
Subject: Re: some understanding questions: cross section & stations & stopping points

Posted by [Volker Knollmann](#) on Wed, 16 Feb 2005 12:56:46 GMT

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On 14.02.2005 17:03, Albrecht Achilles wrote:

- > 1.crossSection
- > What is meant with this element?

I would guess that this element describes a passenger crossing in a station. Or other possibility: this describes the exact middle of a station (in German: "Bahnhofsmitte") which is a reference point for things like mileage, borders, etc.

Furthermore, in German there is the word "Bahnhofsquerschnitt" which is closest translation to "crossSection". AFAIK this "Bahnhofsquerschnitt" has a certain operational meaning, but I don't remember what it is. And neither Prof. Pachl's glossary nor allmighty google could answer that question. But perhaps I'm just wrong...

Can anyone please rectify or falsify my assumptions? Thanks!

- > 2.stations
- > When I want to create a station on a track so i have to use the ocp's and
- > its attributes!?

Yes.

- > But how can I indicate that the station has a length, and
- > is not only a point?

Well, "ocp" just introduces a station. It's more or less a declaration ("There is thing called ABCD").

And now it's time for some nitpicking:

<nitpick>

The "length of a station" (that's what you asked for) is given implicitly by the distance between it's entry signals. This information can be derived from the existing railML-scheme.

What you probably meant was the "length of a platform", and yes, this information is not yet provided in the infrastructure scheme.

</nitpick>

If you want to save the length of a platform, you could store it as "generalElement" indicating the start or end of a platform. Thus, you keep compatible with version 1.0.

But of course you may also think of a suitable XML-description and post it in this list for further discussion. Then your proposal can be taken into account for future railML-versions.

One last hint:

In one of the last railML-meetings (I think it was in Braunschweig in April 2004) we've had a presentation about a station-scheme. Perhaps you can find some useful information in the presentations and proceedings of that meeting. The documents are available on the railML-website. I don't know about the current status of the station-scheme.

- > 3.stopping points
- > how can I display a stopping point in a railml file?

Quick and dirty (don't try this at home!):

```
<.....>  
  <signal pos="4.242" function="stoppingPoint" type="sign"/>  
<.....>
```

Occasionally, you can add "switchable=false" to indicate that this is a static sign and no switchable signal (if the "switchable"-attribute is really meant like that).

The schema does not give further constraints for the values of the "function"- or "type"-field of <signal>-elements. Basically, you can do whatever you want here and be perfectly compatible with yourself (and probably no one else).

IIRC, we have discussed that topic earlier here but without result. Perhaps we should reactivate that discussion for future versions.

Please anyone feel free to correct me!

HTH,
Volker Knollmann
