



2023 INFORMS Freight Rail Planning & Operations Conference

Location: BNSF Headquarters
Leadership Training and Conference Center
2400 Western Center Blvd
Fort Worth, Texas

Program

Sunday, May 7, 2023

6:30 pm

Optional Pre-Meeting Dinner/Gathering (not included in registration fee)
Location: Whiskey & Rye @ Omni Fort Worth

Monday, May 8, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 am

Check-in

8:00 – 8:15 am

Welcome: Conference Co-Chairs: Andrea Arias & Carl Van Dyke

8:15 – 9:00 am

Keynote:

Jon Gabriel, Vice President Network Strategy, Service Design & Innovation, BNSF Railway – *“Transforming the Supply Chain Landscape through Innovation”*

Session Chair: Andrea Arias, Assistant Director OR & Advanced Analytics, BNSF

9:00 – 9:15 am

Coffee Break

9:15 – 11:00 am

Panel 1: Current Service Design Organizational Structure and Practices

- **Doug Jones**, AVP Bulk Operations, BNSF Railway – *“BNSF Network Strategy Overview”*
- **Mike Swain**, Manager of Freight Car Systems-Service Planning, CSX – *“Organization of Service Planning at CSX”*
- **Mike Bradley**, Senior Director Network Optimization, Norfolk Southern – *“Evolution of Service Design Strategy at Norfolk Southern”*
- **Simon Hjelm**, General Director of Transportation Planning and Scheduling, Union Pacific – *“Network Planning & Operations: Organizational Structure, Philosophy and Network Planning Process”*

Session Chair: Dharma Acharya, Sr. Director - Operations Research and Advanced Analytics, Wabtec

11:00 – 11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:15 pm

Topical Presentations

- **Jonatan Gjerdrum**, Head of Network Design and Analytics, Green Cargo – Sweden (remote) – *“The Swedish Experience Operating a Fully Reserved, Capacity Managed Wagonload Freight Rail Network”*
- **Yury Gorbonov**, Director, Surface Transportation Practice, Oliver Wyman – *“Introducing the New Web-enabled MultiRail Enterprise for Railway Service Design and Network Analysis”*

Session Chair: Carl Van Dyke, Managing Director, TransNetOpt

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Networking Lunch – on site in conference facility

1:15 – 2:00 pm

Keynote:

Adriene Bailey, Partner – Transportation Practice, Oliver Wyman – *“The Growth Journey: Rounding the First Bend”*

Session Chair: Marc Meketon, Vice President, Oliver Wyman

2:00 – 3:45 pm

Panel 2: Current Network and Resource Planning Practices

- **Frank Anderson**, AVP Network Development, BNSF Railway – *“Current Network and Resource Planning Practices”*
- **Greg Hartley**, Director Asset Planning and Quality, Canadian National – *“Infrastructure Planning: Experiences and Incremental Improvement”*
- **Stefano Rieppi**, AVP Fleet and Capacity Planning, & **Clark Cheng**, Senior Director Operations Research, Norfolk Southern – *“Integration of Forecast, Plan, and Resource Planning Processes at Norfolk Southern”*
- **Alexander Lovett**, Manager Fleet Strategy, Union Pacific – *“Resource Planning at Union Pacific”*

Session Chair: Marc Meketon, Vice President, Oliver Wyman

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Topical Presentations

- **Daril Vilhena**, Co-CEO, Cedar AI – *“Maximizing the Productivity of Rail Yards through Performance Focused Systems”*
- **Ravi Ahuja**, Founder/CEO, Optym – *“Solutions for the Management of Mine to Port Railways”*
- **Daniel Brod**, CEO, Decisiontek – *“RailEval, Rail System Simulator for Planning and Capacity Analysis”*

Session Chair: Clark Cheng, Senior Director Operations Research, Norfolk Southern

7:00 pm

Conference Dinner. Location: Bob’s Steak & Chop House @ Omni Fort Worth

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 am

Check-in

8:00 – 8:50 am

Topical Presentations

- **Henning Preis**, Faculty, Technical University of Dresden (remote) – *“Decision Support for Optimal Resource Scheduling in Classification Yards”*
- **C. Tyler Dick**, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin – *“Modeling the Network Effects of Yard Congestion and Disruptions”*

Session Chair: Roger Baugher, President, TrAnalytics

8:50 – 9:00 am

Coffee Break

9:00 – 10:45 am

Panel 3: Trends in Software Systems for Planning and Operations Execution Support

- **Brian Faz**, AVP Technology Services & **Stephanie Saylor**, General Director Technology Services, BNSF Railway – *“Technology Trends in Support of Service Design and Operations/Resource Management”*
- **Shantih Spanton**, Lead Senior Scientist/Manager Operations Research & **Mike Swain**, Manager of Freight Car Systems-Service Planning, CSX – *“Technology and Operations Research Models for CSX Service Planning”*
- **Clark Cheng**, Senior Director Operations Research & **Stefano Rieppi**, AVP Equipment, Fleet, and Capacity Planning, Norfolk Southern – *“Resource and Capacity Planning Tools at Norfolk Southern”*
- **James Owens**, Senior Systems Engineer, Union Pacific – *“Technology Initiatives at UP”*

Session Chair: Carl Van Dyke, Managing Director, TransNetOpt

10:45 – 11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 pm

Topical Presentations

- **Giorgio Medeossi**, Technical Director, TrenoLab - Italy – *“Strategic Timetabling Concepts and Enabling Technologies: A Practical Case Study”*
- **Brandi Wood**, Product Manager - Movement Planner/Service Design, Wabtec & **Stefano Rieppi**, AVP Fleet and Capacity Planning, Norfolk Southern – *“Line of Road Simulation at NS Using Wabtec Service Design (Schedule Viewer)”*

Session Chair: Stefano Rieppi, AVP Fleet and Capacity Planning, Norfolk Southern

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Networking Lunch - on site in conference facility

12:45 – 1:30 pm

Optional Tour/Introduction to BNSF Network Operations Center

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