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OVER-THE-ROAD-BUS INTELLIGENCE AWARENESS DAILY (OTRBIAD) REPORT

February 27, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

4 Detained After Woman Injured In Shooting At Waterfront Metro Station, Police Say *FOX 5, 2/26/2025*

[Washington, D.C.] A woman is in the hospital after police say she was hit by a bullet at the Waterfront Metro station Tuesday night. Police say the shots were fired during an attempted robbery and the woman was not the intended victim. Metro Transit Police officers responded to the Waterfront Station for the report of shots fired just after 9 p.m. The platform was evacuated and trains were directed to bypass the station. Waterfront Metro Station reopened Wednesday morning. Officers arrived on the scene and found the woman suffering from a single gunshot wound. She was taken to a local hospital with what appear to be non-life-threatening injuries. Police say the preliminary investigation revealed that just before the shooting, five individuals were involved in an attempted robbery on the mezzanine level of the station when shots were fired. A bullet ricocheted and struck the woman.

<https://www.fox5dc.com/news/woman-injured-shooting-waterfront-metro-station-police-say>

Metro Transit Bus Crashes Into East Side Restaurant After Passenger Attacks Driver *Wisconsin State Journal, 2/25/2025*

[Madison, Wisconsin] Two people were injured when a Metro Transit bus crashed into an East Side building Tuesday night after the driver was attacked by a passenger who was angry the bus wasn't going where she wanted it to go, authorities reported. The woman who Madison police say caused the crash fled the scene before officers arrived and is still being sought. Police will review video from the bus, police spokesperson officer Stephanie Fryer said in a statement. The crash caused heavy damage to two of the businesses in the building at the corner of Milwaukee Street and Dempsey Road. Two back offices at QPS Employment Group will need to be repaired, and the Asian House Chinese restaurant saw damage to its kitchen, especially to a large ventilation hood. https://madison.com/news/local/crime-courts/article_0fc6ae6e-f3f5-11ef-bf8a-2f2978dee913.html

ANALYST COMMENTARY: At approximately 7:40 p.m. on 25 February 2025, a female passenger on a Metro bus in Madison, Wisconsin reportedly “got upset when she learned that the bus wasn’t going to her desired location” and “allegedly began to push and fight with the bus driver,” which caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle and crash into a restaurant. Emergency personnel responded,

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though the attacker fled the scene before law enforcement arrived, and has not been identified nor arrested. The bus destroyed a wall of the restaurant and the Madison Fire Department's Heavy Urban Rescue Team was needed to assist in debris removal while the bus was extricated from the building. Two people at the scene were injured, including the driver, one of whom was hospitalized, though it is unclear if the driver is the one who was hospitalized. According to the Urban Institute, reported attacks against transit operators roughly tripled from 2008 to 2022, going from 168 to 492 annual reported events nationwide. Researchers stress that the true numbers are likely much higher due to inconsistent or high reporting thresholds. In response to the rising number of transit operator assaults, in November 2024 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a general directive mandating 700 transit agencies in the U.S. conduct a risk assessment for their operations and provide their "data-driven" findings to the FTA by early-2025. The preliminary results were released by the FTA in January 2025, which showed 68 percent of respondents who conducted a safety risk assessment found additional mitigations were needed for operator safety. The General Directive also sought input on which mitigations are deemed effective, to which most transit agencies (83 percent) said video and audio surveillance systems were effective. In addition, 81 percent of respondents said automatic vehicle location systems were effective, and 78 percent said patrol strategies were effective. The least effective strategies directly mentioned were public awareness campaigns (52 percent), and signage informing riders of surveillance and penalties (62 percent). The preliminary responses to the FTA's General Directive can be found here; <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2025-01/Responses-to-General-Directive-%2824-1%29-01-22-2025.pdf>

Man Charged With Firing Gun On CATS Bus In East Charlotte WCNC, 2/26/2025

[Charlotte, North Carolina] Surveillance video obtained by WCNC Charlotte shows the moment a gun was fired inside a CATS bus during an argument in late January. The incident happened just before 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 along Lawyers Road in east Charlotte, according to a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police report. The video shows the gunman and another man getting into an argument before the shooter pulled out a handgun. Two other passengers got off the bus while the two men yelled at each other. The gunman, identified by CMPD as Isaiah Marcilino Johnson, 23, stood up and got closer to the victim a few seconds later. As the men continued to argue, the shooter pointed the gun at the victim's face and then fired a shot at the ground before getting off the bus. He was last seen walking away from the bus on surveillance video. The victim appeared to follow him off the bus before officers were called to the area. <https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/crime/surveillance-video-shot-fired-cats-bus-during-argument-east-charlotte/275-024e1da3-84c9-4223-bbc0-974a787a69a2>

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TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

Woman Caught Trying To Plant Explosive Devices At Tesla Dealership

ABC News, 2/27/2025

[Colorado] A woman in Colorado has been arrested after police caught her with explosives at a Tesla dealership, police said. The 40-year-old suspect, Lucy Grace Nelson, was arrested on Monday after the Loveland Police Department launched an "extensive investigation" on Jan. 29 following a series of vandalizations with incendiary devices at the Tesla Dealership in Loveland, Colorado, according to a statement from the police released on Wednesday. "On Monday evening, Nelson returned to Loveland Tesla while in possession of additional incendiary devices, along with materials attributed to vandalism," the Loveland Police Department said. "Detectives apprehended Nelson prior to further damage occurring." Nelson was immediately arrested and booked into the Larimer County Jail after being charged with explosives or incendiary devices use during felony, criminal mischief and criminal attempt to commit a Class 3 felony, authorities said. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/woman-caught-plant-explosive-devices-tesla-dealership/story?id=119244251>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 24 February 2025, law enforcement in Loveland, Colorado arrested Lucy Nelson, age 40, at a Tesla dealership (store) in connection with a series of vandalism incidents that had recently occurred at the store. Of note, Tesla does not technically have dealerships, which are owned by third parties that sell vehicles from manufacturers. Tesla stores that sell vehicles are operated by Tesla employees. Nelson was in possession of improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) at the time of her arrest and was charged with criminal mischief and use of an explosive or incendiary device. The first incident occurred at the store on 29 January 2025, during which a suspect, alleged to be Nelson, threw a Molotov cocktail made from a Smirnoff Ice bottle at a Tesla Cybertruck in the lot. Then, on 2 February, someone spray painted the word 'Nazi' on Tesla signage near the store. On 7 February, someone threw four Molotov cocktail style incendiaries at vehicles in the lot and graffiti'd several vehicles and the store itself, some of which read 'Nazi cars'. On 11 February, a facility security guard chased a person away from the dealership as they were spray painting "F--- Musk" on Tesla property, and on 18 February, someone spray painted the word 'nazi' on the structure and 15 vehicles in the lot. Police have not provided a motive in the case; however, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives' (BATFE) Denver Division is providing assistance in the investigation and has said the suspect may also face federal charges. Tesla stores have seen a spike in targeting by criminal actors in recent weeks, though the motivations behind the attacks are unclear, and it's unclear if the attackers are aware of each other or coordinating their attacks. In January 2025, a Tesla store in Salem, Oregon had its windows smashed and a car was lit on fire. More recently, on 19 February, the same store in Oregon was intentionally shot up during overnight hours and another vehicle was lit on fire. Police have not named any suspects in the two Oregon incidents. Responses to the incidents

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online have been mixed, with a concerning number of people online voicing support for the criminal acts. Some of those voicing support for the incidents online are anti-capitalist extremists who are likening these incidents to the murder of a healthcare CEO in December 2024, and calling for further criminal acts against figures they perceive to be representative of capitalism.

Counter-Terrorism Agency Aware Of Threat Against Festival At Ahoy Rotterdam

NL Times, 2/26/2025

[Netherlands] The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) is aware of a report from Germany that terrorists may be targeting Festival de Liebe at Ahoy in Rotterdam on March 7 and 8. The Rotterdam authorities are also looking into it. "The police are investigating," a spokesperson for Rotterdam mayor Carola Schouten told the media. The NCTV pointed out that the terrorism threat level in the Netherlands has been at 4 out of 5 since December 2023. "This means that there is a real chance that an attack will occur in the Netherlands," the agency said. The NCTV is looking at "in what way any additional measures are necessary." A spokesperson for Ahoy Rotterdam told RTL Nieuws that it, too, was aware of the threat and has contacted the police. "Of course, safety is paramount for Rotterdam, Ahoy, its visitors, and employees." A police spokesperson told ANP that they are "collecting information to get a good picture and, in consultation with Ahoy, we are looking at what measures are necessary."

<https://nltimes.nl/2025/02/26/counter-terrorism-agency-aware-threat-festival-ahoy-rotterdam>

A US Withdrawal from Syria Will Reinvigorate the ISIS Terror Threat

Institute for the Study of War, 2/26/2025

The withdrawal of US forces from Syria would risk reversing hard-earned gains against the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS). ISIS is not destroyed. It is kept in check by the combined pressure of US forces in Iraq and Syria and their Kurdish allies. The withdrawal of US forces will remove that pressure and allow ISIS to reconstitute, likely rapidly, to dangerous levels. The US military presence in Syria has contained ISIS and prevented the group from conducting attacks in the West—all at minimal risk to US personnel in Syria. The fall of the Bashar al Assad regime has opened new opportunities for the United States to conclude its mission to defeat ISIS. Withdrawing from Syria, on the other hand, would alleviate pressure on ISIS and enable the group to reconstitute and establish sanctuaries in Syria. That would in turn allow ISIS to threaten Iraq and plan terror attacks in the West, imposing yet another demand on US policymakers' attention and resources. Russia and Turkey have offered to support the counter-ISIS mission, but they lack the ability and willingness to do so effectively. The United States cannot depend on the others to fill the role that only American forces can.

<https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/us-withdrawal-syria-will-reinvigorate-isis-terror-threat>

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SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

CHP Uses AI Surveillance To Arrest Bay Area Suspect On Oakland Bus

SF Gate, 2/25/2025

[Oakland, California] A man fleeing the California Highway Patrol attempted to evade officers by boarding a Bay Area bus on Wednesday night but was promptly arrested thanks to new government surveillance tools and now faces multiple charges, authorities wrote online. CHP said it learned that a stolen Jeep Wagoneer was in Oakland on Feb. 19 around 6 p.m. after receiving an alert from the agency's Flock Safety camera system. The network uses artificial intelligence-powered cameras to read license plates. Oakland has installed 289 cameras with more on the way, while San Francisco expects to have about 400 cameras active by this summer. After learning that the Jeep was in the Oakland region, CHP identified the vehicle using a fixed-wing aircraft that was already in the area, CHP spokesperson Adib Zeid told SFGATE. CHP said that officers attempted to make an enforcement stop but were unsuccessful. Zeid said that the suspect then fled in the Jeep and that officers on the ground then "backed off" for public safety concerns. Instead, the aircraft continued pursuing the Jeep from the air. CHP said that the car stopped near 16th Street and Market Street in Oakland and the driver then fled the vehicle. Zeid said that the suspect boarded an AC Transit bus near 14th Street and Market Street but was quickly arrested. <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/ai-cameras-aircraft-bay-area-bus-helped-chp-arrest-20187811.php>

Labor, Emissions Top Public Transit Leader Concerns: Optibus Report

Smart Cities Dive, 2/26/2025

Many aspects of public transit have undergone changes since the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged about five years ago. Ridership nationally in the U.S. has only recovered to about 80% of pre-pandemic levels, and travel patterns have changed, with increased demand at night and on weekends. Labor shortages persist, with some transit agencies offering hiring and retention bonuses. Transit operators, agencies, authorities and others responding to the survey said electrification of bus fleets will become a critical goal within the next five years, but they cited infrastructure delays, funding shortages and regulatory issues as major challenges to the transition. Technology investments came next in North American survey respondents' priorities. Lack of real-time monitoring of transit vehicles costs money and leads to service disruptions, fines and costly fixes, the report states. While 38% of North American organizations in the survey have piloted AI tools, just 12% are using artificial intelligence and seeing measurable results. <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/transit-agency-top-concerns-priorities-optibus-report/740996/>

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Grand Central Passageway Opens To Ease 7 Train Crowds – 1 Year After Priest's Blessing *Gothamist, 2/25/2025*

[New York] The MTA has delivered a small transit miracle. The agency opened a gleaming new \$75 million passageway Tuesday that will ease crowding from the platform of the 7 train to the mezzanine of the Grand Central-42nd Street station – one year after a priest blessed the project. The walkway was completed on schedule and under budget. The passageway was built using “controlled, low velocity explosions” through the notoriously hard Manhattan bedrock, the transit agency said. The trains kept running as the workers who make New York City’s tunnels, known as sandhogs, toiled below Midtown streets, creating the passageway. “One thing that we hold dear is we don't disrupt a single commute unless it's absolutely necessary,” MTA Chair Janno Lieber said. Lieber said 150,000 riders get off the 7 train each day at the station, about as many daily riders on San Francisco’s entire BART system.
<https://gothamist.com/news/grand-central-passageway-opens-to-ease-7-train-crowds-1-year-after-priests-blessing>

Cubic Transportation Systems Announces FEnX The Next Generation of Fare Gates Advancing Revenue Protection, Accessibility and Safety *Cubic, 2/25/2025*

Cubic Transportation Systems, a global leader in public transport payment solutions, today introduced FEnX, a groundbreaking fare gate system that sets a new standard for revenue protection, security, and accessibility for transit networks worldwide. FEnX is reimagining transit infrastructure, seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology with user-centric design that reduces fare evasion, enhances passenger experience, and optimizes station efficiency. ... Fare evasion costs transit agencies billions annually, creating a critical need for effective enforcement without disrupting passenger flow. FEnX enhances revenue protection by leveraging computer vision with intelligent sensor fusion, GenAI, and machine learning to detect fare evasion in real time while ensuring seamless entry. The FEnX gate can accurately detect, record, and flag fare evasion as it’s happening, distinguishing between different types of fare evasion, such as pushing through or climbing under the paddles or tailgating, with great accuracy. The system also recognizes legitimate scenarios, like a mother holding her child’s hand versus someone who is fare evading. <https://www.cubic.com/news-events/news/cubic-announces-the-fenx-fare-gate>

CYBERSECURITY

WordPress Plugin Vulnerability Exposes 90,000 Sites to Attack *Infosecurity Magazine, 2/19/2025*

A critical vulnerability in the Jupiter X Core WordPress plugin, used on over 90,000 websites, has been identified by security researchers. The flaw, discovered on January 6, allows attackers with contributor

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privileges or higher to upload malicious SVG files and execute remote code on vulnerable servers. The issue (CVE-2025-0366) has been given a CVSS score of 8.8 (High). Researchers from Wordfence disclosed that the vulnerability stems from improper sanitization of SVG file uploads and the plugin's use of the `get_svg()` function, enabling attackers to bypass security controls. The flaw allows attackers to upload specially crafted SVG files containing PHP code. By chaining this with a vulnerability in the `get_svg()` function, malicious files can be executed on the server. "This makes it possible for authenticated attackers, with Contributor-level access and above, to include and execute arbitrary files on the server, allowing the execution of any PHP code in those files," Wordfence wrote. <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/wordpress-plugin-flaw-exposes/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: The Jupiter X Core WordPress plugin, which is used on more than 90,000 websites, has a significant security issue. This flaw, known as CVE-2025-0366, enables contributor-level users to submit malicious SVG files, potentially resulting in remote code execution on the server. The plugin's poor handling of SVG file uploads and improper usage of the `get_svg()` function, which hackers can take advantage of to get around security protections, are the main causes of the issue. SVG files are commonly used for scalable graphics though they can also contain embedded scripts. Unlike traditional images like PNG or JPEG, SVGs can execute JavaScript or even be manipulated to carry embedded PHP payloads. This makes them an attractive vector for cyberattacks, especially when file sanitization is lacking. Through the Wordfence Bug Bounty Program, a researcher going by the handle *stealthcopter* reported the vulnerability on 6 January 2025. On 29 January 2025, Artbees, the plugin's developer, responded by releasing a patch that fixed the problem. It is highly recommended that users update to version 4.8.8 as soon as possible to safeguard their websites. This incident emphasizes how crucial it is for WordPress site owners to follow regular maintenance and security procedures. While updating plugins is critical, attackers often move faster than patch cycles, so organizations should adopt web application firewalls (WAFs) that monitor suspicious file uploads, implement intrusion detection systems (IDS) to flag unexpected user actions, and enforce security headers that limit potential exploits.

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