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Subject: Re: How to represent open circulations in railML?  
Posted by on Tue, 13 Mar 2018 09:36:38 GMT  
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Dear Andreas,

I "internally" agree with all you have written. Means: I see no discrepancy in understanding.

I am not sure whether the writing is clear enough (and not misleading) for anybody who is new in railML circulation.

a) I would consider linking the "missing" /nextBlockRef/ attribute to the concept of "open" circulation plans, as the contrary of "closed" circulation plans which never have missing /nextBlockRef/s.

b) I think the sentence

"The presence of a circulation element that references this block via blockRef, in this case, merely expresses that fact that the block is considered as belonging to the roster."  
is a bit of an "understatement" because such a <circulation> element does not only express that the block belongs to the roster. It can also express at which day it is formed by which (nominal) vehicle - by its attributes /operatingPeriodRef/ and /vehicleCounter/.

You write that such a circulation models a block that has no pre-/successor in the \_linked\_ chain (of this roster). This is formally true. But, in reality, it has of course a pre- and a successor, in the previous and following circulation plans. So actually the attribute /vehicleCounter/ is currently (with the current railML schemes) the only chance to find out \_which\_ vehicle exactly forms this block (and unfortunately only an indirect kind). That's why I think such open <circulation> elements are still very important and not only "merely expressions".

I can write a suggestion for (a) later in case you do not want to do it now.

I want to ask you to extend or change your sentence for (b) if you agree with my argumentation.

With best regards,  
Dirk.

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