

Seeking new ways to protect surface transportation systems from explosives attacks

With multiple access points, a lack of resources, extensive ridership, and hubs that often serve multiple carriers, mass transit systems are extremely difficult to monitor and secure.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and local transit agencies are searching for better ways to protect citizens traveling by mass transit. Traditional security screening systems, like those used in aviation security, are not a viable option. These systems, which are not designed for such heavy foot traffic, would create long lines and passenger delays in a matter of seconds. Transit agencies need new technologies that are capable of scanning large crowds quickly and accurately.

S&T is developing mass transit security solutions

To date, surface transit security remains at potential risk. While securing these systems falls on the owners and operators of the systems, local law enforcement, and local governments, the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate is looking for ways to help secure these systems.



Working with TSA and local transit authorities, S&T is identifying, developing, testing and transitioning solutions to protect the nation's surface transportation systems from threats. To develop these solutions, S&T is:

- Conducting a national survey of mass transit rail and ferry properties to frame future technology development.
- Identifying technology requirements and systems frameworks specific to the surface transportation environment.
- Developing explosives detection and mitigation technologies, including stand-off detection tools, for the mass transit rail and ferry environments.

Extensive testing and evaluation on technologies that meet end users' needs

Technologies that meet the needs of end users will undergo extensive operational testing and evaluation in operational environments. S&T will ensure solutions are flexible so they can easily be integrated into the existing infrastructure of transit systems across the nation.

Once finalized, these technologies will be made available for procurement through the Transportation Security Grant Program.

