

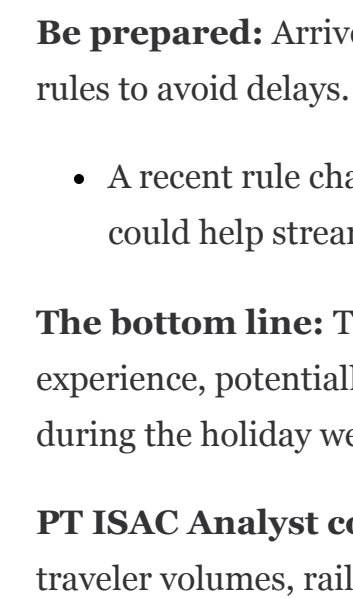
Public Transportation ISAC Transit & Rail Intelligence Awareness Daily Report (TRIAD)

By APTA • Aug 29, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 5 mins...1352 words

APTA is pleased to present a new format of the Public Transportation ISAC Transit & Rail Intelligence Awareness Daily Report. We hope this makes your intelligence gathering operation more effective with an improved product.

TSA issues travel alert for upcoming Labor Day holiday



Transportation Security Administration

Transportation Security Administration Logo

27 August 2025

If you're among the 148 million travelers this Labor Day, take note of TSA's travel alert.

Why it matters: The TSA projects 17.4 million travelers will take to the skies from Thurs (8/28) to Wed (9/3), with Friday expected to see 3 million passengers.

- This surge is a significant increase from the usual 2.4 million passengers screened daily.

Be prepared: Arrive early and ensure you're in compliance with TSA rules to avoid delays.

- A recent rule change allows travelers to keep their shoes on, which could help streamline the process.

The bottom line: The TSA's new policy aims to enhance traveler experience, potentially reducing wait times and improving efficiency during the holiday weekend.

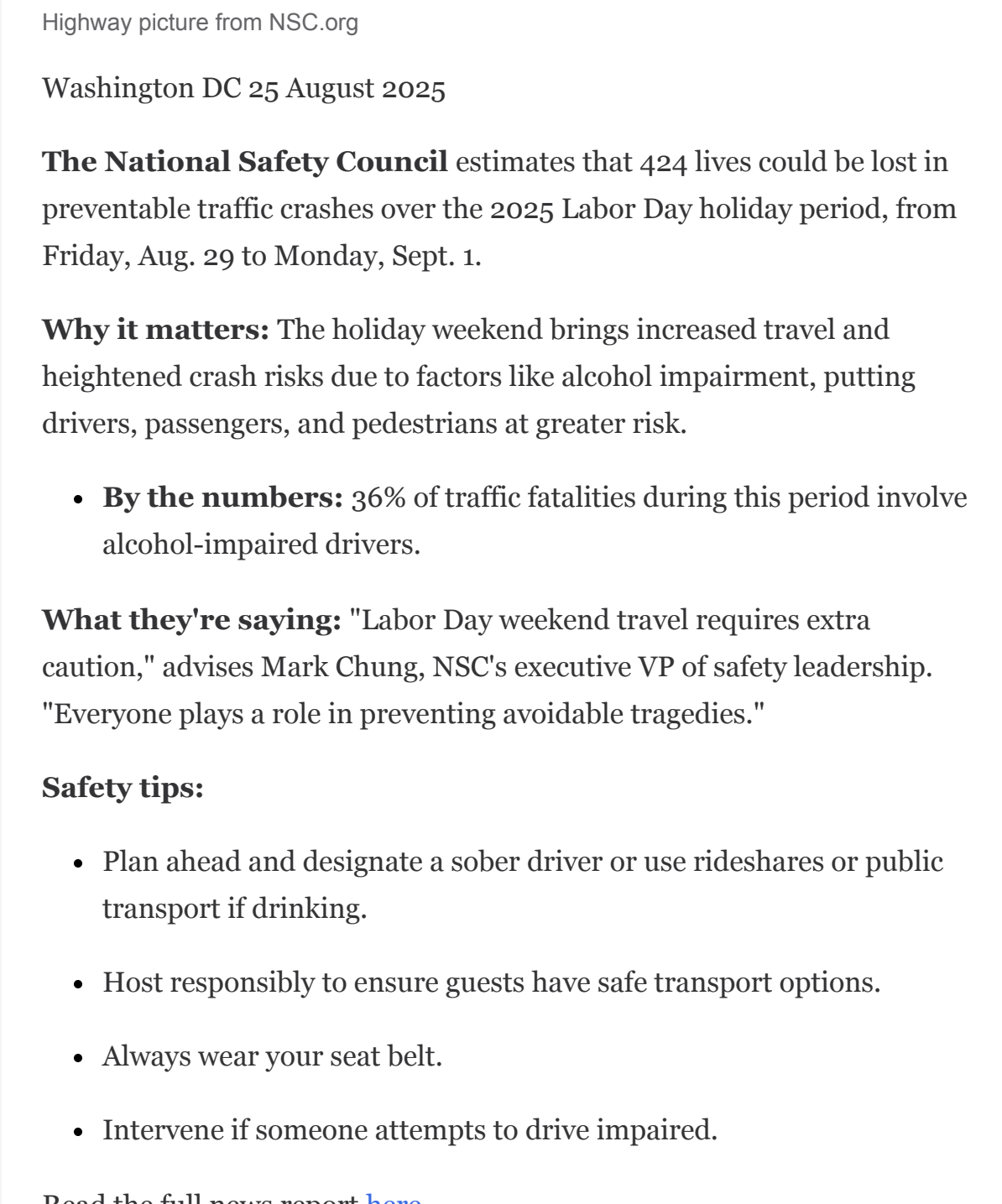
PT ISAC Analyst comment: As airports experience record-breaking traveler volumes, rail and bus services to and from airport terminals will also be impacted through higher ridership, congested roads and mass public gatherings.

- DHS's current NTAS bulletin (Jun 22, 2025) maintains a **heightened threat environment** driven by overseas conflict dynamics; no specific/credible threat to the homeland is noted, but lone actors remain a concern. Use as context for increased vigilance at mass-gathering nodes.

- Federal guidance consistently warns that holidays/weekends are attractive windows for cyber-attacks such as ransomware and intrusions due to reduced staffing; best practice is surge monitoring and rapid patching ahead of the weekend. Ensure to follow CISA's [cybersecurity best practices](#).

- Read the full news article [here](#).

National Safety Council Labor Day travel safety alert



Highway picture from NSC.org

Washington DC 25 August 2025

The National Safety Council estimates that 424 lives could be lost in preventable traffic crashes over the 2025 Labor Day holiday period, from Friday, Aug. 29 to Monday, Sept. 1.

Why it matters: The holiday weekend brings increased travel and heightened crash risks due to factors like alcohol impairment, putting drivers, passengers, and pedestrians at greater risk.

- **By the numbers:** 36% of traffic fatalities during this period involve alcohol-impaired drivers.

What they're saying: "Labor Day weekend travel requires extra caution," advises Mark Chung, NSC's executive VP of safety leadership. "Everyone plays a role in preventing avoidable tragedies."

Safety tips:

- Plan ahead and designate a sober driver or use rideshares or public transport if drinking.
- Host responsibly to ensure guests have safe transport options.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Intervene if someone attempts to drive impaired.

Read the full news report [here](#).

Minneapolis church shooting: What we know



Minneapolis law enforcement from Just the News

Minneapolis, MN 27 August 2025

The FBI is investigating the tragic shooting at a Minneapolis Catholic Church as domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics. The shooter, identified as Robin Westman, is deceased.

Why it matters: This incident has raised concerns about the safety of religious communities and highlights the ongoing issue of hate crimes against specific groups.

- The attack occurred during a mass, impacting children and worshippers.

The big picture: The suspect, Robin Westman, was born Robert Westman and had a known history of admiration for previous mass shooters.

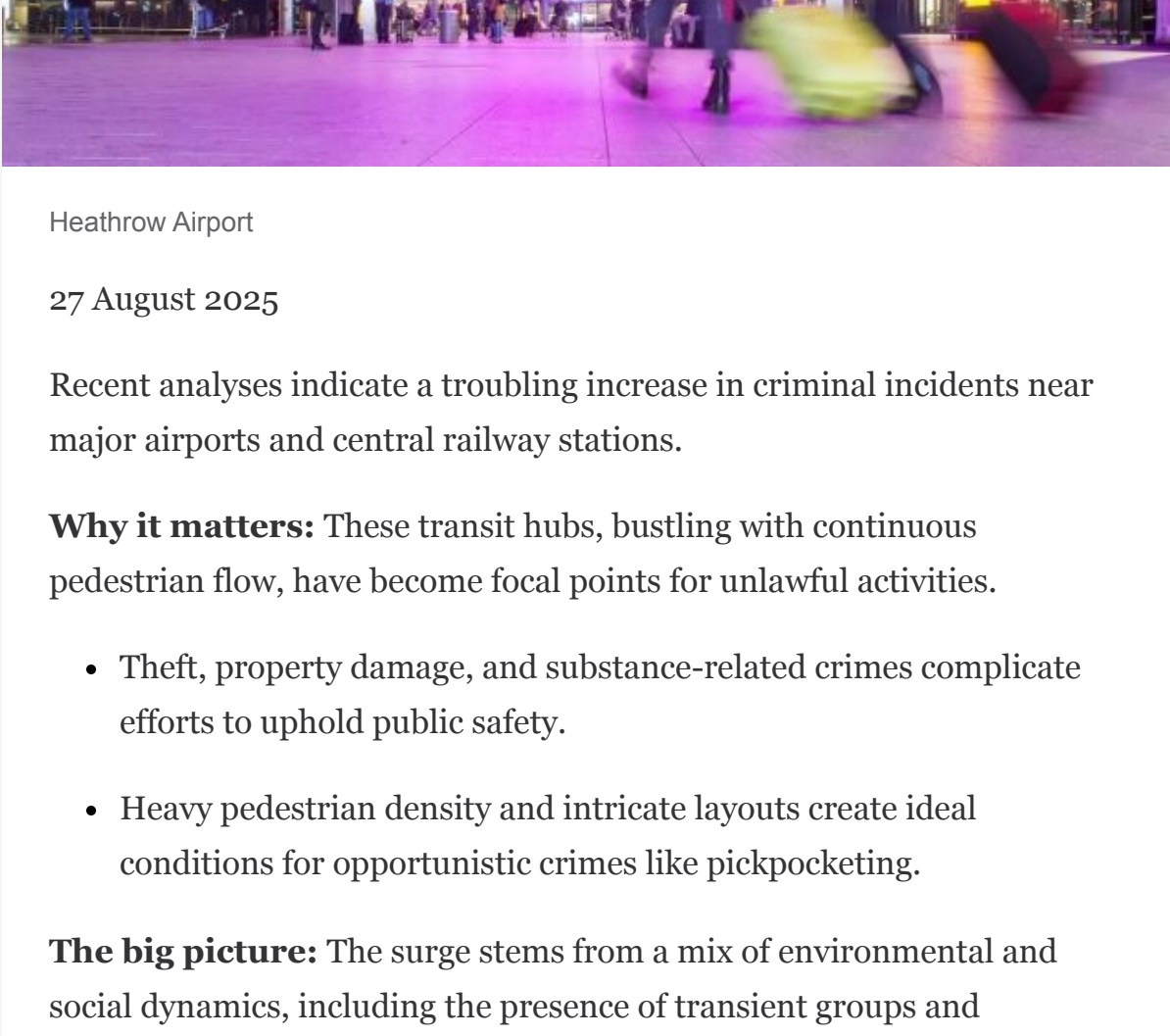
- Authorities indicate no active threat to the public at this time.

What's next: The FBI continues its investigation and will release more information as it becomes available. Community leaders are urging for increased security measures at places of worship.

PT ISAC Analyst comment: The FBI has labeled the Minneapolis church shooting as a hate crime and act of terrorism, highlighting a dangerous overlap between extremism and bigotry. Both hate crimes and terrorism stem from extreme ideologies, and this incident underscores a worrying trend. Recent FBI studies point to a rise in hate crimes across the U.S., emphasizing the need for vigilance and increased security in vulnerable communities.

Read the full news report [here](#).

This Is the Group That's Been Swatting US Universities



University of Colorado Boulder

27 August 2025

A self-proclaimed leader of an online group linked to the violent extremist network The Com tells WIRED he is responsible for recent hoax active-shooter alerts at universities across the US as students return to school.

Why it matters: These hoaxes drain law enforcement resources and create panic among students and staff.

- The group, known as Purgatory, offers swatting services against schools for \$95, with prices rising amidst media coverage.
- The FBI is investigating the increase in swatting events and emphasizes the risks to innocent people.

The latest: The spree began on August 21, with universities like Tennessee at Chattanooga and Villanova being targeted.

- Gores, the group's leader, claims they have earned \$100,000 from these activities.
- Researchers have listened to live swatting calls and attempted to warn targeted institutions.

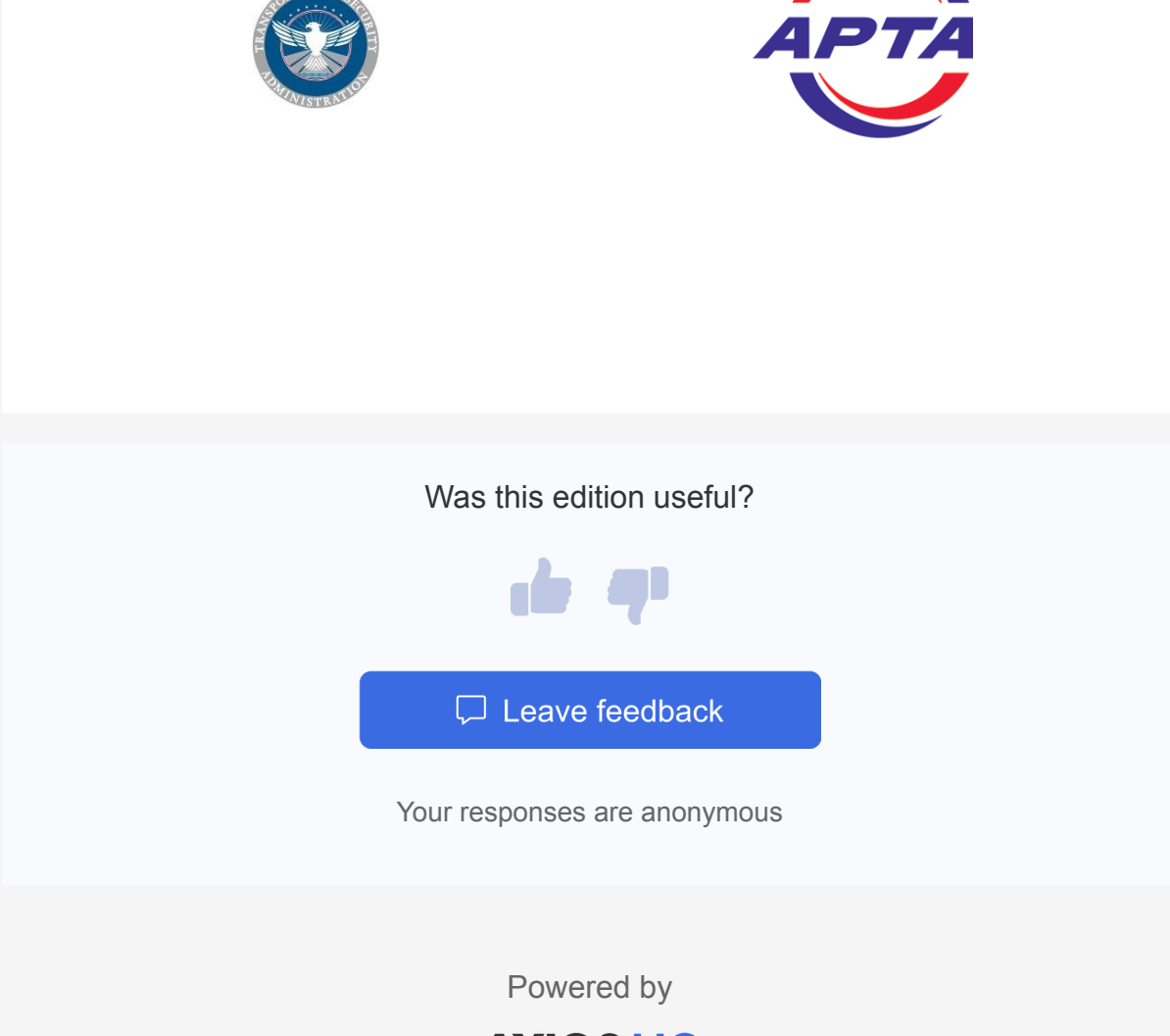
Between the lines: The group celebrates media coverage of their actions, indicating a need for increased vigilance and proactive measures by law enforcement and universities to prevent further incidents.

PT ISAC analyst comment: Swatting—making false emergency reports to trigger armed law enforcement responses—threatens both public and critical infrastructure environments.

- These incidents can overwhelm dispatch systems, divert first responders from real emergencies, and disrupt transit networks through evacuations and delays.
- As swatting increasingly targets public venues, transportation agencies must remain aware of impact to both safety and service continuity.

Read the full news report [here](#).

New Study Reveals Increased Crime Risk Near Airports and Central Train Stations



Heathrow Airport

27 August 2025

Recent analyses indicate a troubling increase in criminal incidents near major airports and central railway stations.

Why it matters: These transit hubs, bustling with continuous pedestrian flow, have become focal points for unlawful activities.

- Theft, property damage, and substance-related crimes complicate efforts to uphold public safety.
- Heavy pedestrian density and intricate layouts create ideal conditions for opportunistic crimes like pickpocketing.

The big picture: The surge stems from a mix of environmental and social dynamics, including the presence of transient groups and insufficient surveillance zones.

- Expansive parking areas and less monitored zones can become hotspots for serious offenses like drug trafficking.
- Law enforcement faces challenges in balancing resources between securing transit facilities and policing neighboring communities.

What's next: Addressing safety concerns demands an integrated strategy combining urban planning, law enforcement innovation, and community involvement.

- Improving illumination and sightlines, increasing security personnel, and deploying advanced surveillance technologies are key.
- Community policing models that build trust between residents and law enforcement can reduce crime near transit hubs.

The bottom line: Airports and central train stations are essential for mobility and economic activity, yet their complex environments can foster vulnerabilities. Coordinated efforts among security agencies, transit authorities, and community stakeholders are vital to create safer spaces for travelers and residents alike.

Read full news report [here](#)

Other News of Interest

[Man arrested after making bomb threat at Dallas ICE office, DHS says](#)

[AC Transit bus driver recovering after attack, suspect charged with attempted murder](#)

[Rush hour knife attack injures VTA bus driver in San Jose](#)

[TransUnion Discloses Data Breach Affecting 4.4 Million Customers' Personal Information](#)

[Spectacular Drone Strikes and the Future Sanctuary of the U.S. Homeland](#)

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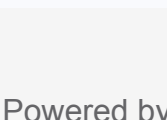
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PT-ISAC encourages members to maintain vigilance and report suspicious activities and incidents to the TSA Transportation Security Operations Center by telephone at 866- 615- 5150 and by e-mail at TSOC.ST@tsa.dhs.gov, and to local law enforcement, their [local FBI field office](#), and [local fusion center](#).



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