Special Session of the NUTC Sandhouse Gang

(Due to the high interest in this meeting topic – we are making available our traditional Call-In Option – so those joining can ask questions and interact with the speaker. See Below for details)

This Thursday - Sept. 19, 2013
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Topic: Development of Strategic Plan & Research Agenda, National Cooperative Railroad Research Program

Speaker: Joseph L. Schofer, Associate Dean, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science, Northwestern University

Location: Transportation Center – Northwestern University
Chambers Hall, 600 Foster, Evanston; Lower Level, Ruan Conference Center

Northwestern University has been developing a strategic plan for research under the National Cooperative Rail Research Program (NCRRP), funded by the FRA and operated through the Transportation Research Board. While between FRA and the AAR there are well-funded research activities aimed at rolling stock and railroad infrastructure, NCRRP targets issues in policy, human resources, finance, joint operations, capital utilization, etc.

Over the last six months, under the direction of Prof. Joseph Schofer, we have interviewed or surveyed more than 60 railroad stakeholders, asking them:

- What are the main problems faced by the railroad industry today?
- What are the most promising opportunities facing the railroad industry (for example: new technologies, service innovations, markets, policies)?
- Are there other areas/topics in which additional research would benefit the rail industry, its customers and the surrounding community?

In this Sandhouse meeting, we will describe our results and ask your guidance on the recommended research strategy. You will be the focus of this meeting, bringing your experience and perspectives to bear on a review of strategic research recommendations coming from this study, and providing suggestions for additional research topics and priorities for new projects.

Prof. Schofer – who will lead the discussion and seek your input following his report on his findings during the research effort.

Our desire is to tap your experience and help us achieve a truly outstanding research report that will make a difference in the railroad industry of the future.

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Dial-In information: For those unable to attend in person, you can dial in to a conference line to hear our speaker’s presentation. The line will be open from 2:50 pm - 5:15 pm

Dial In Phone Number: 877-806-9883 (toll-free) or 719-387-4105
Participant PassCode: 9317334026

If available – we will post any slides that Prof. Schofer prepares for his presentation at:
http://www.transportation.northwestern.edu/news_events/sandhouse.html

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Parking: Parking is extremely difficult on Northwestern’s campus (it is new student week) - so we urge visitors to use Public Transportation if at all possible (closest El stop is Foster - on the Purple Line).

If driving - please refer to the following web pages for information about parking options.
http://www.transportation.northwestern.edu/about/visit.html
http://www.cityofevanston.org/parking/lots-garages/

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