Union Pacific Railroad/CCJPA
RIGHT OF WAY CLEAN-UP TEAM:
Safety/Security Improvement Program

AASHTO Council on Rail Transportation Meeting  Feb, 20, 2019
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Capitol Corridor (Sacramento-Oakland/San Francisco-San Jose
Capitol Corridor Service Area

- 170-mile route (~290 track miles)
  - 168 miles-UPRR
  - 2 miles-Caltrain (SF Peninsula)
- Northern California Megaregion
  - Sacramento / Sierra Foothills
  - Oakland / S.F. Bay Area
  - San Jose/Silicon Valley
- Only public transport serving entire route
- Service area: 5 universities; 3 international airports; popular tourist destination/SF; State Capitol of 5th largest economy in world
- Rely on extensive connections to local transit and communities
- Operated by Amtrak under management of Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA)
Right of Way Cleanup: Cause

- According to federal surveys, there has been a surge in unsheltered individuals since 2017.
- California accounts for 30% of homeless individuals.
- Metro areas in California lack affordable housing.
- This housing shortage in CA has caused an increase in homelessness that has spread to railroad rights-of-way.
Homeless Population

On a single night in January, half of all people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. were from four states:

- California 30% (109,008)
- New York 11% (39,827)
- Florida 6% (21,443)
- Texas 5% or (19,199)
• Homeless encampments along RR RoW increases the incidents of illegal dumping and unauthorized access/trespassing activities
• Impact to train service reliability with debris strikes, near-misses, and trespasser injuries/fatalities
• UPRR and CCJPA are expending resources reacting to these service disruptions
• Lingering impacts to safety of communities along the route
Right of Way Cleanup: Solution

• In 2017, the CCJPA Board authorized the CCJPA staff to submit an application for the CCJPA/UPRR Right of Way Abatement team

• CCJPA successfully secured funds and working with UPRR established RR RoW Abatement Teams
  – Install and repair railroad fences
  – Remove vegetation and unauthorized encampments
  – Clean illegal dumping
  – Install No Trespassing and other Similar Signs

• CCJPA Board provided policy guidance that individuals in illegal encampments are provided with 72-hour notice of removal unless there is an immediate safety concern
Right of Way Cleanup: Program

- Program is overseen by UPRR and CCJPA Program Managers
- Work is based on prior monthly site surveys or reports from others
- If necessary, contact is made with local city or county to coordinate any cleanup activities
- Ensure a request is placed with the local homelessness outreach team to provide assistance during any encampment removal
- Monthly reports include before and after picture(s) and GPS location of the area are documented, along with any notes for specific location issues.
Railroad Right-Of-Way Map
Right-of-Way Oakland Cleanup

BEFORE

AFTER
Right-of-Way Oakland Cleanup

BEFORE

AFTER
Right-of-Way Oakland Cleanup

BEFORE

AFTER
Results of Investment = Reduction in Incidents

Dollars Invested ($)

Delay Incidents

Week

Delays due to Debris
Delays due to Trespasser
Dollars Invested
Debris Trend
Trespasser Trend
Thank you

@CapitolCorridor