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

### February 28, 2025

## SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

**Rayners Lane Station Fire: Passengers Evacuated As E-Bike Bursts Into Flames Causing Travel Chaos**
*The Mirror, 2/27/2025*

[London, England] Passengers at Rayner's Lane Tube station were told to "stay back" as three fire engines rushed to put out a blaze, sparked by an e-bike. The fire was reported at about 11.30am this morning, and the entire station was subsequently evacuated. The bike was left destroyed inside the station. One commuter posted a video on X showing a dismantled e-bike on the platform completely ablaze. The metal frame appeared to be almost entirely melted, on the back half of the bike was non-existent. Andy Calvert, who recorded the video, wrote on the social media site: "Rayners Lane underground station just now. This is why electric bikes shouldn't be allowed on the tube." A London Fire Brigade statement read: "We were called at around 11.30am today to reports of an e-bike alight on a platform at Rayners Lane Underground Station. Three fire engines attended and firefighters extinguished the fire. "There have been no reports of any injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation."
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/breaking-rayners-lane-station-fire-34762030

**Two Injured After Being Pushed Onto Tracks In Altercation At Norwood Park CTA Station; Suspect In Custody**
*Hoodline, 2/26/2025*

[Chicago, Illinois] Early Wednesday morning, a violent altercation on the Northwest Side left a man and woman injured after they were both pushed onto CTA Blue Line tracks. The incident, reported by the Chicago Sun-Times, occurred on the train platform in the 5500 block of North Harlem Avenue in Norwood Park, shortly before 3 a.m. Both victims, a 51-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman, suffered ankle injuries and were taken to Resurrection Hospital, said to be in good condition. A suspect was taken into custody following the incident, with charges pending. The altercation began as a verbal argument, which then escalated into a physical confrontation, during which the victims were pushed onto the tracks. Trains were briefly delayed by two minutes as a result of the incident, as noted by the WGN-TV coverage of the event. Police are investigating the cause of the altercation and the sequence of events leading up to the attack. https://hoodline.com/2025/02/two-injured-after-being-pushed-onto-tracks-in-altercation-at-norwood-park-cta-station-suspect-in-custody/

**NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION**

**Jackknifed Big Rig Crash On SB 101 Near SFO Causes Fuel Spill, Traffic Delays And Caltrain Alert**
*ABC 7, 2/27/2025*

[San Francisco, California] Lanes of southbound U.S. Highway 101 in Brisbane are expected to remain closed until late Thursday afternoon following a big-rig crash that also affected train service on the adjacent Caltrain tracks for hours, authorities said. The crash was reported at about 5 a.m. on southbound Highway 101 south of Sierra Point Parkway, where a bridge railing was damaged by the big-rig, according to the California Highway Patrol. The crash also knocked a fence onto overhead power lines that knocked out power on the Caltrain tracks in both directions. Power was restored on the northbound track by about 7:50 a.m. and on the southbound side by about 10 a.m., Caltrain spokesperson Dan Lieberman said. The two right lanes of southbound Highway 101 are expected to remain closed in the area until about 4 p.m. so Caltrans crews can work on the damaged bridge rail, CHP officials said. No injuries were reported in the crash. https://abc7news.com/post/jackknifed-big-rig-crash-sb-101-sfo-causes-fuel-spill-traffic-delays-caltrain-alert/15959528/

# TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

**'Too Wrapped Up In Politics': Man Accused Of Terrorism In Threat Against Musk's xAI**
*Commercial Appeal, 2/27/2025*

[Memphis, Tennessee] A man in Middle Tennessee is charged with an act of terrorism after threatening to burn down the xAI facility in Memphis. Ethan Early, 25, of Ashland City, Tennessee, was arrested and charged on Feb. 20 after he spoke with a police officer about the threats. Ashland City, in Cheatham County, sits on the northwest part of Nashville, about 200 miles away from Memphis. According to the affidavit, a police officer in Ashland City received a call from a friend of Early's who was concerned after Early told the friend he wanted to burn down a data center owned by Elon Musk. The friend advised the officer on the phone call that Early had begun purchasing thermite but had thrown it away after friends convinced him to. Thermite, a pyrotechnic composition that can create brief bursts of heat and reach temperatures of 45,000 degrees Fahrenheit, is illegal and considered a Class 1 explosive. https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2025/02/27/xai-terrorism-charge-elon-musk/80696167007/

**At Least 13 Injured After Car Rams Into Bus Stop In Israel**
*ABC News, 2/27/2025*

[Israel] At least 13 people have been injured after a car rammed into a bus stop in Israel, at Karkur Junction, according to Israeli police. The suspect is a 53-year-old Palestinian from the Jenin area who is married to an Israeli citizen and living in Israel without a permit, according to police. The driver ran over and injured several civilians standing at the bus stop, police said. The driver took off in his car, but was blocked by police vehicles. He rammed the police vehicle before being "neutralized" after he exited the

vehicle and charged at police with a sharp object, police said. There was no word on his condition. A 17-year-old girl was critically injured, two others seriously wounded, one moderately injured and six others suffered minor injuries, police said. Among those injured was a police officer, authorities said. https://abcnews.go.com/International/10-injured-after-car-rams-bus-stop-israel/story?id=119256673

**ANALYST COMMENTARY: During the afternoon of 27 February 2024, a 53-year-old Palestinian man intentionally drove his black SUV into a crowd of pedestrians at a bus stop in Karkur Junction, Israel. The exact sequence of events remains unclear; however, the man appears to have driven his vehicle into the crowd at high speed, then fled in his vehicle, driving another few hundred meters before he crashed into an Israeli law enforcement vehicle, at which point he dismounted and attempted to stab the officers with a screwdriver before he was apprehended. Approximately 14 people were injured during the incident, one of whom is in critical condition. Following the incident, Hamas issued praise for the attacker. Threat actors in Israel and Palestine frequently select public transit infrastructure as targets for their attacks. These attackers frequently use vehicles and explosives in their attacks. Some of the attacks involve the use of both, including an attack that occurred in Karkur Junction in October 2002, during which Palestinian Jihad attackers carried out a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) suicide attack against a bus, killing 14 people and injuring dozens of others. More recently, in September 2024, an attacker rammed a tanker truck into a crowd waiting at a bus stop in the West Bank, killing one, and in October 2024, an attacker rammed a truck into a bus stop near Tel Aviv, killing one and injuring dozens. Just last week, threat actors in the region emplaced improvised explosive devices (IEDs) with timed fuses on five buses in Israel, three of which detonated prematurely and two of which were removed by Israeli security personnel. While nobody was killed or injured during the recent bus bombings, these incidents continue to expose vulnerabilities in the region's public transit system.**

# SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

**Juvenile Arrested In Colorado In Connection To Shooting, Assault At RTD's Dayton Station**
*CBS, 2/27/2025*

[Denver, Colorado] A juvenile has been arrested in connection with a shooting and assault earlier this month at RTD's Dayton Station in the Denver metro area. Investigators said that a 17-year-old was killed and a 14-year-old was injured. The Greenwood Village Police Department arrested a juvenile male on Wednesday who investigators said had been under surveillance since earlier this month. Detectives said they continue to search for other suspects involved. https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/juvenile-arrested-colorado-connection-shooting-assault-rtd-dayton-station/

### Teen Charged In Connection To 2 Violent Robberies On CTA Red Line Trains Last Month
*CBS, 2/27/2025*

[Chicago, Illinois] A teenage boy was charged with beating and robbing passengers on two CTA Red Line trains last month. The 17-year-old boy was charged with four felony counts of robbery and three felony counts of aggravated battery to a transit employee/passenger. He also received an additional aggravated battery charge, causing great bodily harm. He was taken into custody on Wednesday around 12:15 p.m. in the 6400 block of South Dr. Martin Luther King Drive. The teen was identified as one of the suspects in the violent robbery of three people, two 19-year-old women, and one 20-year-old man, while riding a train in the 100 block of West 35th Street on Jan. 5, just before 5:30 p.m. He was also charged in connection to another violent robbery of a 45-year-old man 15 minutes earlier on a train in the 200 block of West Garfield Boulevard. https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/teen-charged-violent-robberies-cta-red-line-trains/

### The 'Smart Gates' That Could Catch Up To 100,000 Fare Dodgers A Day
*The Telegraph, 2/27/2025*

[London, England] Extra-high ticket barriers that use artificial intelligence to trap offenders could be installed at Tube stations to crack down on as many as 100,000 fare dodgers a day. The technology is designed to identify tailgating cheats who push through barriers behind paying passengers, according to developer Cubic Transportation Systems. The gates use AI-aided scanning software to detect instances of fare-dodging and immediately alert nearby guards while providing a record of the offence. Stretching from the floor to shoulder height, US company Cubic has designed the gates to stop wrongdoers from sliding beneath or jumping over them. Fare avoiders who manage to get into a station and take a free ride face getting stuck on the wrong side of the barrier as they seek to escape. Transport for London (TfL) lost an estimated £130m in revenue to fare dodgers in 2023, leading Sir Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, to raise ticketing fines to £100. https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2025/02/27/extra-high-ticket-barriers-to-trap-tube-fare-dodgers/

### MNPD Captain Appointed As 1st 'Transit Liaison' To Advance Safety At WeGo Facilities
*WKRN, 2/27/2025*

[Nashville, Tennessee] The Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPD) will soon have its first-ever permanent transit liaison to improve safety at WeGo facilities. According to Mayor Freddie O'Connell and MNPD Chief John Drake, Capt. Brian Williams was appointed for the position and will help advance safety at WeGo's downtown hub and neighborhood transit centers. The announcement comes after law enforcement responded to several crimes at various WeGo locations in 2024, including a teen who was shot and killed in the waiting area at WeGo Central. During a May 2024 meeting, WeGo officials reported the public transportation agency increased spending on contracted security services from $1.2 million to

$2.4 million between 2017 and 2024, adding they expected to invest more. … The MNPD said Williams will have offices at both police headquarters and WeGo Central. He will reportedly work with WeGo management and the system's new security company, Arch Angel, to "focus on data-driven decision making to proactively address safety issues and concerns." https://www.wkrn.com/news/local-news/nashville/mnpd-captain-appointed-as-1st-transit-liaison-to-advance-safety-at-wego-facilities/

**Metro Moves To Expand Weapon Screenings To More High Traffic Stations**
*CBS, 2/27/2025*

[Los Angeles, California] The Metro Board of Directors voted Thursday to move forward with the weapons screening pilot project, expanding it to more high-traffic train stations. Metro began the pilot program in Oct. 2024, as a trend of violence on Metro transportation was on the rise across Los Angeles. Two detection systems were tested at Los Angeles Union Station and at the APU/Citrus College Station, one randomly scanning passengers, and the other using closed-circuit video feeds to detect people carrying weapons. According to county Supervisor and Metro Board member Janice Hahn, neither system detected any passengers carrying weapons during the five-month test, but the systems detected officers' service weapons "with 100% accuracy." Metro security officials said that the technology serves more as a deterrent to prevent people from bringing weapons onto the transit system. Security officers witnessed some people leaving the Metro stations when they saw or were told that the weapons screening systems were in use. https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/los-angeles-metro-expand-weapon-screenings-stations/

**ANALYST COMMENTARY: Many venues, including sports arenas, stadiums, and museums, utilize some form of firearm or weapon detection software to screen event-goers as they enter through a checkpoint or controlled entry. These security checkpoints are effective, though they can be time consuming and inconvenient. Mass transit agencies have also piloted the use of these types of systems over the years to limited effect. In 2021, Amtrak and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) implemented millimeter-wave scanners and AI-powered baggage scanning technology at high traffic Amtrak hubs, including New York's Penn Station and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The technology implemented did increase the detection of concealed weapons with few errors; however, it was expensive to implement and slowed down the boarding process, particularly during peak transit hours, significantly. Amtrak did not expand the program nationwide, and instead took some lessons learned from the program to increase their existing security protocols. Their alternative solutions involved random security checks and additional security personnel. In New York, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has implemented various weapon detection system pilots in stations since at least 2022, which have had success in flagging visible firearms, though struggle to detect concealed weapons. The MTA pilots also experienced high rates of false positive flags, and claimed the systems increased the workload for the existing security personnel because the system required active monitoring and personnel needed to be trained to operate it. In**

2023, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) in Atlanta, Georgia also launched a weapon detection pilot program consisting of AI-powered cameras, also with limited success. The program did successfully identify weapons and cue law enforcement, though the system also generated a high number of false positives and required human oversight. In June 2024, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) agreed to a one year contract with an AI gun detection video analytics platform called ZeroEyes, becoming the first U.S. transit agency to fully deploy a firearm detection system. For the ZeroEyes system, the software is installed in existing security cameras infrastructure and combs footage for weapons. When a weapon is detected, the image is sent to ZeroEyes security specialists who man an ops center for confirmation. If the private operators confirm the positive, they forward the pertinent information to the RTC and nearby law enforcement.

# CYBERSECURITY

**Industrial System Cyberattacks Surge as OT Stays Vulnerable**
*Dark Reading, 2/25/2025*

Ransomware attacks on manufacturing, oil and gas, and other industrial sectors jumped significantly in 2024, as more groups emerged to target operational technology (OT); nearly a quarter of affected firms had to suspend operations. Overall, nearly 1,700 ransomware attacks successfully breached industrial organizations last year, as measured by attackers' posts on dedicated leak sites. That's an increase of 87% over the previous year, according to an OT/ICS report published by Dragos, an infrastructure security firm. The breaches led 25% of affected sites to halt operations, while 75% of attacks caused operational disruption to some degree, the company's report stated. Those are conservative estimates, Robert Lee, CEO and co-founder of Dragos, said during a press call announcing the report. Overall, the number of ransomware attacks is underreported because of fear of reputational damage, he said. "It's a much larger number than I think the public is aware of [because] there's not a huge incentive to report, and there's not a whole lot of value in reporting," Lee said. "Even if government wanted to get involved, it's like, what are you actually going to do?" https://www.darkreading.com/cyber-risk/industrial-system-cyberattacks-surge-ot-vulnerable

ANALYST COMMENTARY: With almost 1,700 cases recorded, ransomware attacks on industrial sectors such as manufacturing and oil and gas increased by 87 percent in 2024. Approximately 75 percent of these attacks produced some degree of disturbance, and 25 percent resulted in total operational shutdowns. The advent of 80 unique ransomware groups that target operational technology (OT) systems specifically is partially to blame for this dramatic spike in 2024. According to an analysis of one million OT devices, 31 percent of firms had internet-facing assets with known exploitable vulnerabilities, and 40 percent of organizations had at least one asset with an unsecured internet

connection. Many OT ransomware attacks now involve double and triple extortion, where attackers not only encrypt systems but also exfiltrate sensitive data and threaten to leak it or target supply chain partners. Some ransomware strains are now specifically designed for industrial systems, such as EKANS, which can disrupt critical ICS components. With 40 percent of industrial organizations having internet-exposed assets, attackers can exploit remote access tools like TeamViewer that are often hastily deployed without proper security controls, making OT environments an easy target. To combat these threats, organizations should adopt a risk-based approach to vulnerability management by identifying and securing critical OT assets, such as PLCs, HMIs, and SCADA systems, while implementing industrial demilitarized zones (IDMZs), firewalls, and strict access controls like MFA and RBAC. Continuous monitoring through SIEM solutions, IDS/IPS, and regular security assessments, including penetration testing and adherence to NIST 800-82 and IEC 62443, can help detect and mitigate threats in real-time.

**NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION**

Timely reporting to the **TSA Transportation Security Operations Center** is essential. Reports are made by telephone at **866-615- 5150** and by e-mail at **TSOC.ST@tsa.dhs.gov.**