

NJ TRANSIT Commuter Rail Challenges to Trespasser Prevention

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NJ TRANSIT Overview

- Statewide Transportation Agency
- 709 daily passenger trains
- 276,459 daily passenger trips
- 500 miles of track
- Speeds between 60 and 80 mph
- 330 “at-grade” crossings
- 164 Stations
- 11 Lines (also Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor and Metro-North Port Jervis Line, Meadowlands Sport Complex and Princeton Branch)



Philosophy

Emphasizing “**Engineering-Education-Enforcement**” (E³), NJ TRANSIT’s ongoing programs focus on reducing accidents and injuries involving trespassers and the effects of these incidents on our customers, employees and contractors.



Challenges

- Most of the system is unfenced
- Grade crossings provide easy access to the right-of-way
- Continued growth and development along the right-of-way
- Difficult to change pedestrian behavior
- Persons with mental health issues



Challenges

- Continually monitoring the system for new locations with trespasser issues
- Investigating locations reported by the Trespasser Intrusion Program



Challenges

- Cost of fencing:
 - \$90 average per linear foot for chain link fencing
 - \$125 average per linear foot for high security fencing
- In recent years, NJ TRANSIT has installed approximately 36,000 feet of fencing



Recent Example

- Following the E³ approach, a new at-risk location was identified, evaluated and mitigated



Recent Example

- **Education** – School was informed about issue identified by the Trespasser Intrusion Program and provided education regarding the dangers of trespassing
- **Engineering** – As a result of the Hazard Resolution Process, 622 feet of fencing and “No Trespassing” signage was installed at a cost of \$40,000
- **Enforcement**- NJ TRANSIT Police along with campus police



Summary

- Long-term initiative
- Commitment of NJT personnel and NJDOT
- Input and assistance from local communities

**Keep alert. Keep alive.
Keep off the tracks.**