

Operational Planning in the Railway Business

This classroom-based course is designed for those who are fairly new to the subject as well as those who wish to further their career development and expertise in this field by setting their knowledge in a wider context. We will introduce the specific tasks of operational planning, and set out to show how the timetable is fundamental to a railway business, generating revenue and influencing costs.

The programme will cover the following aspects to enable you to appreciate the basic principles of Operational Planning in their business context:

- The railway as a system, and the consequent need for planning
- How the timetable underpins the business – generating revenue, minimising costs
- Tools and techniques for compiling and implementing the operational plan
- The processes that take the timetable from specification to successful implementation
- Capacity – what is it, where it comes from and where it goes
- The Operator's role in business case development and project appraisal

Course Overview

The Network:

The components of the railway system; Track layouts and signalling – how they affect the train service; Planning Rules – what are they and what determines them.

Timetable Preparation

The development of a train service from the commercial specification and Planning Rules; using the train planners' toolkit - train graph, platform occupation graph, tabular presentations.

Resources Planning:

The supporting resources plan – how it influences the costs of the business; rolling stock and crew diagrams; key issues in crew rostering

Access Management and Capacity:

Planning timescales (the permanent timetable, short-term planning, very long-term strategic planning); controlling alterations to the timetable during its operation. What is capacity, how is it created; the practicalities of exploiting capacity effectively in a public service.

Projects & Development:

Devising and evaluating developments to the railway system to ensure they meet commercial requirements, offer value for money in respect of both infrastructure and resources, and perform well in practice.

Planning for Performance:

How a good Plan forms the basis for good performance; are there trade-offs between performance, cost and capacity utilisation?

The Customer Experience:

What matters to passengers, aiming to meet it in the Plan, and what happens if you don't!

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course participants will be able to:

- Understand the objectives of timetabling and the constraints within which timetabling operates
- Appreciate how the timetable underpins a railway business by generating revenue and setting costs
- Understand and employ a selection of standard timetable and resources planning techniques
- Work effectively with associated disciplines such as commercial management and project management

DURATION:

The course is run over a full weekend, commencing on a Friday evening and finishing late Sunday afternoon. (Weekends have been chosen to ensure availability of expert tutors and for ease of releasing staff.)

CONTACT US:

For further information or to register your interest in this course

Email: learning@railwayoperators.co.uk

Call: 03333 440523.