

12. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Establishing and maintaining the highest possible levels of safety and security in a passenger rail operation begins with clear, comprehensive safety messaging and effective, involved leadership. This messaging and the role that leadership plays must both be crafted from an awareness of what is happening in every level of the operation and the extent to which safety and security play a significant role in the duties and responsibilities of all employees every day.

SJJPA's Safety and Security Program will focus on the following areas:

- Vehicular and pedestrian safety at highway/rail grade crossings, including private crossings in rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley;
- Pedestrian safety along the railroad right-of-way;
- Security inside and around stations and at Thruway Bus stops;
- Security onboard trains and on Thruway Buses;
- Safety and security training of personnel involved in all aspects of operating the San Joaquins; and
- Emergency preparedness training and exercises with first responders in coordination with Amtrak, host railroads, state and federal regulatory agencies.

Components of the Program include:

- Assuring a common understanding of safety and security objectives, targets and goals throughout the San Joaquins Service workforce;
- Communicating and strengthening safety and security strategies and policies;
- Creating and sustaining a strong safety and security culture shared by everyone involved in operating the San Joaquins;
- Ensuring the program applies to all activities involving the design, construction, testing, operations, and maintenance of the rail service and system;
- Assigning each manager, department,

employee, and contractor with responsibility and accountability for safety and security program implementation and compliance;

- Requiring a robust communications protocol, including cooperation among all managers, departments, employees and contractors relative to matters of safety and security;
- Coordination with Amtrak and the two host freight railroads over whose rail lines the service is operated, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR);
- Pursuing an aggressive safety and security program of capital improvements; and
- Identifying relationships and responsibilities with local, state, and federal agencies that are responsible for and have governance over the San Joaquins Service, including the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the California Office of Emergency Service (CalOES).

SJJPA collaborates with Amtrak, host railroads, and regulatory partners to identify and fully address safety concerns. As part of this collaboration, SJJPA participates in:

- Corridor Improvement Team (CIT) meetings;
- Northern California Rail Safety Team activities;
- Partnership Performance Action Teams (PPAT);
- Regional Transit Strategies Working Group (RTSWG);
- Northern California Emergency Preparedness Task Force meetings; and
- Joint Terrorism Task Force meetings.

SJJPA will continue to work with Amtrak, BNSF and UPRR to identify safety and security issues, develop remediation strategies, and to secure grant funding to expand and enhance safety and security programs onboard all trains and Thruway buses, and along the railroad right-of-way.

Safety and Security Program for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

The primary objectives of SJJPA's Safety and Security Program for FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20 is to continue a broad-based program of educational activities and to aggressively pursue capital improvements that help eliminate unsafe conditions.

Safety and Security Educational Activities

SJJPA's educational efforts focus on increasing public awareness of rail safety and security along the San Joaquins Corridor and to ensure all personnel involved in operating the San Joaquins have the proper training to be effective in implementing SJJPA's Safety and Security Program. To increase awareness of the public, a wide range of populations and stakeholders will be targeted, including the existing base of employees, non-English speakers, agriculture and seasonal workers, school groups, community audiences, professional drivers, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. To this end, SJJPA will continue to leverage a network of rail safety education resources through California Operation Lifesaver (CAOL) to inform communities about safe behavioral practices around the San Joaquins Rail Corridor.

Educating railroad personnel is as critical as raising public awareness. SJJPA will continue to take advantage of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training resources and safety and security grant programs to build upon related activities already underway and to develop and implement new programs. Specific training efforts include but are not limited to the following:

- Emergency Preparedness Training for rail corridor first responders;
- Rail security awareness training for train crews, maintenance staff, bus operators, and station staff;
- Disaster simulations to ensure employee and first responder readiness; and
- Emergency Preparedness Training for passenger operations that connect to the San Joaquins.

To support these educational and training activities, SJJPA will continue to conduct a systematic evaluation of current safety and security practices of all personnel involved with operating the San Joaquins. As part of this process, SJJPA will identify responsible parties for safety and security work to ensure they receive necessary training and education.

Safety and Security Capital Improvements

An important aspect of safety and security are implementing physical improvements that will improve the safety and security of the Corridor and of train operations. In an effort to identify needed physical improvements, SJJPA will continue to conduct a systematic evaluation of the conditions along the railroad right-of-way and in and around San Joaquins stations (including parking lots and platforms), as well as onboard trains. California's Office of Emergency Services has provided much of the funding for SJJPA's Safety and Security capital improvements. Important capital projects that SJJPA is currently implementing or currently pursuing include:



- Fencing projects at locations identified based on incident hot spots and high numbers of near misses;
- Increased lighting at stations, parking lots, as well as installing blue light phone towers (originally developed for use on college campuses); and
- Improved safety and security-related signage, including messaging around suicide prevention and railroad safety.

A critical capital improvement being implemented is Positive Train Control (PTC), which is an advanced railroad communication system, consisting of signaling and other equipment along tracks as well as on-board trains. PTC increases the operational safety of passenger trains (and freight trains) by preventing the following:

- Train-to-train collisions;
- Over-speed derailments;
- Incursions into established work zone limits; and
- Movement of a train through a main line switch in the improper position.

SJJPA is cooperating with Amtrak, UPRR, and BNSF to implement PTC along the entire San Joaquins Corridor and onboard all San Joaquins trains. Am-

trak has completed the installation of onboard PTC equipment. BNSF and UPRR are continuing work on the track portion of PTC. Testing will take place for the system during FY 2018/19 until PTC comes online at the end of 2018 to meet the Federally-mandated deadline.

Other activities SJJPA will employ to improve safety and security include:

- Attending listening sessions with station personnel to help identify safety/security concerns and suggestions for improvements/solutions;
- Embracing the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) offer to conduct threat / vulnerability assessments and station security profiles;
- Encouraging more police presence and patrol at stations by making areas available to officers that are stocked with snacks/beverages, and have Wi-Fi, printers, CCTV usage, and other amenities;
- Strategically utilizing local police over-time at events and in areas experiencing problems; and
- Work with host railroads to ensure the corridor is kept clear of homeless encampments, and other unauthorized activities.

