



SFRTA Rail Safety Improvements

Palm Beach TPA
December 15, 2022

Victor O. Garcia
Director of Public Affairs



NATIONAL STATS

Florida ranks #3 in the nation in trespassing casualties and #6 in highway-rail grade crossing collisions.

Based on Preliminary 2021 Federal Railroad Administration Statistics

TRESPASSING

RANK	STATE	TOTAL CASUALTIES	DEATHS	INJURIES
1.	California	242	141	101
2.	Texas	119	57	62
3.	Florida	58	36	22
4.	New York	48	23	25
5.	Washington	40	24	16
6.	Illinois	39	20	19

COLLISIONS

RANK	STATE	COLLISIONS	DEATHS	INJURIES
1.	Texas	247	17	58
2.	California	169	35	37
3.	Georgia	132	8	37
4.	Illinois	125	21	32
5.	Indiana	120	14	45
6.	Florida	94	22	46

SOUTH FLORIDA RAIL CORRIDOR

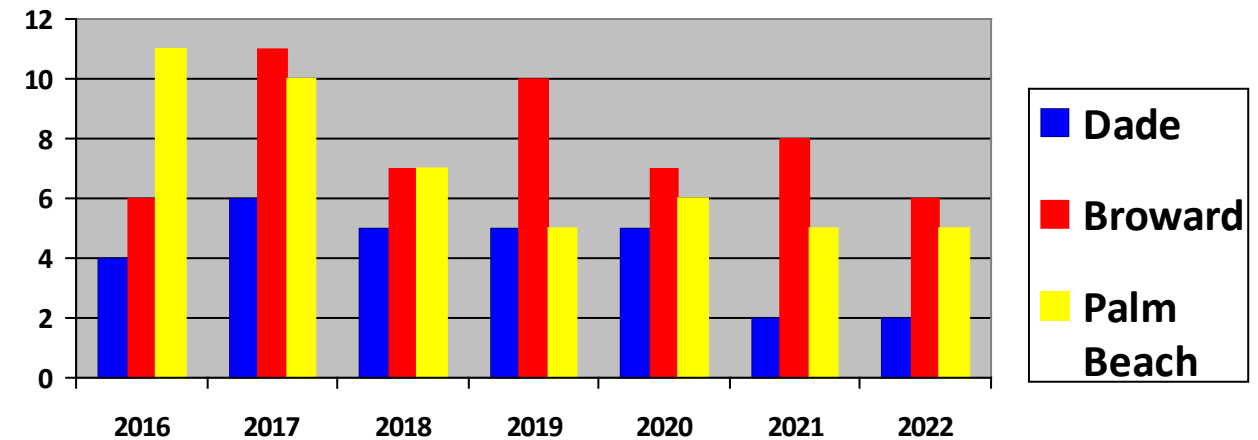


- The 73.4-mile stretch of rail spans 18 stations over a dozen municipalities with 72 rail crossings on corridor.
- Right of way vehicle incursions and vehicles stopped on tracks continue to be the biggest issue with grade crossings.
- Combination of issues include confusing roadway markings and directional arrows, proximity of I-95 exit ramps, amount of tourists unfamiliar with roads, GPS confusion and careless drivers.
- Most trespassing caused by people seeking shortcuts either across or alongside tracks.
- Persons seeking to commit suicide by train generally enter at a crossing and linger in a secluded area.

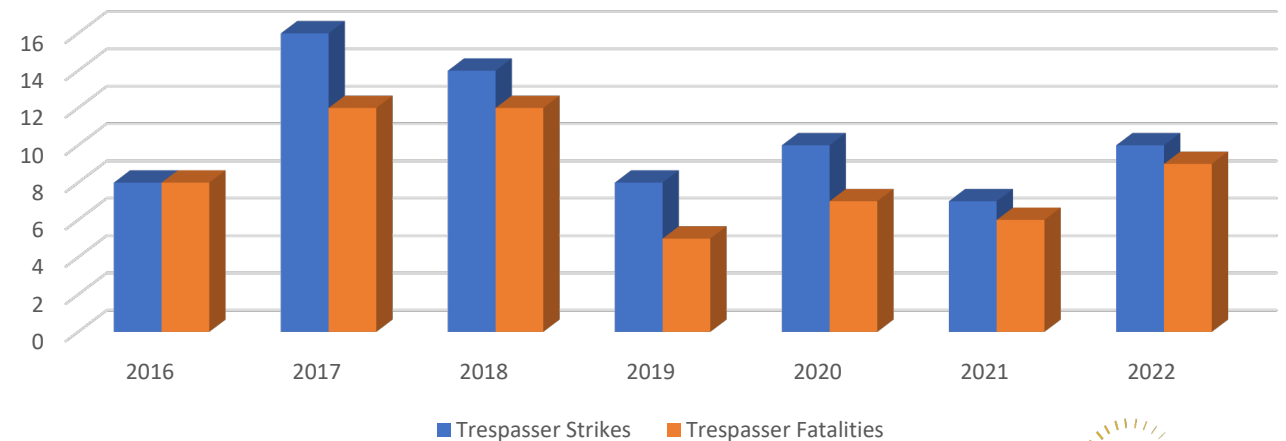
INCIDENT REPORTS

- Trespassing violations and related “near misses” go undetected due to our inability to observe happenings in and around the railway and our current, limited capacity to provide comprehensive enforcement.
- Installation of cut resistant, non-scalable fencing installed in select areas of Palm Beach County resulted in reduction of trespassing and no trespasser strikes in area in 2021.
- Plastic delineators decreased vehicle incursions by 95% where installed.

Total incidents throughout all 3 counties:



South Florida Rail Corridor Trespasser Strikes



ENGINEERING PROJECTS

- SFRTA and FDOT are making the installation of delineators a road crossing standard.
- FDOT/SFRTA have identified (10) road crossings that have a history of vehicle intrusions that will have delineators installed.
- The new FDOT “No Trespassing” signs with FS statue will be posted on all railroad crossing rehab projects at all (4) quadrants.
- Approximately .5 miles of “premium” fencing with wayside signage will be installed in WPB in a high trespassing intrusion area near an elementary school.

ENGINEERING PROJECTS

- Approximately 3 miles of No Trespassing signage will be installed in WPB.
- SFRTA and FDOT are focusing on ROW dumping and vegetation mediation.
- SFRTA/FDOT are engaged in a road crossing signal safety project(s) that includes LED lights and crossing warning protection upgrades affecting (21) road crossings.
- SFRTA/FDOT will be conducting a new “wireless” crossing warning activation technology in a “shadow mode” trial operation to prevent pre-activations of crossings that are near to a commuter station stop.

PARTNERING EFFORTS



- FDOT awarded SFRTA a 2-Year \$200,000 grant for railroad safety, including trespassing prevention measures covering FY 2021 and 2022
- Safety videos uploaded on Tri-Rail's YouTube page where they can be easily shared on social media

THE WORK CONTINUES

- SFRTA awarded \$56,500 FRA grant to implement Railroad Trespassing Suicide Prevention Program, thanks in great part to partnership with 2-1-1
- Advent of social media allows for digital media to be shared continuously to boost safety message
- Continued working relationships and great support of FDOT will help the effort to keep our tracks safe



THANK YOU!

Victor O. Garcia
Director of Public Affairs
954-788-7925

garcia@sfrta.fl.gov
www.tri-rail.com

