# PSR and the Digital Transformation of Rail Yard Planning

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### **Discussion overview**

- A Unique Challenge
- PSR and Yard Operations
- Transforming Planning and Operations across Short Lines and Class Is



## **A Unique Challenge**



How do we balance the rigidity of PSR operating principles with the variability of daily yard operations?



**Our vision:** More automation, enhanced visibility PLUS <u>advanced decision support</u> will unlock network efficiency & productivity beyond the PSR gains already achieved



#### Network level changes have led to operational disruptions... but technological disruptions have yet to gain momentum

PSR tends to prefer the flexibility of flat switching over the efficiency of humping

	Jan `12	Jan `17	Nov `17	Jul `18	Nov `19
Hump Yards	28%	26%	21%	22%	20%
Flat Class Yards	72%	74%	79%	78%	80%

\*author's estimate of yards used primarily for classification on Class I and Short Line RRs

How much has the North American rail industry invested in the remaining yards?





## **PSR and Yard Operations**



### Hump Yard Planner Pilot is Successful!

- Phased deployment in October and November 2019
- High level of user acceptance
- Designed for "traditional" hump yard operations, modifications under way to incorporate PSR principles
- Will serve as the interactive playbook for PSR-based yard operations across the network



# **PSR principles for yards**

- 1. First In, First Over (FIFO) hump sequence
- 2. Maintain Static Block-to-Track assignments in the Class Yard
- 3. Wait to Start Building a train until the time dictated by the plan
- 4. Use available resource time on hump and pull-back to help the train building process (couple tracks, switch out mis-routes, etc.)
- 5. Follow the plan



# Transforming Planning and Operations across Short Lines and Class Is



#### **Opportunity 1: Increase asset velocity intra-network**



- Transform a railroad's corridor/terminal area
  - Leverage integrated components to drive:
    - Load balancing across terminals
    - Further dwell time reduction
    - Increased car throughput
    - Increased asset productivity



#### **Opportunity 2: Increase asset velocity inter-network**



Leverage data integration to remove work downstream across carriers

- Transform more than one railroad corridor/terminal area
  - Provides a competitive advantage by driving
    - Increased supply chain visibility
    - Dwell time reduction
    - Increased car throughput
    - Increased asset productivity



#### **Opportunity 3: Increase asset velocity through the supply chain**

	RAIL CUSTOMER	CLASS I	SHORTLINE		
OBJECTIVE	Load cars in a sequence that reduces downstream switching	Block cars in a sequence that reduces downstream work on or off network	Consider multiple factors to reduce downstream switching and spotting work		
	RAIL PIPELINE VISIBILITY & PLANNING SOLUTION				



In 2019, we created a clickable concept to illustrate possible solutions to these opportunities

4 @ Ø

Pittsburgh

Switchlist generated.

Ingredient Current Jobs All Jobs 🔻 Expected today: 140 cars

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Power

**ING Warehouse** 

Corn, Ethanol, Sugar.

John Arryn + 4

Track 703 cleared for ING

1700

8288888888

0800

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### Multi-Carrier Block Optimization

Partner and trip visibility, to reduce the overall workload of every train in circulation and increase capacity through smarter asset, infrastructure, and crew scheduling.

## Working toward the future

#### To advance the Yard of the Future, a unified approach is needed

#### Data visibility across partners

Seamless sharing of the right information to the right party at the right time

#### Real-time asset tracking

Scalable platforms that remove the need for manual yard inventory data entry

#### **Integrated planning tools**

Proactive decisions that consider network conditions and keep assets moving

#### Remote planning and execution

Move from local control to regional control of yards to...



#### Railroad Automation is about people first, processes second, and products third



# Accelerating the future of transportation