



SENTRY Strategic Initiatives Virtual Workshop: Protecting Mass Gatherings in the U.S.

February 25-26, 2026
 Virtually on Teams

Wednesday, February 25, 2026	
1:00PM – 1:15PM ET	Welcome and Introduction Michael B. Silevitch , <i>SENTRY Director, Robert D. Black Professor of Engineering, Northeastern University</i>
1:15PM – 1:35PM ET	Keynote Jim Bamberger , <i>Director, Multimodal and Public Area Capabilities (MPAC), Requirements & Capabilities Analysis, Transportation Security Administration (TSA)</i>
1:35PM – 1:50PM ET	Securing Transit Environments for Mass Gatherings Janice Farkas , <i>Director of Intelligence, NJ Transit</i>
1:50PM – 2:05PM ET	Designing for Kickoff: Operational Readiness for Major Events Kaitlin Coari , <i>Senior Consultant, Americas Host Cities Leader, ARUP</i>
2:05PM – 2:20PM ET	Transportation Security Polly Hanson, <i>Senior Director of Security, American Public Transportation Association</i>
2:20PM – 2:35PM ET	Urban Rail Network Deterrence with Graph Neural Networks Sam Chatterjee , <i>Chief Data Scientist and Affiliate Professor, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Northeastern University</i> Auroop Ganguly , <i>COE Distinguished Professor, Northeastern University</i>
2:35PM – 3:00PM ET	Moderated Q&A – Transportation Security Moderated by: Desiree Linson , <i>Industry Partnership and Government Liaison, Transition Consultant, SENTRY</i>



Thursday, February 26, 2026	
1:00PM – 1:05PM ET	Welcome - Assembly <i>Michael B. Silevitch</i>
1:05PM – 1:20PM ET	Crowd Evacuation Gary Gardner , Vice President, North America Operations, InControl
1:20PM – 1:35PM ET	Crowd Evacuation Rick Fenton , VP and Chief Security Officer, Ilitch Holdings, Inc.
1:35PM – 1:50PM ET	Digital Twins in Support of Crowd Evacuation Peter Jin , Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rutgers University Fred Roberts , Distinguished Professor, Department of Mathematics, Rutgers University Jie Gong , Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rutgers University
1:50PM – 2:10PM ET	Moderated Q&A – Crowd Evacuation Moderated by: George Naccara , Practitioner Advisory Board Chair, SENTRY
2:10PM – 2:15PM ET	Break
2:15PM – 2:20PM ET	Keynote Introduction David Luzzi , Senior Vice Provost and Vice President for Business Development, Northeastern University
2:20PM – 2:40PM ET	Keynote Greg Waters , CEO and Co-founder of MatrixSpace
2:40PM – 2:55PM ET	UAS Detection at NRG Stadium John Kitto, Federal Air Marshal Service, Transportation Security Administration Brent Naccara , Chief Security Officer and Director of Facilities Operations, Houston Texans
2:55PM – 3:10PM ET	Assessing UAS “Threat Intent” – Friend or Foe: An AI Driven Decision Tool Leveraging MatrixSpace AiEdge and AiCloud Jun Zhuang , Morton C. Frank Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York Richard John , Professor of Psychology, University of Southern California
3:10PM – 3:30pm ET	Moderated Q&A – C-UAS Moderated by: Deanna Beirne , Executive Director of Technical Program Development and Strategy, SENTRY
3:30pm – 4:00pm ET	Next Steps <i>Michael B. Silevitch & Deanna Beirne</i>