



Dear Joint Rail Members and Conference Attendees:

We are excited to welcome you to this year's Joint Rail Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Historic Philadelphia, PA from April 4-7, 2017. We have many great technical sessions and events scheduled. Here is an update on what to expect and a few reminders:

**SEPTA TECHNICAL TOURS:**

Two Technical Tours have been added. If you have already registered, please contact our Customer Care Center at 888-665-1370 or via email at [asme@orchideventsolutions.com](mailto:asme@orchideventsolutions.com). If not, you can choose one of the tours when you register. **\*Please note these tours run simultaneously so you can only choose one.**

1. **Fern Rock Shop\*** - The shop is located at the north terminal of SEPTA's Broad Street heavy rail line. It contains daily (Car House) and heavy maintenance (Shop) facilities for the Broad Street subway. The facility also serves as a central back shop to support city, suburban and regional rail rolling stock. In this function, the shop is combination of distinctive workshops with include Air Brake, Compressor, Machine, Wheel and Axle and Truck repair and overhaul functions. Located at the facility is a SEPTA Broad Street subway car shell that was part of the evaluation of the Broad Street fleet life extension. This assessment is the subject of paper JRC-2265, *Evaluation of Subway Car Shell Condition for Extended Service*.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 (Please meet in the hotel Lobby at 8:00 am)

Duration (leave/return to hotel, estimated): 3 hours

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Transportation: Train

Maximum number of participants: 50

PPE required: none. No open-toe shoes, please.

2. **Crum Creek Viaduct\*** - New \$56M structure carries SEPTA's Media-Elwyn regional rail route over Crum Creek. The original structure was built in 1895 by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and was replaced by SEPTA during the summer of 2016. The planned tour includes a site visit to a viaduct of similar age and construction, as well as the completed Crum Creek structure.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 for short presentation, then board bus. (Please meet in hotel lobby (or room to be determined) at 8:00 am)

Duration (leave/return to hotel, estimated): 3 hours

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Transportation: Bus

Maximum number of participants: 40 (based on seated capacity of 40-foot transit bus)

PPE required: None. Good closed-toe walking shoes required; tour will involve moderate walking on unpaved paths on uneven ground.

### **SPEAKERS:**

- We have confirmed our lunch speaker for Wednesday:

**Lunch speaker for Wednesday April 5:** Jeff Knueppel, General Manager SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority).

**Lunch speaker for Thursday, April 6:** TBD

**Banquet Keynote for Thursday, April 6:** TBD

### **GRAND CHALLENGE:**

- This year the JRC will host a Grand Challenge Competition open to all conference attendees. We invite registered participants to propose an idea to the below Grand Challenge Question and present that idea to a panel of industry experts using a 3-minute "shark tank pitch". The goal of this competition is to spark new ideas, innovations, and approaches to solving a relevant issue affecting the railroad industry. **Grand Challenge Entry Forms will be accepted from December 1st - March 1st, 2017. Follow this link for more information:**  
<https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference/program/grand-challenge>

### **REMINDERS:**

- **January 27 - Final Papers are due and ALL presenting authors need to register for the conference, after this date your papers will be pulled from publication.**
- **March 4 – This is the deadline for Advanced Registration, after this date, the rates will go up, so register today!**
- **March 13 – Deadline for hotel reservations. After this date, rooms and the group rate of \$199 cannot be guaranteed. So make your reservations early.**