Posted by                     on Fri, 09 Nov 2012 12:06:00 GMT

Dear Christian and all others,

with the new <platformEdges> and <stopPost> elements, I was only now aware that they have no ocpRef attributes so far.

I herewith plead for these ocpRef attributes because we need them to link the timetable information with the new infrastructure elements.

Background: Often the timetable programmes do only refer to an OCP (stop, passing through) but not to a certain platform or stop post. The question "which stop post to take" when stopping at a station is normally clarified by the operational rules. Therefore, it is not common to clarify it again with the timetable because it would be redundant to the operational rules.

So, a train in its <ocpTT> refers to an <ocp> and a <track> but not necessarily to a <stopPost> or <platform>. To find the platforms or stop posts for that stop anyway, there should be the ocpRefs.

--> providing references from a <platformEdge> to an <ocp>: <platformEdge> gets an "ocpRef".

--> We then also have the references from the stop posts to its ocp's via the platformEdges, but there may be stop posts without platforms (freight-only tracks), so: providing references from a <stopPost> to an <ocp>: <stopPost> gets an "ocpRef".

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In general:

  - This applies theoretically not only to <platformEdges> and <stopPost> but possibly to other track elements as signals and more. So possibly all should get an optional ocpRef attribute, may be by inheritance. Currently we do not have practical demand for that but theoretical it may come quickly (drivers timetables normally also name the signals belonging to a station...)

  - There was a suggestion to provide all references as cross-references in future. Therefore, an <ocp> should also name (enumerate) all its <platformEdges> by refereces, possibly all its track elements. Again, I see not specific demand now, it is a more general question.

Currently I only opt for the two now attributes; the general questions may be discussed or postponed.

Best regards,
Dirk.