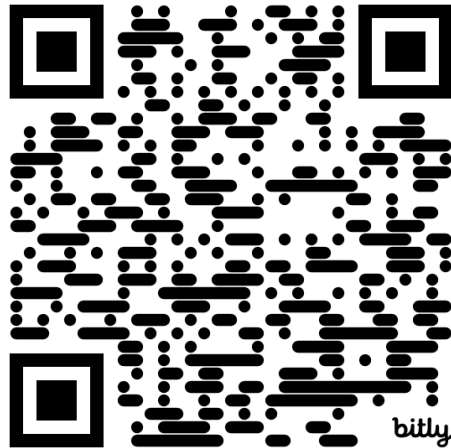
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Update Rachel Maleh

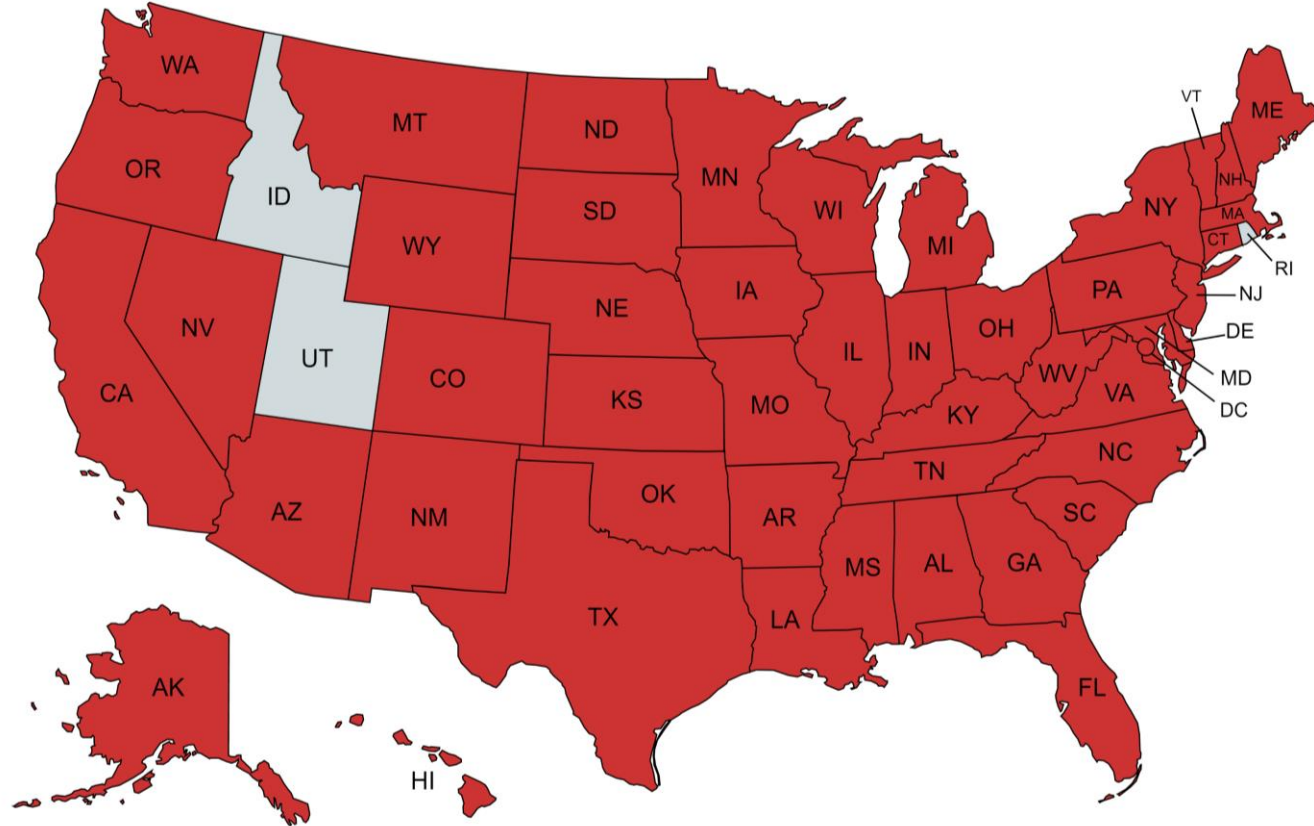
2024 FTA Webinar
See Tracks? Think Train[®] Week



Operation Lifesaver Programs – 47 States and DC



Scan for State Contacts



Partnerships are Key to OLI's Efforts

FEDERAL PARTNERS

**Federal
Railroad
Administration**
**Federal
Highway
Administration**
**Federal Transit
Administration**

PRIVATE PARTNERS

**Posner
Foundation of
Pittsburgh**
**Class I
Railroads**
Amtrak

BOARD MEMBER PARTNERS

APTA
ASLRRA
AAR
AASHTO
ABA
SLSI

STATE PARTNERS

State DOTs
**State/Local
Transit
Agencies**

How OLI Partners with FTA and Transit Agencies

- OLI works with FTA to provide competitive **Rail Transit Safety Education Grants** to transit agencies
- Through other FTA grants, OLI also develops **free resources and assets** for transit agencies to use in public safety outreach efforts



Rail Transit Safety Grant Awards Announcement



Materials in English and Spanish

Transit Kids' Video, Coloring and Activity Books



Video/PSA

<https://vimeo.com/866593019>

- Available in English and Spanish
- Find them at oli.org/info/kids



Coloring Book



Activity Book



Transit PSAs in English and Spanish



Safety Around Streetcars and Light Rail <https://vimeo.com/738767009>



Rail Transit Crossing Safety
<https://vimeo.com/738766138>



Safety at Rail Transit Stations
<https://vimeo.com/738764633>

Transit Posters



- Five transit safety posters in English and Spanish
- Several sizes and formats
- Available at bit.ly/OLI-transit-posters



Transit Safety Pledge

Transit Safety Pledge

- Pre-Readers
- Ages 6-12
- Adults



More than 1,600 people have taken the pledge!



Thanks for taking the pledge.
Together, we can #STOPTrackTragedies.

Share to:



Every 3 Hours in the US a person or vehicle is hit by a train.

TRANSIT TRAINS CAN TRAVEL OVER 100 MPH.
Make safe choices around tracks and trains.

[Click for More Info](#)

Look both ways.

TRAINS ARE QUIETER AND FASTER THAN YOU THINK.

Stay off the tracks. Cross only at designated crossings.

[Click for More Info](#)

SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN!®

STAY BEHIND THE PAINTED OR RAISED MARKINGS.

Always expect a train. Observe all warning signs.

[Click for More Info](#)

MY TRANSIT SAFETY PLEDGE

First Name Last Name

Took the Operation Lifesaver Transit Safety Pledge on [DATE].

I pledged to:

- Always make safe choices and model safe behavior around tracks and trains.
- Stay alert, keep my eyes up and wait behind the yellow line and raised markings.
- Never retrieve anything dropped on the tracks. I will notify transit personnel.
- Avoid distractions and always expect a train.
- Always walk my bike/scooter/skateboard.

Transit safety is important to me, my friends and my community.

OPERATION LIFESAVER
Rail Safety Education
www.oil.org

Competitive Rail Transit Safety Education Grants



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

- **Previous round of OLI's Rail Transit Safety Education Grants** were awarded to 8 transit agencies in 6 states (FL, MA, NY, NC, TX and VA)
- **2024 Rail Transit Safety Education Grant recipients** will be announced in October, along with the recipient of a competitive **Online Transit Safety Pledge Grant** for promoting OLI's transit safety pledges
- **Thank you to FTA** for your ongoing support!

Transit Grant Partnership Example - CATS



- CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System) created visually-driven safety messaging for passengers in stations
- Kiosk art and station graphics drive home the message, “Rail Safety Can’t be Ignored”

CATS kiosk ad and station graphics



Transit Grant Partnership Example - DART



DART transit safety education outreach posters

- DART (Dallas Area Transit System) created 3 posters to help educate the public in schools, homeless facilities, and other transit-oriented businesses within surrounding areas
- Campaign educates the public to the hazards associated with an active rail system to reduce deaths and injuries



See Tracks? Think Train® Week – Sept. 23-29

Red Out for Rail Safety Day is Friday, Sept. 27!



Houston Metro social post



FTA social post



New Orleans RTA social post

Join Us!



- Follow OLI on social and share the Rail Safety Education message (links at oli.org)
- Become an Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer (OLAV)



Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Staff



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OLI Staff Contact Page QR Code

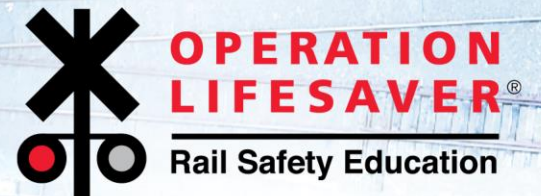


TOGETHER, WE CAN #STOPTrackTragedies

OLI.ORG

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

(800) 537-6224





HAMPTON ROADS
TRANSIT

Getting the Transit Safety Message Out

Tiffany McClain

gohrt.com

The Tide



Train Wrap



Kick Off Event



Street Team



Stations



Social Media



Sidewalk Clings



Questions?



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Thank you!

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(CAIT) at Rutgers

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