

## Rail Transportation Division Newsletter

Editor: Tom Guins

Winter 2012

### Chair's Message



2011 was truly an exciting year for both the Rail Transportation Division and for the Rail Industry as a whole. While the US economy struggled to rebound amid concerns of housing and the Eurozone, the Rail industry continued to recover from the recession. Rail traffic in 2011, as indicated by car loadings, has increased an average of 3% from the prior year. This increase in traffic has forced most railroads and car owners to pull cars out of storage and begin to maintain them. This return of cars and their maintenance is very positive for the suppliers of the industry. New freight car builds increased about 120% from the prior year and are expected to increase another 40% in 2012. In short, the rail industry continues to be robust and prosperous.

I can proudly say the same thing about the RTD. Our 2011 Fall Technical Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota was a great success. I was especially impressed with the quality of papers presented and the in-depth question and answer discussions that followed. We would also like to thank Ed Byers at Metro Transit for his keynote presentation on The Northstar Commuter Rail Line.

The committee is meticulously working on our next Joint Rail Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia at Temple University and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Conference will be April 17-19 and is in association with IEEE, ASCE, TRB, APTA, INFORMS and AREMA. The event will continue the Scholarship Program as an effort to encourage student participation in both publishing papers and in the event itself. The diligent efforts of all the volunteers involved repeatedly make each conference a success and I know this next conference will be no exception. RTD also continues to provide donations to carefully selected and important causes that further the development, preservation and education of the rail industry.

As always I am appreciative for all the efforts of this group, and I am grateful to be part of such a great team. Best of luck to everyone in the New Year.

Jason Reiling  
Chairman, ASME-RTD 2011-2012  
Director – Design Engineering  
Strato, Inc.

The banner features a blue background with a city skyline and a train on the right. The text 'JRC 2012' is in white on a dark blue square, 'ASME 2012' is in yellow, and 'JOINT RAIL CONFERENCE' is in large yellow letters. The date and location 'April 17-19, 2012 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania' are in smaller white text.

**JRC  
2012**

**ASME 2012** April 17-19, 2012 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**JOINT RAIL CONFERENCE**

## Announcing:

The 2012 Joint Rail Conference, Organized and Sponsored by seven important industry groups:

**ASME, IEEE, ASCE, AREMA, TRB, INFORMS, APTA**

The conference will be held on April 17th through the 19th, at Temple University, Philadelphia.

The conference theme is “Technology to Advance the Future of Rail Transport”

**JRC 2012** is the major, multidisciplinary North American railroad conference encompassing all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research. The conference is a cooperative effort of the seven co-sponsoring organizations noted above. Papers and presentations will address railroad civil, mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering, as well as safety, planning, design, operations, maintenance, and management. The conference will encompass freight and passenger rail, including commuter, regional and intercity systems. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- [Track 1 Railroad Infrastructure Engineering](#)
- [Track 2 Rail Equipment Engineering](#)
- [Track 3 Signal & Train Control Engineering](#)
- [Track 4 Service Quality & Operations Research](#)
- [Track 5 Planning and Development](#)
- [Track 6 Safety and Security](#)
- [Track 7 Energy Efficiency and Sustainability](#)
- [Track 8 Urban Passenger Rail Transport](#)

Discounted registrations are available until March 30, and remember to book your rooms early! We expect to have a great turnout, with over 150 papers, presentations, and poster sessions.

A Conference Reception will be held on Tuesday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, and the Conference Banquet and Program will be held on Wednesday evening at the same hotel.

The on-site registration desk opens on Monday 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm at the hotel, and at Temple University Conference Center from 8:30 am on Tuesday.

Learn more about the conference at our website: [www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2012/](http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2012/), or register through the registration link: [www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2012/confregistration.cfm](http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2012/confregistration.cfm) and take advantage of our early bird discount!

See you there!

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**  
**RTD JOINT RAIL CONFERENCE**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—Temple University April 17-19, 2012**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1800 Market Street**  
*“Technology to Advance the Future of Rail Transport”*

Check the printed program at on-site registration for final schedule and room locations.

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012:**

8:00 am - 8:45 am	CONFERENCE BREAKFAST at UNIVERSITY Tuesday Session Chairs meet with Authors for Orientation
9:00 am - 10:45 am	(1) WELCOME & PLENARY SESSION
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	(2) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm	CONFERENCE LUNCHEON at UNIVERSITY <b>Program – Speaker from University</b>
2:15 pm - 4:00 pm	(3) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	(4) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
6:45 pm - 8:30 pm	CONFERENCE RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION at HOTEL <b>Hors d’oeuvres &amp; sponsored bar</b>

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012:**

7:30 am - 8:15 am	CONFERENCE BREAKFAST at UNIVERSITY Wednesday Session Chairs meet with Authors for Orientation
8:30 am - 10:15 am	(5) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	(6) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	CONFERENCE LUNCHEON at UNIVERSITY - NO PROGRAM
1:30 pm - 3:15 pm	(7) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
3:30 pm - 5:15 pm	(8) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	RECEPTION, CONFERENCE BANQUET & PROGRAM – <b>Keynote speaker at hotel</b>

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012:**

7:30 am - 8:15 am	CONFERENCE BREAKFAST at UNIVERSITY Thursday Session Chairs meet with Authors for Orientation
8:30 am - 10:15 am	(9) PLENARY SESSION 2
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	(10) SIX CONCURRENT SESSIONS
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	BOX LUNCH at UNIVERSITY (no program)
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	TECHNICAL TOUR

**END OF CONFERENCE**

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**On-Site Registration:**

Monday – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm at **Hotel**  
 Tuesday – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm at **University**  
 Wednesday – 7:00 am – 1:30 pm at **University**  
 Thursday – 7:00 am – 9:00 am at **University**

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**FUTURE MEETINGS**

**2012 - JRC:** April 17-19 - Philadelphia, PA - Temple University, Crowne Plaza Hotel  
**2012 - FTC & Data Management Symposium:** October 16-18 Omaha, NE  
**2013 - JRC:** April 15-18 - Knoxville, TN - University of Tennessee, Knoxville Convention Center  
**2013 - FTC:** Mid October - Altoona, PA, - Penn State Altoona  
**2014 - JRC:** March - Pueblo, CO

Note that all dates and locations are subject to change as planning progresses.

**RTD thanks the following list of companies for their generous support.  
These supporters make success of our technical conferences possible.**

**2011 ASME Reception Dinner Sponsors**

Amsted Rail Group  
CSX Transportation  
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MTS  
National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association  
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TUV Rheinland Rail Sciences, Inc.

**2011 ASME FTC Ad Sponsors**

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Progress Rail Services  
Standard Steel, LLC  
Strato, Inc.  
STV Incorporated  
The Timken Company  
TUV Rheinland Rail Sciences, Inc.

**New RTD Appointment  
CORY HOGAN**

The Rail Transportation Division is proud to announce a new member to our General Committee. Cory Hogan has been appointed to the committee and is excited to help with the Scholarship Program and assist with the planning of our next Fall Technical Conference in Omaha. Cory is Director of Vehicle Dynamics and Testing at TUV Rheinland/RSI Rail Sciences in La Vista, NE. Please join us in congratulating Cory as we welcome him to the Rail Transportation Division team.

## Featured University

# Temple University

The College of Engineering at Temple University ([www.temple.edu/engineering](http://www.temple.edu/engineering)) is looking forward to seeing you at JRC 2012, which will be hosted on our main campus in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from April 17-19. The conference theme is “Technology to Advance the Future of Rail Transport” and will cover freight and passenger rail, encompassing commuter, regional and intercity systems. Further information can be found at <http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2012/>.

The site for the conference will be Temple University’s Main Campus, strategically located in near North Philadelphia, only a short distance from historic downtown Philadelphia. Temple University was founded in 1884 by Dr. Russell Conwell with a mission to serve the underserved. Temple College became Temple University in 1907 and has evolved into a comprehensive urban research and academic institution. Our 39,000 students can choose from 9 campuses and 333 academic degree programs including: 2 associate’s, 141 bachelor’s, 123 master’s and 60 doctoral. Temple also offers 7 first-professional degrees in dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy and podiatric medicine. Temple also offers students a large and robust study abroad program with campuses in Rome and Tokyo, programs in London, Beijing, Paris, Mumbai and other sites.

It is very timely that JRC 2012 is being held in Philadelphia this year. Temple is served by two major rail lines that are part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (<http://www.septa.org/>). This system is closely integrated with the Northeast Corridor railway system ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast\\_Corridor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_Corridor)), the nation’s busiest rail system. SEPTA is arguably the most diverse regional transportation system in the world, with transportation modes ranging from large rail to very small trolleys. This year, SEPTA has begun overhauling its fare collection system to use a combination of smart cards and portable computing devices. Faculty in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering are playing a key role in the development of this next generation system.

Temple’s College of Engineering has grown significantly in the past five years and is now approximately 1200 students and almost 50 faculty members. Four academic departments exist: Bioengineering (BE), Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and Mechanical Engineering (ME). Transportation-related research is conducted by both CEE and ECE faculty. Prominent research areas include the environment (e.g., protection and management of critical natural resources), water (e.g., remediation of pollutants), tissue and other biomaterials engineering, alternative energy, sensors and sensor networks and multi-agent systems.

Temple is a comprehensive academic institution that features a number of top-ranked programs. While on our campus, we encourage you to visit the art galleries at the Tyler School of Art, the business innovation centers at the Fox School of Business, and the Tech Center – the largest facility of its type in the world. Historic downtown Philadelphia is a short train ride away, where you can enjoy famous sites such as the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Franklin Institute, and many world-class dining establishments.

More information about the College of Engineering at Temple University can be found on our website ([www.temple.edu/engineering](http://www.temple.edu/engineering)) or by contacting Joseph Picone, Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1947 North 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122, (215) 204-4841 or [picone@temple.edu](mailto:picone@temple.edu).

**ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
JULY 1, 2011 -- JUNE 30, 2012**

**CHAIR:**

Jason Reiling  
Director - Design Engineering  
Strato Inc.  
100 New England Avenue  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Phone: (732)-317-5440  
Fax: (732)-981-1222  
Cell: (732)-718-8927  
Email: [jreiling@stratoinc.com](mailto:jreiling@stratoinc.com)

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

Steven L. Dedmon  
Director – Technology and R & D  
Standard Steel, LLC  
500 North Walnut Street  
Burnham, PA 17009

Phone: (717) 242-4972  
FAX: (717) 242-4680  
Email:  
[sdedmon@standardsteel.com](mailto:sdedmon@standardsteel.com)

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

**CHAIR:**

Matthew Dick  
ENSCO, Inc.  
Staff Technical Manager  
325 Winding River Lane, Suite 204  
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Phone: (703) 321-4515  
Cell: (434) 906-7257  
Email: [dick.matthew@ensco.com](mailto:dick.matthew@ensco.com)

**ASST. TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

**CHAIR:**

Michelle Muhlanger  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
John A. Volpe National  
Transportation Systems Center  
Structures and Dynamics Division,  
RVT-61  
55 Broadway, Kendall Square  
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093

Phone: (617) 494-2630  
Fax: (617) 494-3616  
Email:

[michelle.muhlanger@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.muhlanger@dot.gov)

**CHAIR PUBLICITY RR-8, &**

**CHAIR**

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON:**

Robert Irving  
Transportation Manager  
Structural and Transportation  
Laboratory  
CTLGroup  
5400 Old Orchard Road  
Skokie, IL 60077-1030

Phone: (847) 972-3208  
FAX: (847) 965-8997  
Cell: (630) 380-4947  
E-mail: [rirving@ctlgroup.com](mailto:rirving@ctlgroup.com)

**MANAGER OF DIVISIONAL  
AFFAIRS:**

Samuel R. Williams  
5759 Scotia Court  
Dublin, OH 43016-3256

Phone: (614) 766-6970  
Fax: (614) 766-6970  
Cell: (614) 570-9197  
Email:

[srwilliams@columbus.rr.com](mailto:srwilliams@columbus.rr.com)  
-----

**ASME STAFF SUPPORT:**

Abe Hassan  
Administrator, Unit Support for  
E&TT Group  
ASME International  
Environment & Transportation  
Technical Group  
Three Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-5990

Phone: (212) 591-7103  
Fax: (212) 591-7671  
Email: [hassana@asme.org](mailto:hassana@asme.org)