

Rail Research UK: Research Theme B - Whole System Performance

INVITATION TO A RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Whole System Cost Modelling

Purpose: Sharing experience and progress to date and identifying areas for further research
Venue: The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London
Date: Wednesday 13th December 2006
Time: 14.00 to 18.00 (18.00 – 19.00 refreshments)

Making strategic decisions about the UK's railway system is a difficult task. There are a host of issues to be considered including, how to account for uncertainties over the future pace of technological change. The difficulty is compounded by the complex interactions that exist between the various sub-systems, components and processes that constitute the railway. In the light of this the railway urgently needs a whole system model on which to test policy scenarios.

Much modelling work has been done over the past 20 years on a range of disparate issues, but the pace of work to model the system as a whole has picked up recently. The DfT is heavily engaged on the development of its Network Modelling Framework, which represents a variety of high-level aspects and includes a number of models such as Network Rail's Infrastructure Cost Model (ICM). The purpose is to provide long-term forecasts of engineering activity, expenditure and outputs.

Elsewhere the Systems Interface Committees (SICs) are also making progress. Based on their rolling contact fatigue (RCF) work the Vehicle / Track SIC has started work on a wheel / rail Interface System Model and the Vehicle / Vehicle SIC is developing a Rail Vehicle Whole Life Cost Model. The other SICs have acknowledged that in order to successfully address the issues they face, they will have to take account of factors outside their immediate areas of concern, generally through the development of appropriate models.

In academia Rail Research UK (RRUK) has carried out modelling work, including a project called TRAINS, which created a prototype decision support system for the wheel / rail interface, using a combination of new and existing models. It has just completed a project to analyse the causes of recent cost increases on the railway, and develop an allocation model for Train Operating Company (TOC) costs. It is just starting a project to study the feasibility of creating a high-level, strategic whole system cost model.

With so much related activity underway concurrently, the time seems ripe for all those intimately involved to meet to discuss progress and share experience. RRUK is therefore, holding a workshop in December 2006 on the topic of "Whole System Cost Modelling". The aim will be to clarify who is doing what, discuss progress made so far and identify fresh problems encountered that may be worthy of further research. The workshop will hear from seven speakers, each tackling different aspects of system modelling research and development. The presentations will be followed by a plenary session, providing the opportunity for open discussion.

An agenda for the workshop is provided below. If you would like to attend please contact Chris Bouch: E-mail: c.bouch@bham.ac.uk Tel: 0121 414 2626 Fax: 0121 414 3145

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RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Whole System Cost Modelling

(Wednesday 13th December 2006 at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
London)

AGENDA

13.30 – 14.00	Arrival and coffee/tea	All
14.00 – 14.10	Welcome and introduction to the workshop	Dr. Colin Goodman RRUK Theme B Manager University of Birmingham
14.10 – 14.30	The Network Modelling Framework	Tom Worsley, Divisional Manager, Network Analysis and Modelling, DfT
14.30 – 14.50	Network Rail's Infrastructure Cost Model	Dan Boyde, Strategic Planning Manager, Network Rail
14.50 – 15.10	Infrastructure Cost Drivers	Jan Swier, Policy and Strategy Adviser, ProRail, Holland
15.10 – 15.30	Train Operating Company Costs	Dick Dapr�, Associate, Steer Davies Gleave
15.30 – 15.55	Tea and Coffee	All
15.55 – 16.15	V/T SIC: The Vehicle / Track Interface Strategic Model (VTISM)	Mark Dembosky, Network Rail
16.15 – 16.35	V/V SIC: The Rolling Stock Whole Life Cost Model (RS-WLCM)	Andrew Jablonski, Consultant, RSSB
16.35 – 16.55	RRUK2 Project B7 – Whole System Cost Model	Dr Andrew Smith, RRUK Project Leader, University of Leeds
16.55 – 17.55	Plenary discussion	All
17.55 – 18.00	Close	Dr. Colin Goodman
18.00 – 19.00	Refreshments	All