

Strategic Session 4



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

Synergy and scale in rail infrastructure development



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It is clear that the railway sector is evolving but.....

- **is the pace fast enough?**
- **some say it is too quick and that the sector is not able to cope**
- **others say that the pace of change is not quick enough and that rail transport is losing market opportunities to the road and aviation sectors**



Regular progress has been made.....we are embracing the digital era

- the system has more or less moved from mechanical to at least solid state signalling
- there is remote monitoring of assets
- there is widespread automatic train protection
- there are much lighter-weight and faster trains
- there are interactive passenger information systems
- **the railway of today is a lot different to what it was a decade ago**
- People will still say that this is not quick enough - what is it that makes rail different?



How is rail different?



- start with the life cycle of the assets
- rail has some very large fixed assets - track, the track bed, bridges, stations, tunnels, noise barriers, plus movable assets such as the actual trains
- It takes collaborative forward planning and embracing technological evolutions
- identifying which assets need to be changed when and taking account of the technological evolution along the way



But it must be realistic

- affordability factor for the stakeholders involved
 - equipment supply
 - install new infrastructure equipment
 - get rolling stock updated
 - and staff need to be trained
-
- and there's the small matter to keeping the trains running, costs controlled and customers satisfied



Looking forward



- **digitalisation – learning from other sectors**
- **embrace the passion of SMEs and Start Ups**
- **communicate the messages – RTSE... get people talking and doing (!!)**
- **only then will there be a real shift to railways**
- **only then will we see a significant reduction in congestion of our towns and cities**
- **this is how we get the train to really start to take the mobility strain**





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Thank you for your kind attention.