



March 2023

# Promoting customer safety near the right of way

# Raising the alarm on subway surfing

METRO



## NYC teen killed while subway surfing on train across Williamsburg Bridge

By Larry Celona and Allie Griffin

February 21, 2023 | 12:49am | Updated

A 15-year-old boy died while “subway surfing” on a train crossing the Williamsburg Bridge Monday evening, police said.

The teen was riding on the roof of a northbound J train heading across the bridge when he slammed his head on a part of the structure around 6:45 p.m., according to the NYPD.

He fell beneath the train and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The MTA halted J and M train service between the Marcy Av and Delancey St-Essex St stations for several hours as officers investigated. Both trains were still running with delays past 11 p.m., according to the agency.

The victim’s identity has been withheld pending family notification.

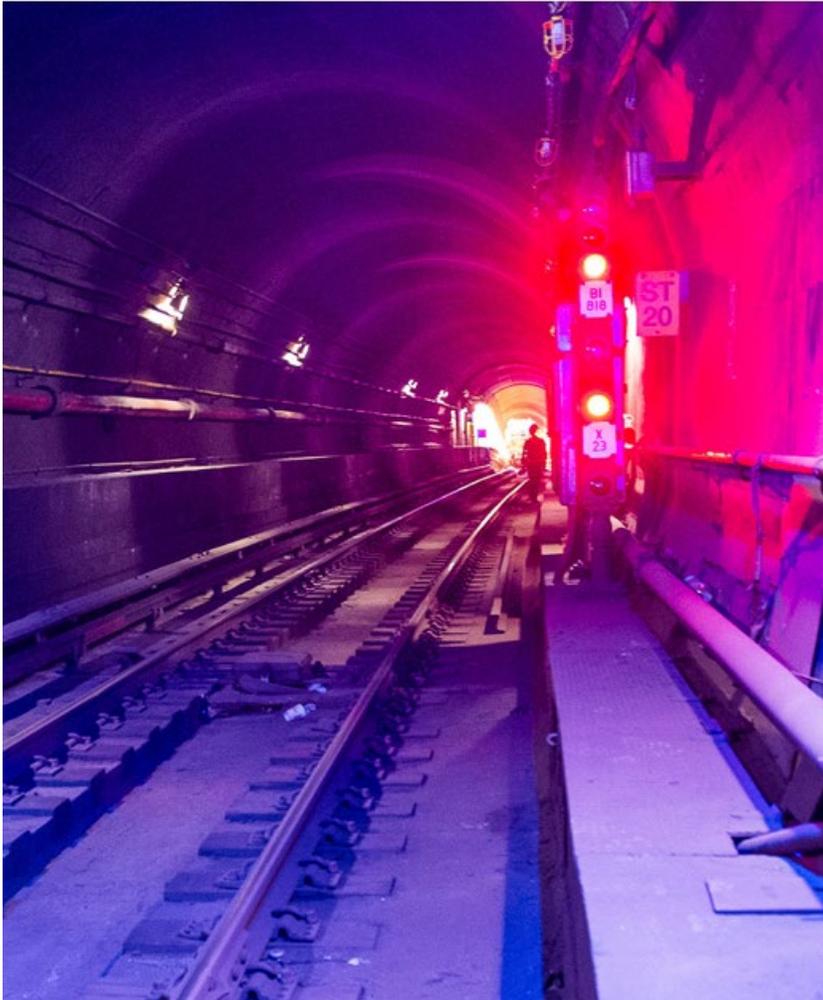
In a statement, NYC Transit President Richard Davey warned of the dangers of subway surfing.

“We cannot stress enough how dangerous it is to ride on the outside of trains,” Davey said. “Our hearts go out to loved ones at yet another tragic time. We implore other families to speak with their children on the real dangers of what can seem like a thrill but is too often deadly.”

## MTA ACTIONS

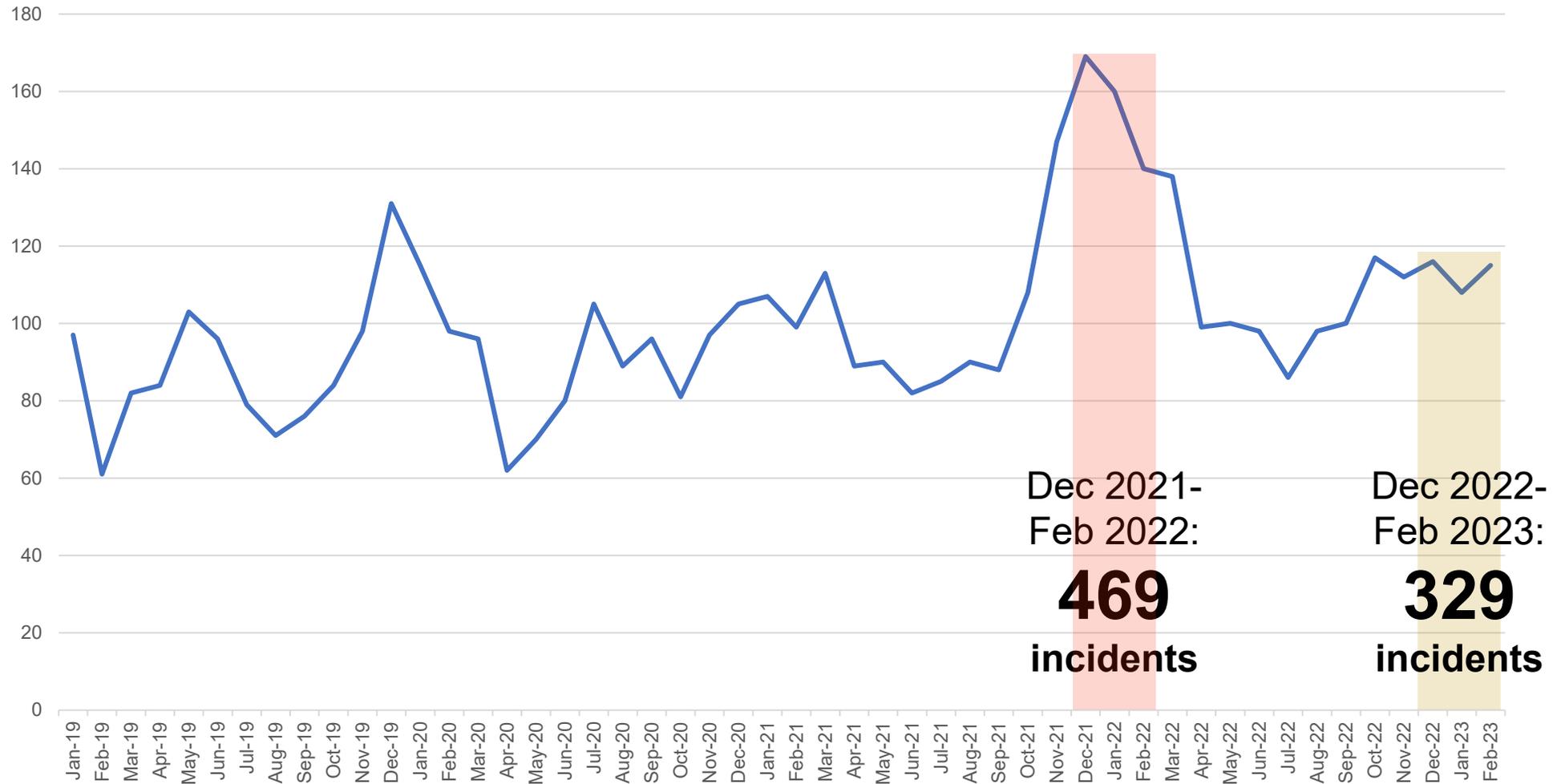
- Request that social media companies block videos and suspend accounts
- Strategic deployment of police focus to top surfing locations
- Collaboration with public schools
- Public messaging

# Subway surfing is just one track safety issue



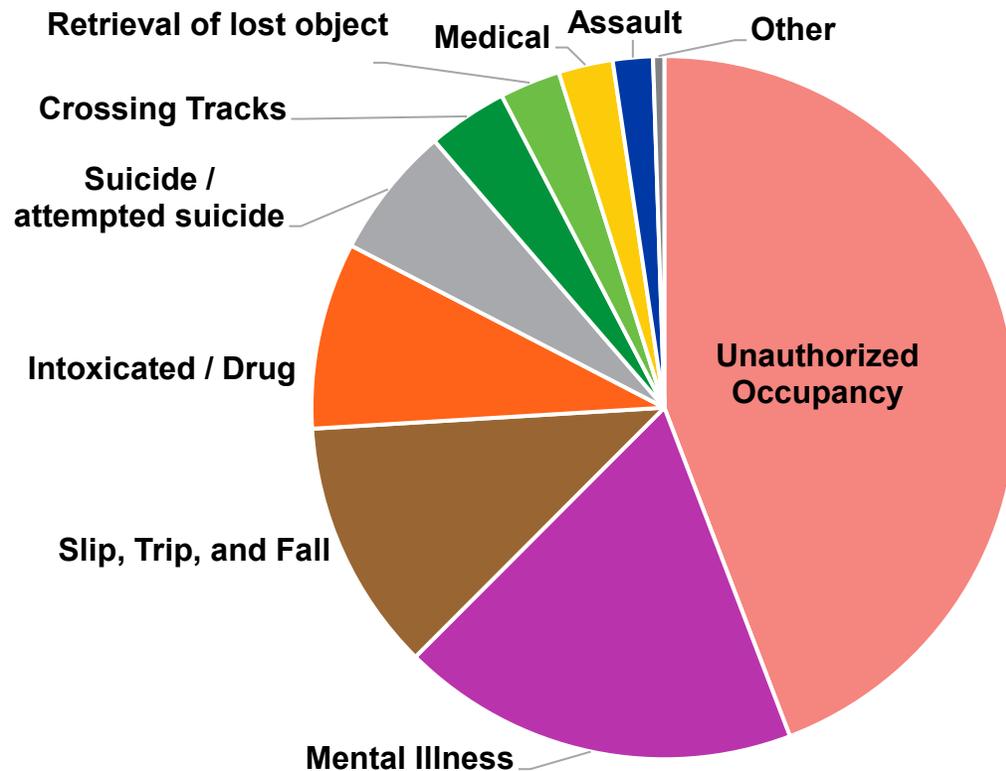
In the fall of 2021, the MTA launched a Track Trespassing Task Force to address the issue of track intrusion

# Track trespassing incidents down 30% this winter



# Better data collection

There were 1,364 incidents of track trespassing in 2022, including 88 fatalities



# Cops, Cameras & Care program has helped

- Surge of NYPD, MTAPD / more visible presence in the system
- Continued rollout of cameras and AI technology
- Social-service outreach in high-traffic stations

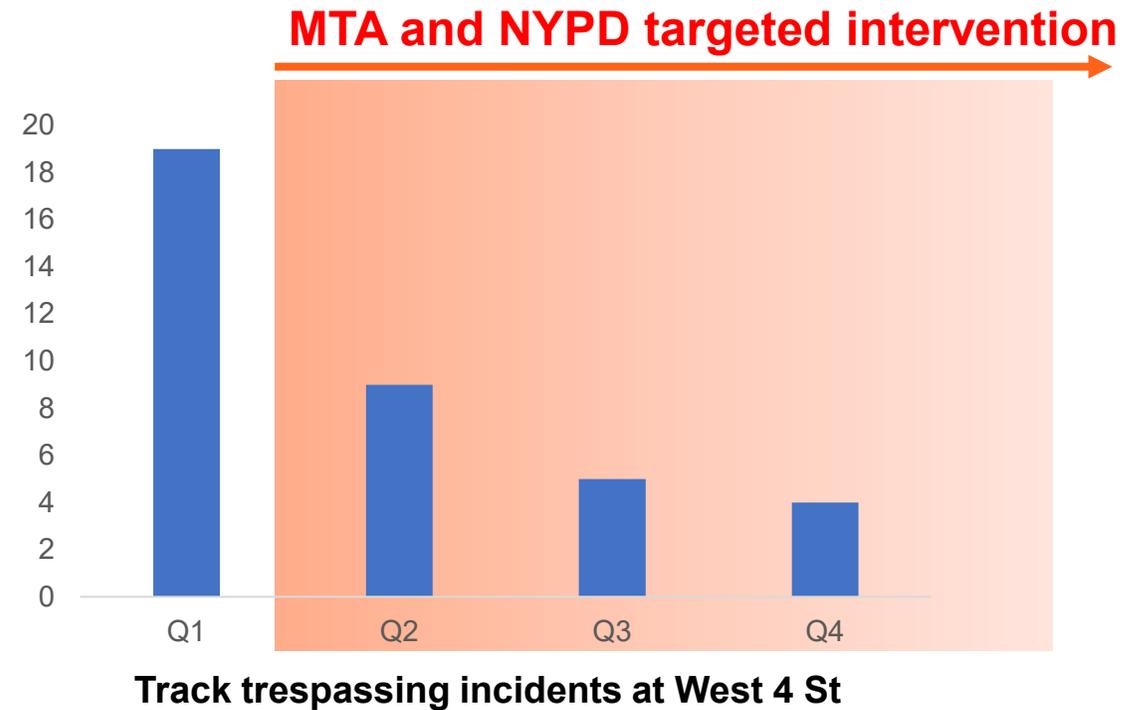


# Better data means better deployment of resources

## Case study: West 4 St

ACEBDFM

Data analytics identified West 4 St as the location of an unusually large number of trespassing incidents



# Grade crossing safety awareness



# Customer communications

**Stay off  
the tracks**

Trains may come at any time  
from either direction



**Your pain is real,  
but so is hope**

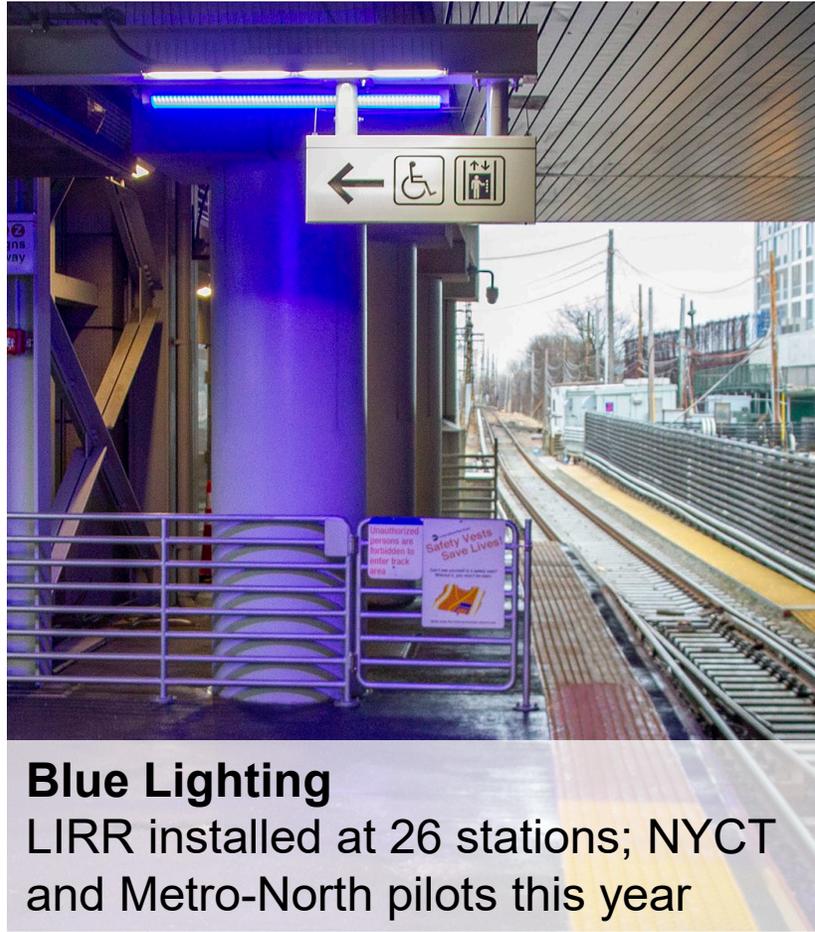


Call or text  
**988**

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline  
**We're here. We care. We'll listen.**

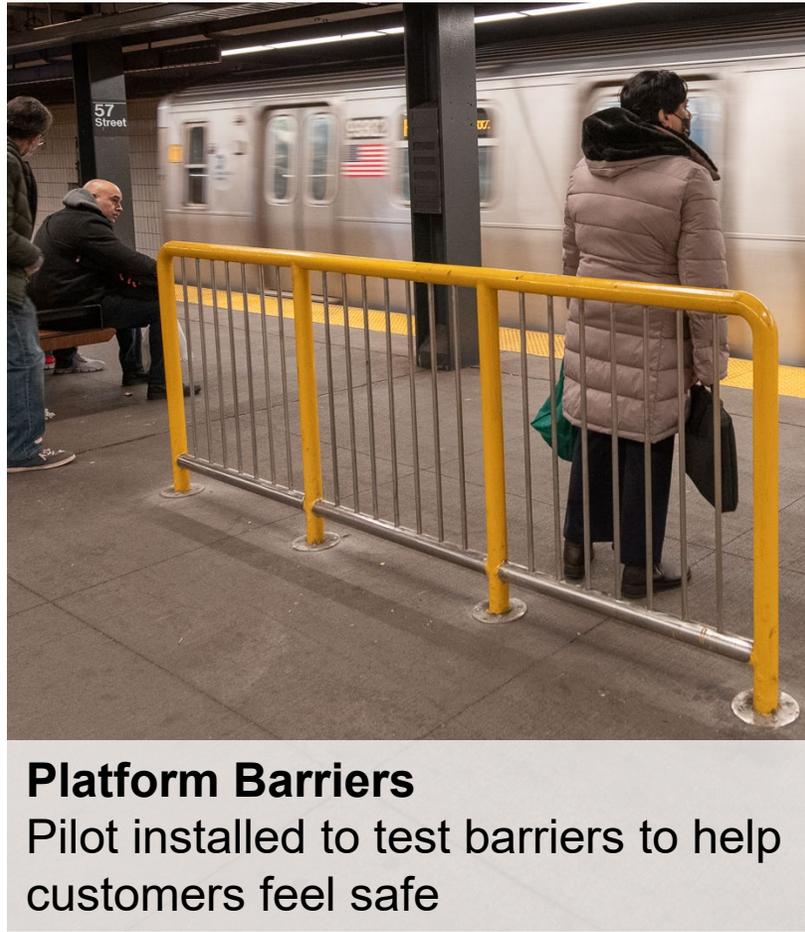
- Signage to encourage safe behavior near tracks and on bridges
- New collaboration with a national suicide prevention initiative
- Consultation with NYU Department of Psychiatry

# Small interventions can make a difference



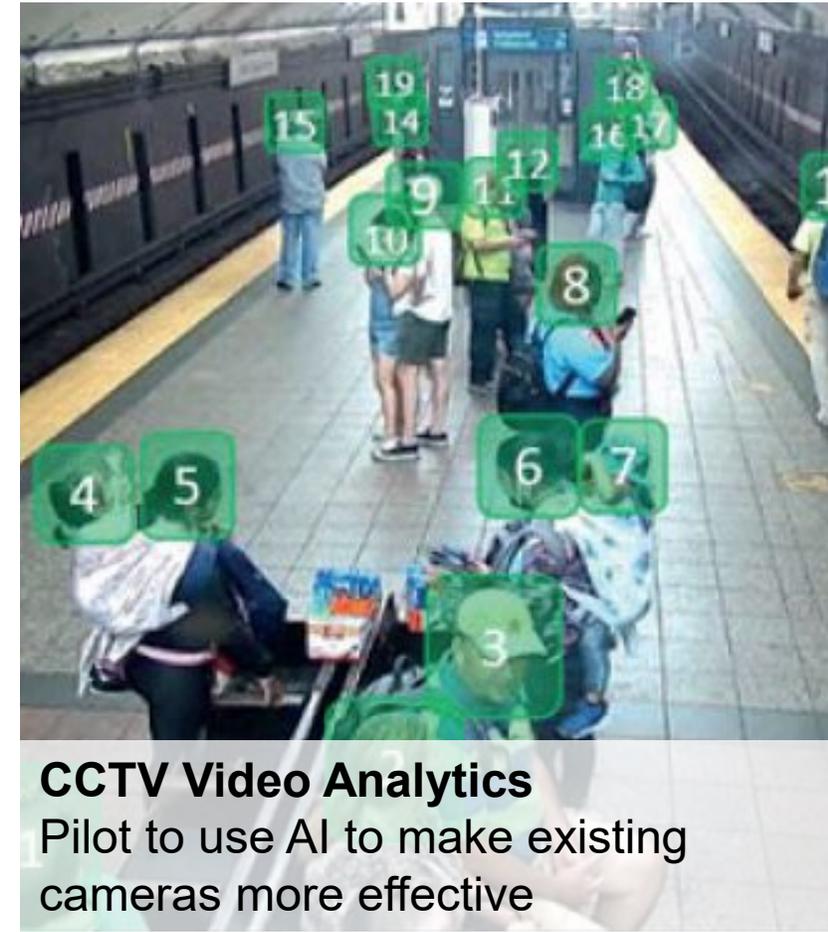
## Blue Lighting

LIRR installed at 26 stations; NYCT and Metro-North pilots this year



## Platform Barriers

Pilot installed to test barriers to help customers feel safe



## CCTV Video Analytics

Pilot to use AI to make existing cameras more effective

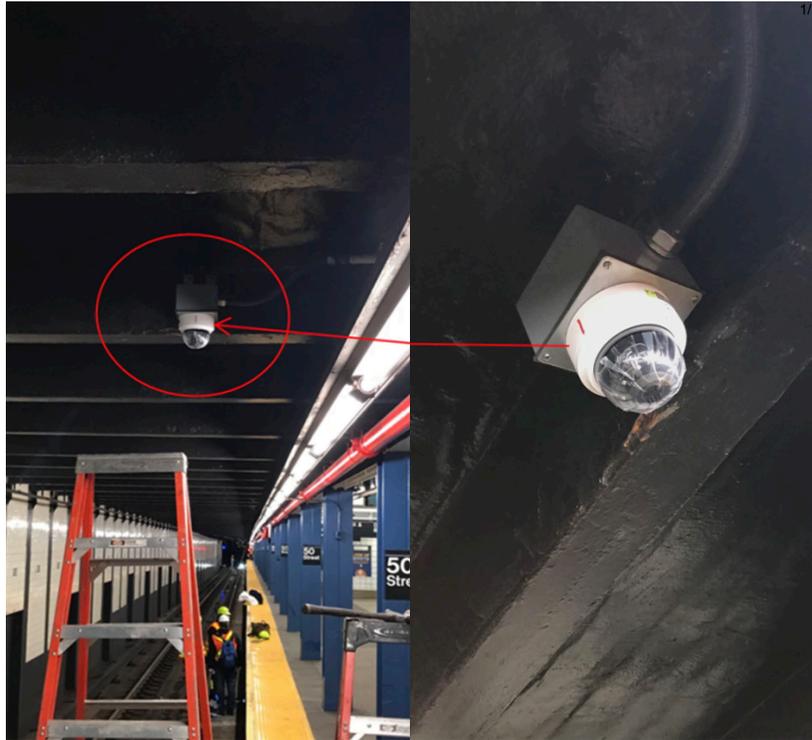
# Cameras can help detect activity on the tracks



## Front Facing Cameras

Successful proof of concept in 2022; now piloting bigger-scale implementation

# Long range technology projects



**Track Intrusion Detection System**  
Procurement to begin this year



**Laser Intrusion Detection System**  
Round of stations awarded in 2022;  
next round in development



**Platform Screen Doors**  
RFQ released last fall; RFP to be  
released this spring

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