



# Development Team

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# Background

- ❑ Knowledge about suicide on the rights-of-way in the US is limited
- ❑ Suicide is increasingly recognized as a major issue for
  - the individual(s) involved and their friends and family; and
  - railroad carriers (impacts on crew, time delays, other associated costs).
- ❑ Railroad carriers in the US are currently implementing various countermeasures, but little is known about their effectiveness
- ❑ With relatively small sample sizes and limited budget it can be difficult to empirically test suicide countermeasures

# Background

- ❑ Collaboration exists in the US, but other countries may have more experience or lessons to learn
- ❑ Little is known about how railroad suicide countermeasures can be translated to/from other countries
- ❑ RESTRAIL effort aims to organize suicide and trespass prevention efforts in the European Union. However...
  - Effort is ending this year
  - Restricted to the EU



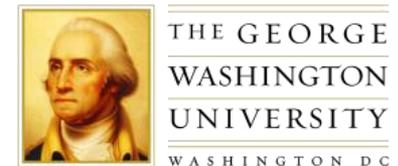
# Formation of GRASP

- ❑ **Global Railway Alliance for Suicide Prevention**
- ❑ **Who:** International researchers and railroad representatives with knowledge or insight about suicides on the railroad rights-of-way
- ❑ **Purpose:** Share information and coordinate efforts to better understand why suicides on the railroad occur and what mitigation strategies are effective at reducing their prevalence and/or impact
- ❑ **Outcome:** A broader understanding of suicides on the rights-of-way and insight into what can be done to mitigate these acts. Additionally, a more coordinated strategy for addressing questions that remain.

# Current GRASP Participation

## □ North America

- Federal Railroad Administration (US)
- Association of American Railroads (US)
- Volpe Center (US)
- George Washington University (US)
- University of Quebec a Montreal (Canada)



## □ Europe

- RSSB (UK)
- Network Rail (UK)
- Trafikverket (Sweden)



## □ Australia

- TrackSAFE (Australia)
- TrackSAFE (New Zealand)



# GRASP Roles and Responsibilities

- ❑ US representatives are organizing meetings/teleconferences and keeping notes
- ❑ US representatives plan to write up summary documents of the first years of coordination to distribute to the group
- ❑ Representatives from other countries, at this point, are asked to participate on calls to provide updates on the suicide related efforts in their country
- ❑ Participation may be expanded to other groups interested in providing information or furthering their knowledge of this topic

# Intended Outputs/Outcomes/Impacts

- ❑ Common understanding of terminology and definitions
  - “suicide”, “trespass”, “undetermined”, etc.
  
- ❑ Common understanding of current research needs
  
- ❑ Sharing of information about countermeasures which have been evaluated or implemented
  - Lessons learned
  - Evidence for/against effectiveness
  
- ❑ Improved understanding of how to compare data between countries
  - Cultural factors
  - Environmental factors
  - Railroad factors

# Intended Outputs/Outcomes/Impacts

- ❑ Better allocation of resources
  - No duplication of effort when implementing unproven/novel countermeasures
  - Strategic implementation based on lessons learned
  
- ❑ Improve adoption and facilitate use of proven mitigation strategies
  
  
- ❑ Improve information sharing internationally
  - Increase collaboration
  - More broadly disseminate findings
  - Collaboration on data collection, terminology, sharing of “Best Practices”

# Next Steps

- ❑ Continue to meet regularly to share information
- ❑ Continue to share findings and mitigation strategies globally
- ❑ Use findings from GRASP to guide FRA research program in this area
- ❑ Document findings from first year of effort to consolidate knowledge