



NEC FORUM MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2016
DEUTSCHE BAHN AG HEADQUARTERS
at Nordbahnhof, Elisabeth-Schwarzhaupt-Platz 1, 10115 Berlin

ATTENDEES

Amtrak – **Rodrigo Bitar** (in the Chair), Senior Vice President, Amtrak (FORUM Acting Chairman), **Andrew Wood**, Executive Project Director, Tier III PMO, (FORUM Secretary);

ADIF – **Joaquín Jiménez Otero**, International Senior Vice Director

JR East - **Mr. Hitoshi Saimyo**, Executive Officer, International Department; **Mr. Yasutake Kojima**, Director of Administration, New York Office

Network Rail - **Ron Hartman**, Vice President Network Rail Consulting North America; **Nigel Ash**, Managing Director, Network Rail Consulting UK

Apologies /Unable to Participate – **Stephen Gardner**, Executive Vice President, Amtrak, **Prof. Andrew McNaughton**, Technical Director HS2; **Markus Geist**, Head of Fleet Development, SBB; **Montserrat Díez Olazábal**, International Département Renfe; **Simon Maple**, Senior Programme Manager (Change)Network Rail

1. Notes of Meeting Held May 6th 2016

- Members approved the notes of the meeting of May 6th 2016 with one small correction. These notes will be posted on the Amtrak IID web site as a record of the Forum.

2. Member Reports - Members gave a brief overview of recent activities in their organization.

2.1 Network Rail

Nigel Ash made the presentation for Network Rail

- He said that Network Rail was reorganizing to give more power to the routes and had created ten (10) different routes. There will be more delegated

authority and route managers will be able to decide what they “buy” from the center and from the outside.

- This is the third year in Control Period 5 and once Control Period 6 is reached Network Rail will be funded by region.
- Performance has been impacted by strike action by trade unions in the south of England. This has resulted in a lot of cancellations. There have been two strikes in the last six months.
- Major work at London Bridge also caused disruption. Punctuality should be over 90% but did not reach that level.
- Simon Jenkins is now heading HS2

2.2 JR East

Mr. Kojima said important issues had taken place since our last meeting

- The first of these lines from Tokyo to Kanazawa in March 2016 and compared to 2015 there had been a 58% increase in ridership. Last year there were 168,000 journeys but this year 266,000.
- There had been a development program launched with 3 construction projects in rural areas. These connect provincial cities and bring considerable social impacts

2.3 Amtrak

Rodrigo Bitar reported on a number of initiatives but first gave an outline of his role as Chief Engineer for Amtrak. He explained that with the change of Leadership at Amtrak Stephen Gardner was not able to attend this meeting and sent his sincere apologies. Rodrigo reported on the following items:

- He said that there were significant changes at Amtrak and Mr. Boardman had retired at CEO and the new CEO was Mr. Moorman who will be invited (if his schedule permits) to take part in the next FORUM meeting.
- He outlined the placing of a contract with Alstom for the building of 28 new trainsets for the NEC and said this was a significant advancement.
- He said that in future Amtrak will be able to spend 90% of the revenue it earns.

2.4 ADIF

- Joaquín Jiménez Otero reported on the continued growth in high speed rail in Spain with a 9% growth in the current year.

- Everybody in Spain wants to be connected to the high speed rail network and need new tracks.
- He outlined some of the areas of Spain where they are looking to improve rail services.
- ADIF were also working on links to Portugal, with a high performance railway.
- ADIF has been working in Saudi Arabia providing consulting. The biggest issue they faced was with the ingress of sand.
- He said that they are also working in Sweden, Denmark, Egypt and Malaysia, plus cooperating with a new project in India on a line from Mumbai to Calcutta.

3. Major Tunnel Projects

3.1 Amtrak

- Rodrigo made a presentation outlining the two major tunnel projects that are underway on the NEC. The first one he outlined was the Gateway project and the second the B & P Tunnel in Baltimore.
- Gateway – he explained the history of the tunnel and the current situation and said the plan was to first build two new tunnels and once these were completed refurbish the existing tunnels.
- He explained the technique that they will be using to make this bore and showed a profile of the route.
- He outlined the risks associated with the new bore and the process that will be followed to ensure a safe operation.

3.2 JR East

- Mr. Kojima outlined two different tunnel projects first the Ueno Tunnel in the Tokyo metropolitan area and second the unrealized extension plan for the extension to Shinjuku-Station
- Using a map he showed where these were and also demonstrated the methodology that was being/had been used
- He explained the complexity of these projects given the fact that there were many other rail lines in the vicinity.

3.3 Network Rail

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4. On Track Worker Safety

4.1 Amtrak

- Rodrigo presented the Amtrak Safety Management System for Track Workers
 - He outlined the two different systems that had been developed to manage safety and explained how each of these worked.
 - He showed the work done to model injury data for a safety strategy
 - Part of the activity involved dissemination to the local level via a localized safety committee

- Finally he presented the methodology that takes place to provide protection to work zones

4.2 JR East

- Mr. Kojima set out the process that is used on JR East for the Shinkansen, which covered three distinct areas
 - Maintenance work management system, safety system for maintenance vehicles and confirmation car
 - He explained their COSMOS system of Computerized Safety Maintenance and Operation system for Shinkansen and explained how this was different to the conventional system for maintenance work
 - The Confirmation car, he explained runs through a section on completion of the work to ensure that everything has been correctly restored

4.3 Network Rail

- Nigel Ash explained the Safety operations in place on Network Rail
 - He said they have a saying “everyone home safe every day”
 - Nigel compared the safety of all railways in Europe and demonstrated that the UK was joint lowest in the number of rail worker fatalities
 - He went on to outline the safety culture flow chart to ensure that people work safely
 - There was also a system of “close calls” in place and how these are reported and handled

5. Dates of Future Meetings and Discussion Topics

A number of dates were suggested for the next meeting and it was agreed that this would be held on April 6th 2017 by Video Conference.

A suggested topic was “Asset Management”.

ADIF suggested that they could host the meeting in Spain in 2017 as this would be a good opportunity for a face to face as there is a UIC event in Madrid in the window when the meeting will be held.

6. Any Other Business

- Joaquín Jiménez Otero of ADIF said he would like to nominate Álvaro Mascaraque Sillero, Manager for International Organizations at ADIF to fill the vacant role of Vice Chairman of the Amtrak NEC FORUM in place of Juan Lea who had left ADIF. The Secretary will circulate his CV and seek Members guidance.
- There being no other business the meeting was closed.