



# Failure Mode and Effect Analysis for Cyber-Physical Systems

Communications-Based Train Control  
Use case



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# Agenda

01. Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA)
02. FMEA Drawbacks
03. New Risk Priority Number criteria and formula
04. Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)
05. FMEA applied to CBTC
06. Conclusions and Future Work



## Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA)

- Engineering method designed to define, identify, and present solutions for system failures, problems, or errors.
- FMEA has five fundamental steps:
  - system subdivision
  - failure modes identification
  - RPN calculation
  - prevention actions recording
  - analysis reporting
- Identifies necessary decisions to prevent individual system failures and establish the risk priorities of failure modes through the Risk Priority Number (RPN).

01.

Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA)

## FMEA – 5 steps

- System subdivision
- Failure modes identification
- RPN calculation
- Prevention actions recording
- Analysis reporting



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$$\text{RPN} = \text{Severity} * \text{Occurrence} * \text{Detectability}$$



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01.

Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA)



## FMEA RPN calculation variables

|                                    |                   |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |   |    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| <b>Occurrence</b><br><b>(O)</b>    | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                         | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|                                    | Nearly Impossible |   |   |   |   | Failure Almost Inevitable |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Severity</b><br><b>(S)</b>      | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                         | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|                                    | No Effect         |   |   |   |   | Hazardous Effect          |   |   |   |    |
| <b>Detectability</b><br><b>(D)</b> | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                         | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|                                    | Almost Certain    |   |   |   |   | Absolute Uncertainty      |   |   |   |    |



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02.

FMEA Drawbacks

## FMEA Drawbacks

- Bounded to the design limitations, such as the granularity
- Only considers failure modes regardless of its origin and the associated mechanisms
- Subjective, depending on the study team's experience



## FMEA Drawbacks

- RPN has enormous gaps in ranges, it generates as just 120 of 1000 numbers
- Equal values of RPN are obtained from several combinations of diverse factors
- Does not have associated cost in the analysis
- Does not consider environmental or external damages to the system



## New RPN Criteria and Formula

- Our goal is to assess the risk of different system failure modes based on the economic impact they represent.
  - Social
  - Infrastructural
  - Environmental
  - Delay

03.

New Risk Priority Number criteria and formula



## New RPN Criteria and Formula – Social Factor

| Level | Description  | Criteria  |
|-------|--------------|---|
| 1     | Low          | Reduced number of light injuries<br>$1 \leq LI \leq 10$<br>$7400 \text{ €} \leq C \leq 74,000 \text{ €}$  |
| 2     | Low          | Moderate number of light injuries<br>$10 < LI \leq 30$<br>$81,400 \text{ €} < C \leq 222,000 \text{ €}$   |
| 3     | Low          | High number of light injuries<br>$LI > 30$<br>$C > 222,000 \text{ €}$   |
| 4     | Moderate     | High number of light injuries<br>Reduced number of serious injuries<br>$LI \geq 30$<br>$1 \leq SI \leq 10$<br>$773,400 \text{ €} \leq C \leq 1,203,000 \text{ €}$ |
| 5     | Moderate     | High number of light injuries<br>Moderate number of serious injuries<br>$LI > 30$<br>$10 < SI \leq 30$<br>$1,203,000 \text{ €} \leq C \leq 3,331,000 \text{ €}$   |
| 6     | Moderate     | High number of light injuries and serious injuries<br>$LI > 30$<br>$SI > 30$<br>$C > 3,444,000 \text{ €}$   |
| 7     | High         | Reduced number of serious injuries and fatalities<br>$1 \leq SI \leq 10$<br>$1 \leq F \leq 10$<br>$910,000 \text{ €} \leq C \leq 11,252,000 \text{ €}$            |
| 8     | High         | Moderate number of serious injuries and fatalities<br>$10 < SI \leq 30$<br>$10 \leq F \leq 30$<br>$8,137,400 \text{ €} \leq C \leq 27,312,000 \text{ €}$          |
| 9     | Catastrophic | High number of fatalities<br>$F > 30$<br>$C > 24,090,000 \text{ €}$   |
| 10    | Catastrophic | High number of serious injuries and fatalities<br>$SI > 30$<br>$F > 30$<br>$C > 27,312,000 \text{ €}$   |

03.

New Risk Priority Number criteria and formula



## New RPN Criteria and Formula – Infrastructural Factor

| Level | Description  | Criteria   |
|-------|--------------|--|
| 1     | Low          | Low damage to the railway track ( $\leq 1000$ m)<br>$0 < C \leq 250,000$ €   |
| 2     | Low          | Low damage to 1 or more bogies<br>$250,000$ € $< C \leq 500,000$ €   |
| 3     | Low          | Low damage to the railway track and 1 or more bogies<br>$500,000$ € $< C \leq 750,000$ €   |
| 4     | Moderate     | 1 or more bogies derailment<br>$750,000$ € $< C \leq 1,250,000$ €  |
| 5     | Moderate     | 1 or more bogies derailment and access points destruction<br>$1\,250,000$ € $< C \leq 1,750,000$ €   |
| 6     | Moderate     | Serious damage to the railway track ( $> 1000$ m)<br>1 or more bogies derailment and access points destruction<br>$750,000$ € $< C \leq 2,250,000$ € |
| 7     | High         | 2 trains collision<br>$2,250,000$ € $< C \leq 3,250,000$ €   |
| 8     | High         | 2 trains collision and access points destruction<br>$3,250,000$ € $< C \leq 4,250,000$ €   |
| 9     | Catastrophic | 2 trains collision, access points destruction and severe damage to the railway track<br>$4,250,000$ € $< C \leq 6,250,000$ €                         |
| 10    | Catastrophic | 2 trains collision, 1 or more bogies derailment, access points destruction and serious damage to the railway track<br>$C > 6,250,000$ €              |



## New RPN Criteria and Formula – Environmental Factor

| Level | Description | Criteria  |
|-------|-------------|---|
| 1     | Low         | $0 < QCO_2 \leq 500 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$0 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 12,500 \text{ €}$          |
| 2     | Low         | $500 < QCO_2 \leq 1000 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$12,500 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 25,000 \text{ €}$  |
| 3     | Low         | $1000 < QCO_2 \leq 1500 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$25,000 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 37,500 \text{ €}$ |
| 4     | Moderate    | $1500 < QCO_2 \leq 2000 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$37,500 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 50,000 \text{ €}$ |
| 5     | Moderate    | $2000 < QCO_2 \leq 2500 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$50,000 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 62,500 \text{ €}$ |
| 6     | Moderate    | $2500 < QCO_2 \leq 3000 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$62,500 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 65,000 \text{ €}$ |
| 7     | High        | $3000 < QCO_2 \leq 3500 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$65,000 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 67,500 \text{ €}$ |
| 8     | High        | $3500 < QCO_2 \leq 4000 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$67,500 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 70,000 \text{ €}$ |
| 9     | Very High   | $4000 < QCO_2 \leq 4500 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$70,000 < RSSD(CO_2) \leq 72,500 \text{ €}$ |
| 10    | Very High   | $QCO_2 > 4500 \text{ tCO}_2$<br>$RSSD(CO_2) > 72,500 \text{ €}$                       |

03.

New Risk Priority Number criteria and formula



## New RPN Criteria and Formula – Delay Factor

| Level | Description | Criteria  |
|-------|-------------|---|
| 1     | Low         | $C \leq 25,000 \text{ €}$<br>( $\pm 12 \text{ h}$ ) |
| 2     | Low         | $25,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 50,000 \text{ €}$        |
| 3     | Low         | $50,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 75,000 \text{ €}$        |
| 4     | Moderate    | $75,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 100,000 \text{ €}$       |
| 5     | Moderate    | $100,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 125,000 \text{ €}$      |
| 6     | Moderate    | $125,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 150,000 \text{ €}$      |
| 7     | High        | $150,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 175,000 \text{ €}$      |
| 8     | High        | $175,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 200,000 \text{ €}$      |
| 9     | Very High   | $200,000 \text{ €} < C \leq 225,000 \text{ €}$      |
| 10    | Very High   | $C > 225,000 \text{ €}$                             |

03.

New Risk Priority Number criteria and formula





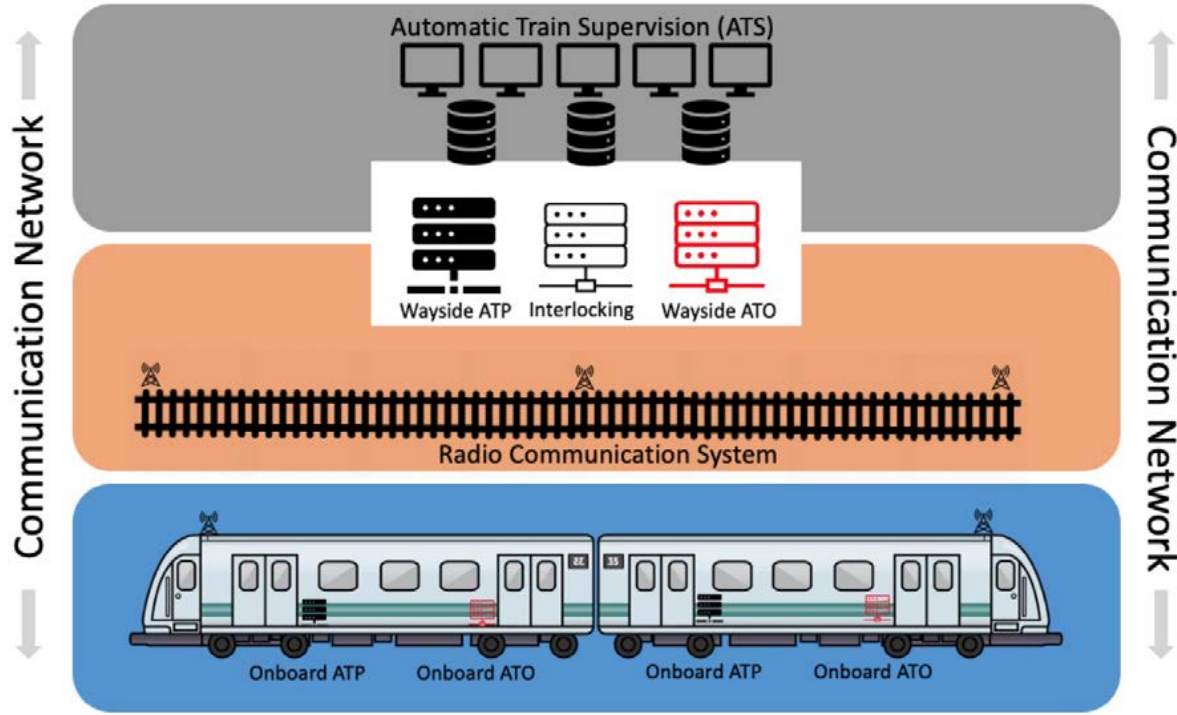
## New RPN Criteria and Formula

- To a final risk estimation, we propose five different categories: Very low, low, moderate, high, and catastrophic.
- $RPN = SF * SFw + IF * Ifw + EF * Ef w + DF * DFw$
- Social Factor (SF), Infrastructure Factor (IF), Environmental Factor (EF), Delay Factor (DF), weight (w)

SF = 0.5  
 IF = 0.35  
 EF = 0.05  
 DF = 0.1

| Category     | RPN    |
|--------------|--------|
| Very Low     | [1–2]  |
| Low          | [2–4]  |
| Moderate     | [4–6]  |
| High         | [6–8]  |
| Catastrophic | [8–10] |

# Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)



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Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)

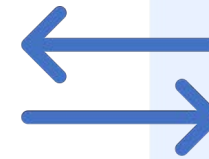
## Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)



Several Cyber-Physical Systems



Is a safety and time-critical system



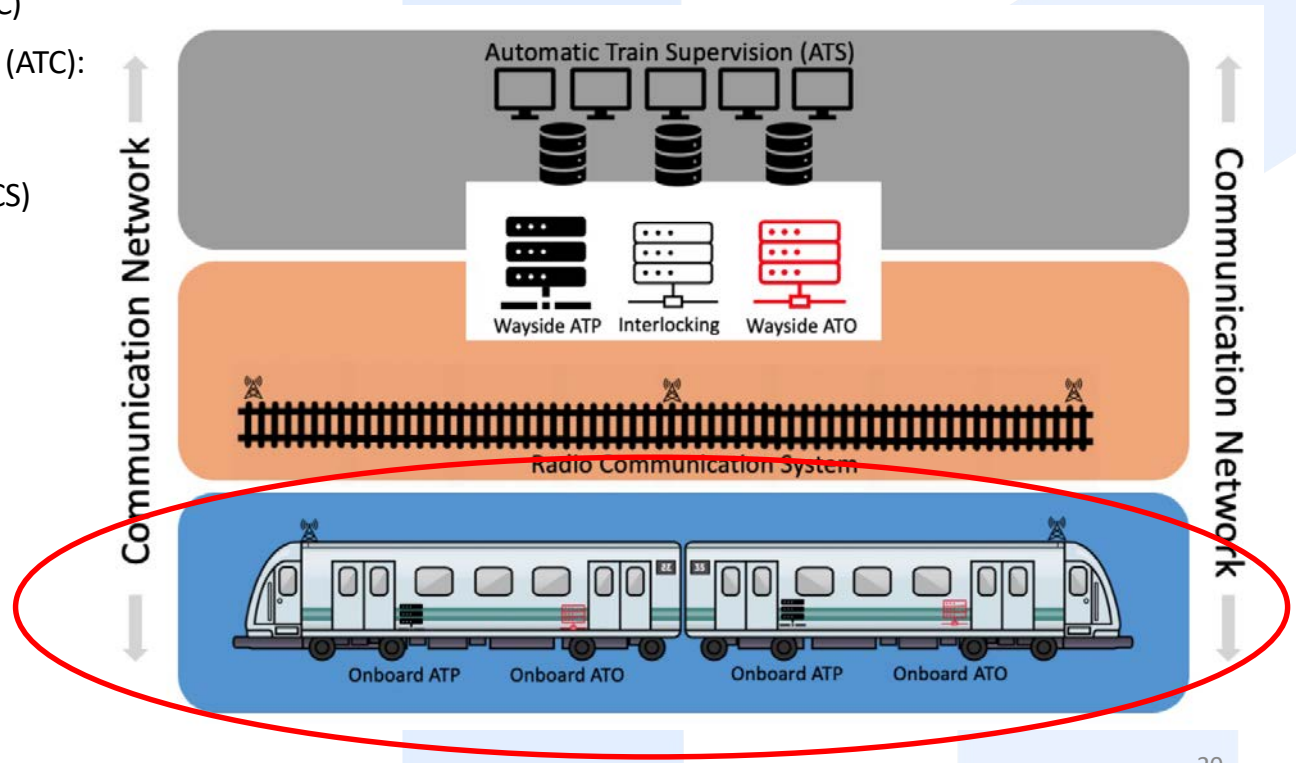
Dependent on data transfer

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Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)

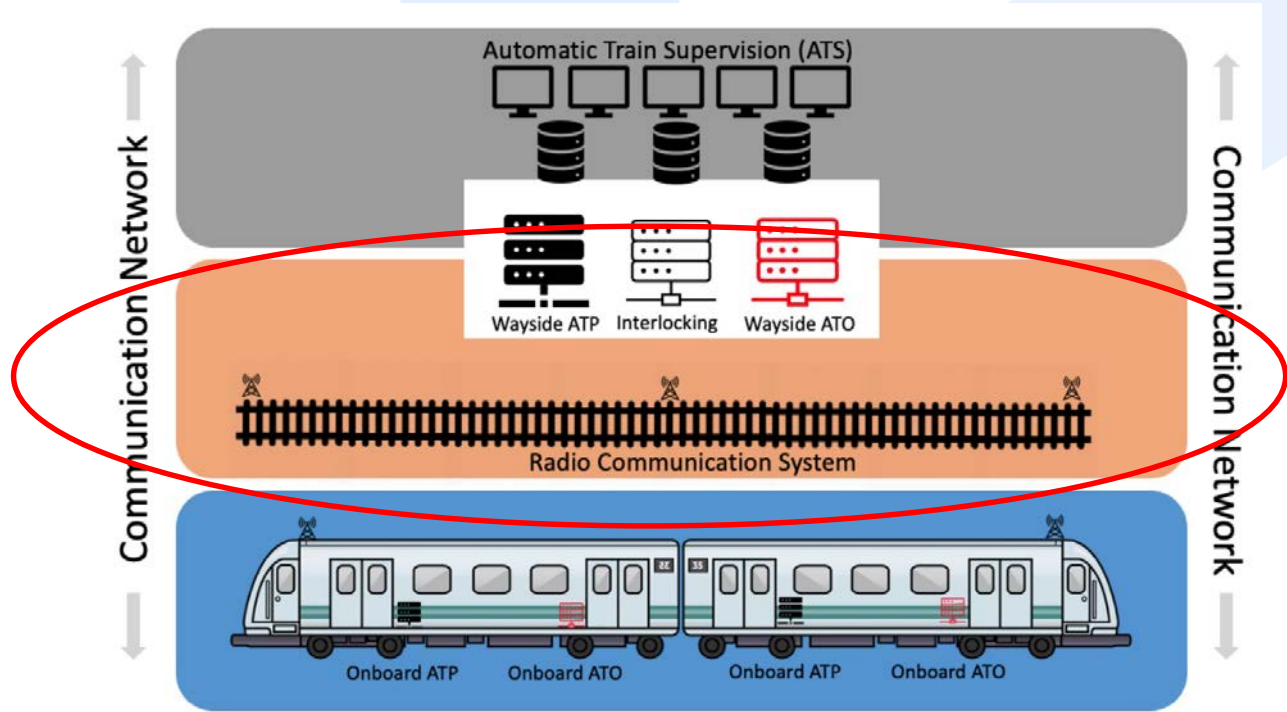
# CBTC – onboard components

- Vehicle Onboard Computer (VOBC)
- Onboard Automatic Train Control (ATC):
  - Automatic Train Protection (ATP)
  - Automatic Train Operation (ATO)
- Radio Communication System (RCS)



# CBTC – wayside components

- Zone Controller (ZC)
- Wayside ATP and ATO subsystems
- Computer-based Interlocking (CI)



04.

Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)

## CBTC – Cyber-security attacks

- Jamming attacks
- Man-in-the-Middle (MitM)
  - Message spoofing
  - Replay attacks



## CBTC – Cyber-security defences

- End-to-end data encryption
- Authentication methods
- Examples:
  - Rail Radio Intrusion Detection System (RRIDS)
  - $\mu$ Tesla
  - Address Resolution Protocol poisoning prevention
    - MitM-Resistant ARP
  - Authenticated Acknowledgement



## FMEA applied to CBTC

### Step 1 – System subdivision

| Subsystems                                | Components  |
|---|---|
| Local control system                      | Automatic train supervision (ATS)   |
| Wayside system                            | Zone Controller (ZC)<br>Computer-Based Interlocking (CI)  |
| Vehicle onboard system                    | Automatic train protection (ATP)<br>Automatic train operation (ATO)<br>Vehicle Onboard Computer (VOBC)<br>Data Communication System (DCS) |
| Train to the wayside communication system | Radio Communication System (RCS)<br>Access Points (AP)  |



## FMEA applied to CBTC

### Step 2 – Failure modes identification

| Failure Mode  | Failure Cause           | Failure Effect   |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Wrong Control Messages injection (Packet Spoofing)                | Message Spoofing Attack | Unexpected abrupt braking<br>Train location loss<br>Train speed control loss<br>Train full stop<br>Train collision<br>Train derailment |
| Message Dropping (Packet Dropping)                                | Message Dropping Attack | Train full stop<br>Emergency braking;<br>Change to conventional operation  |
| Signal Jamming  | Jamming Attack          | Train full stop<br>Emergency braking;<br>Change to conventional operation  |
| Communication Delay (Extensive packet duplication and forwarding) | Replay Attack           | Train control performance breakdown<br>Change to conventional operation  |

## FMEA applied to CBTC

### Step 3 – RPN calculation

| Failure Mode                    | Social | Infrastr | Environ | Delay | RPN      |              |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|---------|-------|----------|--------------|
|                                 | 0.5    | 0.35     | 0.05    | 0.1   | Original | Our Approach |
| Wrong control message injection | 10     | 10       | 10      | 10    | 10,000   | 10           |
| Message dropping                | 3      | 2        | 1       | 2     | 12       | 2.45         |
| Signal jamming                  | 3      | 2        | 1       | 2     | 12       | 2.45         |
| Communication Delay             | 1      | 1        | 1       | 1     | 1        | 1            |

## FMEA applied to CBTC

### Step 4 – Prevention Actions

| Failure Modes                   | Prevention actions   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Wrong control message injection | Originating seed and salt variation method for authentication.<br>Long term IP/MAC mapping table   |
| Message Dropping                | Query node after messages are sent<br>Time communications between two nodes with a limit waitable timer  |
| Signal Jamming                  | Low transmission power deteriorates chances for attacker signal location<br>Transmission of short pulses on a broad spectrum of a frequency band at the same time                    |
| Communication Delay             | Originating seed and salt variation method for authentication<br>Long term IP/MAC mapping table<br>IP/MAC binding allows to prioritize traffic with static IP assignment reservation |

## Conclusions and Future Work



The factors' weight according to the parameter's economic impact



The attacks consequences may be unexpected abrupt braking, train location loss, train speed control loss, train full stop, train derailment, and train collision



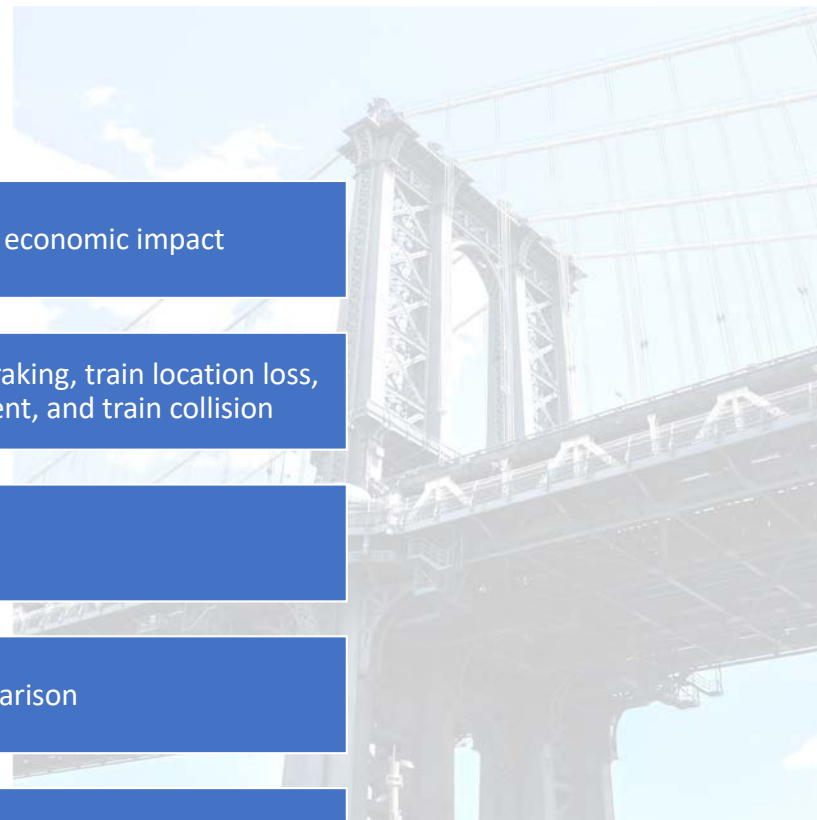
Associated Cost with the Risk



RPN scale from 1 to 10 for easy comparison



Apply this RPN formula to other CBTC subsystems and infrastructures



**QUESTIONS ?**

**THANK YOU**



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