

# Railroad Ordinance Presentation

Recommending  
Committee  
9/30/24

Submitted after Final Agenda (City Council)  
Date 09/30/2024 Item 29  
by Staff

Submitted at Meeting  
Date 09/30/2024 Item 6  
by Staff







### Precedent: City of Reno

- August of 2024, the City of Reno passed an ordinance that would make enforcement of trespassing near railroad tracks easier.
- Intent was to help address railroad maintenance access, reduce repair costs and storm water collection system interference, and to ensure public safety concerns.
- Amended existing law to further prohibit trespassing on or near railroad tracks, without requiring signage and fencing to be proof of this.

### Proposal: City of Las Vegas

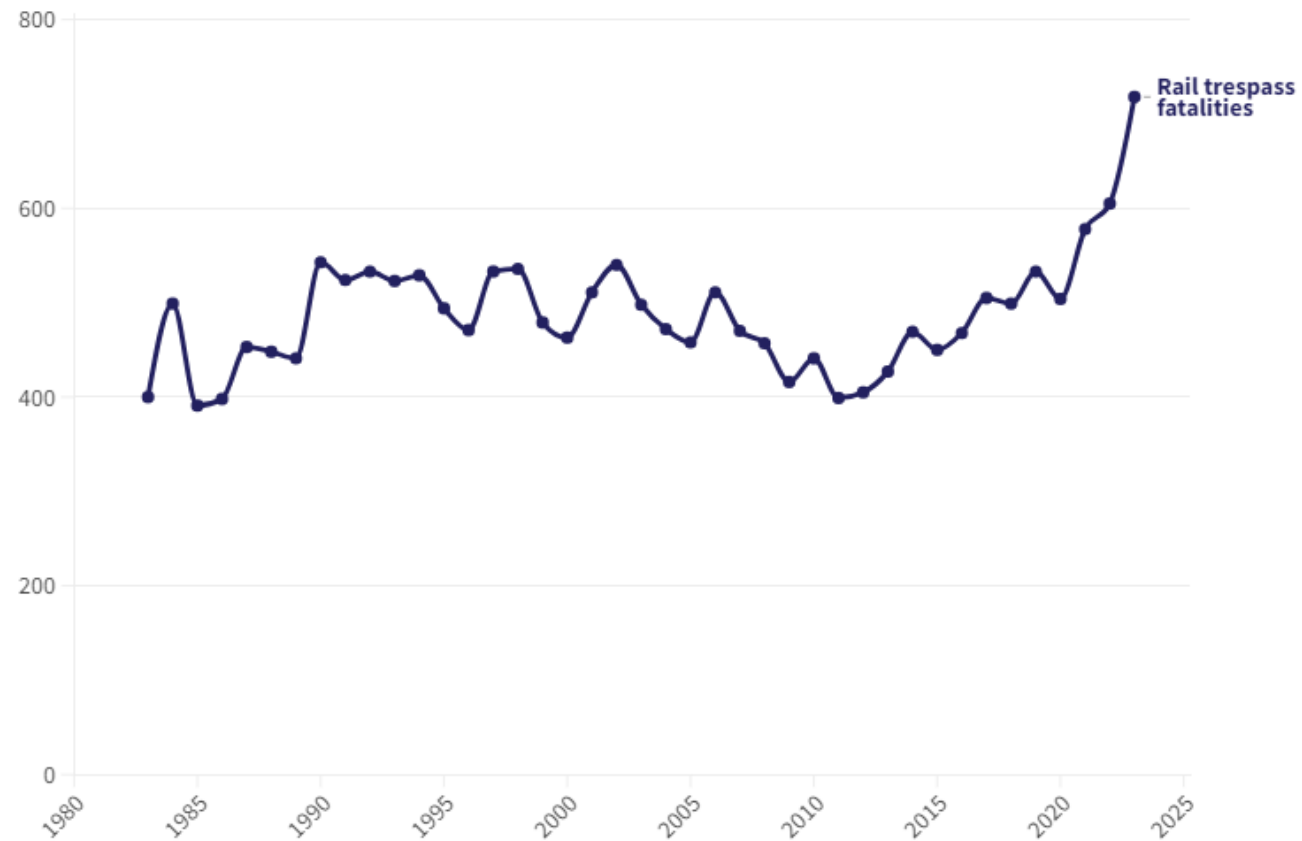
- Proposed ordinance almost exactly mirrors the ordinance passed in Reno.
- Intended purpose is the same: to keep people, the rail corridor, and adjacent properties as safe as possible by restricting unauthorized access to the fullest extent possible.



Some items for your consideration:

- According to the Federal Railroad Administration, in 2023, there were almost 800 fatalities in the United States attributed specifically to pedestrians trespassing on railroad property.

**Rail trespass fatalities in the U.S., 1983 to 2023**



Source: Federal Railroad Administration • Data visualization by Emily Vespa/North Carolina Health News.



- At least 4 train derailments over the past 5 years were caused by or exacerbated by debris on the tracks.
  - UPRR payloads include fertilizer, ethanol, petroleum products, chlorine, combustible liquids, anhydrous ammonia, etc.
  - Proximity to residential housing, businesses, and government buildings is a concern.







- Encampments next to and in to UPRR right of way can be extensive in blocking drainage ways; could lead to flooding of adjacent businesses that would not otherwise flood if the drainage corridors were kept clear.











- DPS, PW/Streets & Sanitation, and NS actively collaborating with Metro and UPRR security re encampment concerns on/near railroad tracks.
- Currently cleaning up to 2-5 encampments per month, which generates and 20-25 tons of debris in the UPRR ROW alone







- Over the past few years, there have been several fires from encampments that have caused damage to bridges, buildings, and other structures along the rail corridor.







In short, this ordinance is a *pro-active* measure intended to keep people and property safe.

Questions?