



DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

BIG DATA IN RAILROAD MAINTENANCE PLANNING

2016

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE | NEWARK, DELAWARE

DECEMBER 15-16

Converting the mountain of data collected by railway systems into effective maintenance planning information with a focus on railway needs and practical applications

PRESENTED BY:

University of Delaware Railroad Engineering and Safety Program

University of Delaware Big Data Center

University of Delaware Professional Engineering Outreach

railroadengineering.engr.udel.edu



Modern Railways are making increasing use of new generation track inspection and operating technology to obtain more and more data on the condition of the track and equipment.

This extensive amount of data, which includes data of increasing complexity as well as volume, has led to a condition known as “Big Data”, where the volume of data is such that traditional analysis techniques are no longer viable to efficiently make use of all of this large volume of data. Thus, important information is often buried in this “mountain” of data. Since railways need to convert this data into useable information to help them plan their capital maintenance programs, there is a need for the application of new and improved analysis techniques to make this conversion from data into information. One such area of improved data analysis is the use of “Big Data” statistical analysis techniques. Others include improved engineering modeling and more traditional statistical analysis techniques.

The 2016 conference is intended to expand on previous years’ conferences and introduce these new and emerging analysis techniques and to show how they can be applied to the large volume of inspection data collected by railways to improve their planning of the critical capital and maintenance programs. This year’s conference focuses on the railway’s specific needs and practical applications to date of “Big Data” analytics.

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BIG DATA IN RAILROAD MAINTENANCE PLANNING

DAY 1: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

8:30 AM

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE NEEDS
OF THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY**

Allan M. Zarembski | *Professor, Director, Railroad Research and Safety Program,
University of Delaware*

Babatunde A. Ogunnaike | *Dean, College of Engineering, and William L. Friend
Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, University of Delaware*

Harry W. Shenton, III | *Professor and Chairperson, Civil & Environmental Engineering,
University of Delaware*

David Staplin | *Deputy Chief Engineer Amtrak (retired) and Chairman of the
Railroad Advisory Board at University of Delaware*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lisa Stabler | *President Transportation Test Center, Inc. (TTCI)*

LEVERAGING BIG DATA AND MACHINE LEARNING FOR RAIL SAFETY

Gary Carr | *Chief, Track Research Division, USDOT Federal Railroad Administration*

10:00–10:15 AM | BREAK

10:15 AM

SESSION I: RAILROAD NEEDS FROM BIG DATA

CSX AUTOMATED TRACK CONDITION ASSESSMENT – THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Leopold Kreisel | *Director, Track Testing*

Srini Manchikanti | *Technical Director, Engineering Field Applications, CSX Transportation*

Dwight W. Clark | *General Director Engineering Technology - Union Pacific Railroad*

THE USE OF BIG DATA TO EVALUATE RAILROAD ASSETS AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

J. Shane Rice | *Assistant Chief Engineer-MW&S, Norfolk Southern Railway*

Shaun Levandier | *Senior Manager, Engineering Technology, CN Rail*

TURNOUT PERFORMANCE

David Friss | *Director, Reliability Engineering, BNSF*

12:15–1:30 PM | LUNCH

1:30 PM

SESSION II: BIG DATA : APPLICATIONS AND CASE STUDIES

RAIL JOINT MANAGEMENT USING AUTOMATED INSPECTION TECHNOLOGY

Lariza Stewart | *Project Engineer, Inspection Technologies, Georgetown Rail*

Anamaria Bonilla | *Assistant Chief Engineer, Track Structures, Metro-North*

CONVERGING BIG DATA TO TRACK PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT

Jackie van der Westhuizen | *Business Line Director, ENSCO*

USE OF BIG DATA IN RAIL WEAR FORECASTING

Joseph Palese | *Senior Director, Inspection Services, Harsco Rail*

**UTILIZING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES ON RAILROAD PROJECTS:
CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AND METROLINK CASE STUDIES**

Jacqueline L. Patterson | *President and Founder of J.L. Patterson & Associates*

Marc A. Canas | *Vice President and Director, Freight Rail Services,
Jacobs Engineering*

CREATING RAIL VALUE WITH DATA

Jeffrey A. Keller | *Associate Partner, IBM Global Services,*

3:30–3:45 PM | BREAK

3:45 PM

**SESSION III: BIG DATA APPLICATION
AND INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES**

**BIG DATA RISK ANALYSIS (BDRA) TO ENHANCE THE GREAT BRITAIN
RAILWAY SAFETY SYSTEMS**

Coen van Gulijk | *Institute of Railway Research, University of Huddersfield,
United Kingdom*

**EXTRACTING INFORMATION FROM “BIG DATA” FOR OPTIMIZED TRACK MAINTENANCE
AND RENEWAL PLANNING**

Pietro Pace | *Product Line Manager, Mermec SpA, Italy*

**AUTOMATIC DETECTION OF RAIL SURFACE DEFECTS USING VIBRATION AND
VIDEO IMAGE: A CASE STUDY IN THE DUTCH RAILWAYS**

Alfredo Nunez Vicencio | *Assistant Professor, Section of Railway Engineering,
Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands*

ACTION INSTEAD OF REACTION: FROM DATA COLLECTION TO PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE

Ellen Linnenkamp | *Managing Director, Strukton Rail North America*

5:30 PM | DAY 1 SESSIONS END

6:30–8:00 PM

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION: ATRIUM, STAR CAMPUS,
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE**

DAY 2: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

8:15 AM

SESSION IV-A: BIG DATA ANALYSIS THEORY AND TECHNIQUES

LEADING EDGE ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES FOR BIG DATA

Busby Nii Attoh-Okine | *Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, and Director, Big Data Center, University of Delaware*

UAV-BASED VISUAL DATA ANALYTICS FOR RAILWAY INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION PERFORMANCE

C. Tyler Dick | *Sr. Railway Research Engineer, RailTec, University of Illinois*

Royce A. Francis | *Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering, George Washington University*

BIG DATA IN RAILROAD AND TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION

Edgar P. Small | *Associate Professor, Director, Construction Engineering Program, University of Delaware*

9:55 – 10:10 BREAK

10:10 AM

SESSION IV-B

DATA-DRIVEN TRACK MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES

Qing He | *Assistant Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo, SUNY*

ROLE OF BIG DATA IN IMPROVING RISK MANAGEMENT ON RAILWAYS

Xiang Liu | *Assistant Professor, Rutgers University*

DATA DRIVEN METHODS TO IMPROVE TRAIN ETAS FOR EFFECTIVE TRACK MAINTENANCE PLANNING

C. Tyler Dick | *Sr. Railway Research Engineer, RailTec, University of Illinois*

**A BIG DATA ANALYSIS ON CORRELATING BALLAST VOLUME DEFICIT WITH
THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRACK GEOMETRY EXCEPTIONS**

Allan M. Zarembski | *Director, Railroad Engineering and Safety Program,
University of Delaware*

11:45

CONCLUDING REMARKS

David Staplin | *Deputy Chief Engineer Amtrak (retired) and Chairman of the
Railroad Advisory Board, University of Delaware*

Allan M. Zarembski | *Director, Railroad Engineering and Safety Program,
University of Delaware*

NOON

PROGRAM ENDS

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