



Ground Borne Noise and Vibration Reduction in Urban Areas

6th Railway Talk

5 June 2024, 17:00-18:00 (CET)

Günther Achs FCP . Managing Partner

FCP is an internationally active engineering office with more than 350 staff members, its headquarters in Vienna and several branch offices abroad.

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 - » Structural Design – Buildings
 - » Industrial & Plant Construction
 - » Civil Engineering & Tunnelling
 - » General Consultant & Project Management
 - » Technical and Financial Control
 - » Site Supervision
 - » Health & Safety Engineering
 - » Traffic Design
 - » Track Design
 - » Structural Health Monitoring (BRIMOS®)
 - » Environmental Sustainability – Carbon Footprint
 - » LCM Life Cycle Management
 - » Accredited & Notified Body (BCT)
 - » CSM Risk Management
 - » Plant Data Management
 - » Digital Engineering . BIM
 - » Noise and Vibration Assessment
 - » Environmental Protection
 - » Acoustics
 - » Research & Development

Company Presentation FCP



1960

Founding of the
company

1986

Founding
VCE

long-term
experience

More than
350
employees

experts
various
professional
disciplines



Ground Borne Noise and Vibration Prediction Methodology

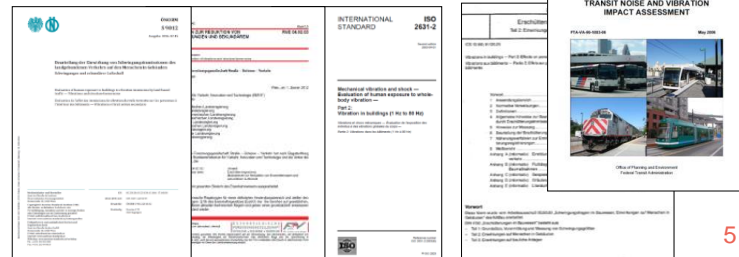
Ground Borne Noise and Vibration Assessment

Why?

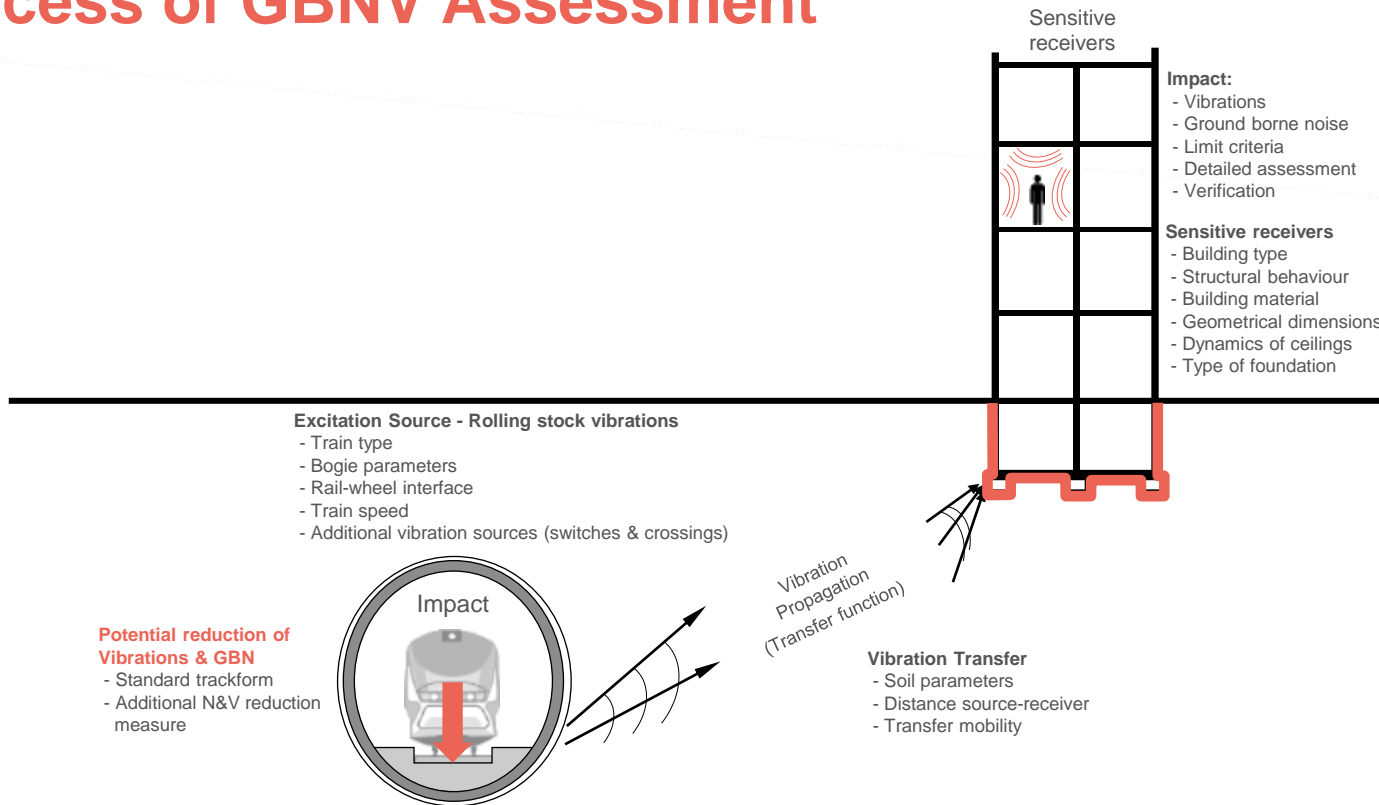
- Avoid annoyance of residents due to noise & vibration impacts in urban areas
- Protection of sensitive receptors (e.g. sensitive equipment of hospitals, labs, ...)
- Protection of cultural heritage and monuments
- Increase the acceptance of public transport, particularly in urban areas

How?

- Definition of the limit criteria (Human perception in buildings, Historic objects, Sensitive equipment)
- Assessment and evaluation of the future noise and vibration impact
- Selection of suitable mitigation measures
- Dynamic design
- Verification of the effectiveness



Process of GBNV Assessment



Basic requirements for reliable N&V Assessment

- Accepted methodology (e.g. international methodology according to FTA)
- Consideration of sensitive receivers, including their structural dynamics, vibration behaviour and building use
- Vibration emission (source) and vibration transfer needs to be determined according to the local conditions (measurements or reliable simulations)
- Noise and Vibration prediction needs to be performed in frequency domain (single value prediction is not sufficient to select mitigation measures properly)
- Mitigation measures to be selected according to the results for each relevant sensitive receiver > section-wise selection of optimized mitigation measures
- Method and each step of prediction needs to be comprehensible

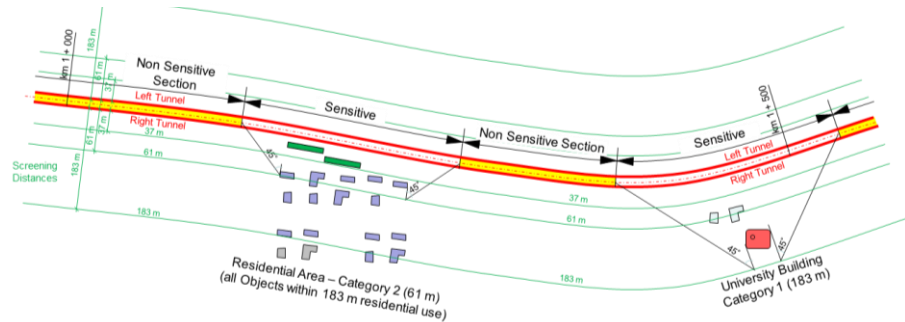
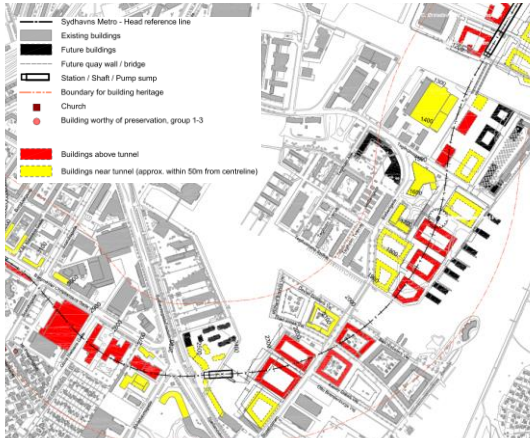
Process of GBNV Assessment

Methodology according to FTA

- 1. Early Identification of Sections without mitigation measures**
- 2. Determination of Sensitive Receivers**
 - › Residential buildings
 - › Hospitals, schools, historic monuments
- 3. Measurements of vibration emission of the excitation source**
 - › Train emission data (Source spectra)
- 4. Vibration transmission through track system, tunnel and soil/rock**
 - › Clustering / sectioning
 - › Evaluation of subsoil parameters
 - › Numerical Simulations to assess vibration transfer
- 5. Vibration transmission through the buildings along the track**
 - › Structural / dynamic parameters of sensitive buildings (Transfer of Vibrations inside buildings)
 - › Hospitals, schools, historic monuments
 - › Collection of building parameters on site
- 6. Prediction and verification of ground borne noise and vibration limits in the buildings**
 - › Operational data, track alignment (e.g. turnout locations)
 - › Verification of limit criteria for each sensitive receiver
- 7. Selection and extent of mitigation measures**
 - › Design of mitigation measures (structural & dynamic design, insertion loss)
 - › Definition of mitigation lengths
 - › Design of transition zones between standard track and upgraded track

Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

1. Early Identification of Sections without mitigation measures

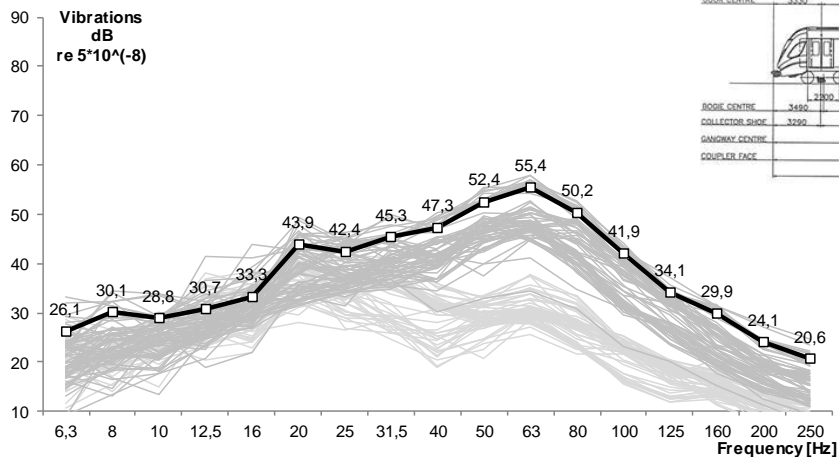


Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

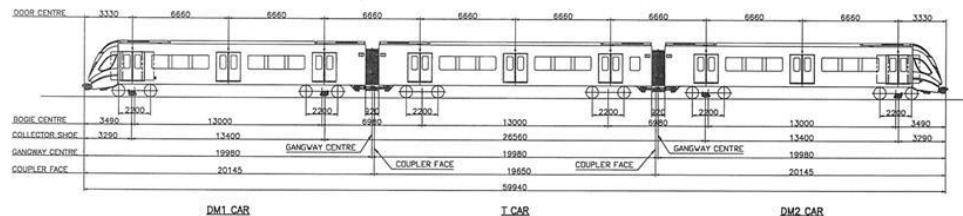
3. Measurements of vibration emission of the excitation source

Train Emission Data

- Vibration measurements at real conditions on site – reliable measurements necessary
- Comparable train data including simulations



Variation of vibrations at tunnel wall for train pass by (95 % fractile)

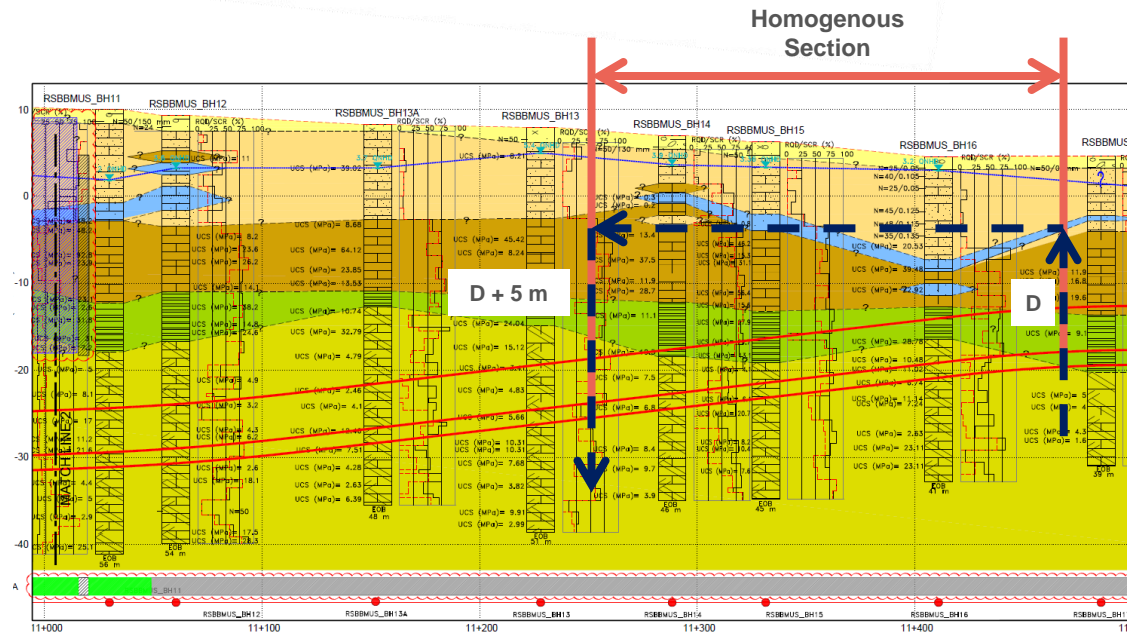


Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

4. Geotechnical Assessment

Geotechnical clustering

- Soil layering
- Vertical alignment of tunnel sections
- Homogenous soil parameters

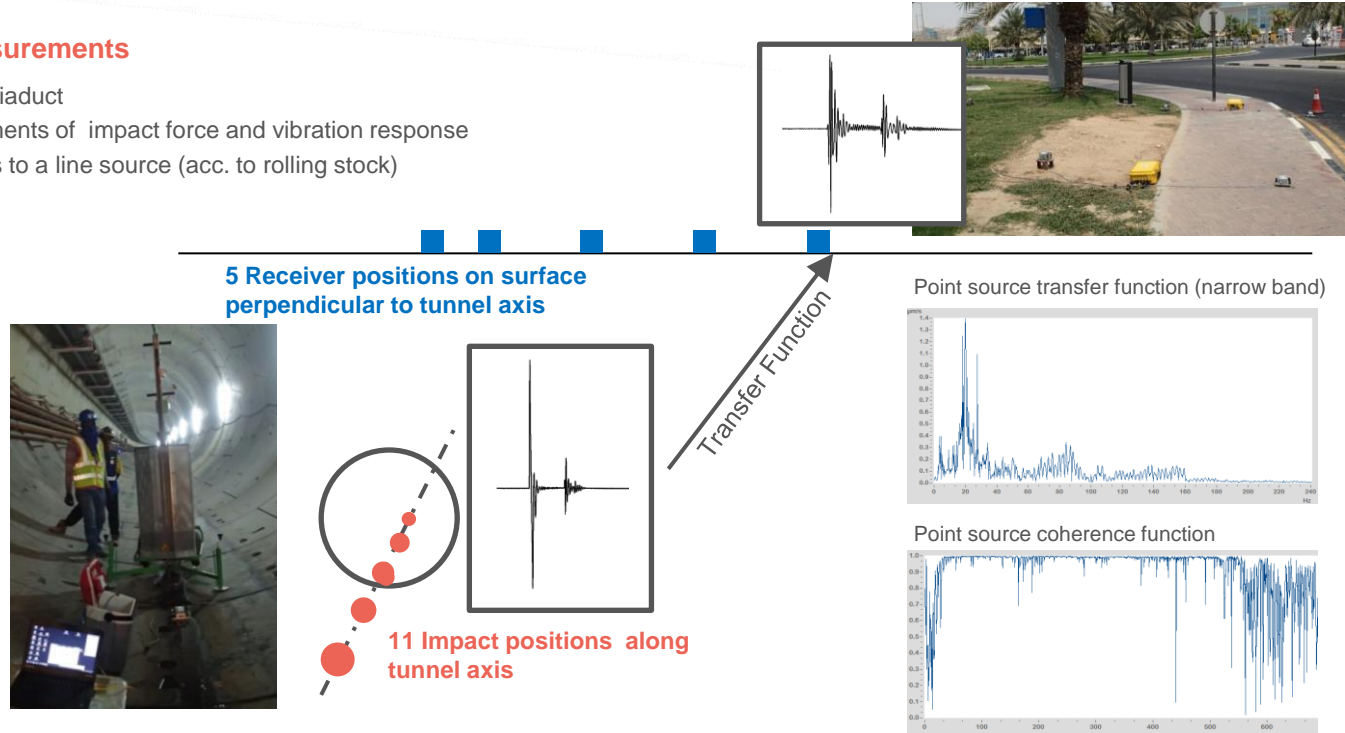


Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

4. Vibration transfer through soil

Vibration transfer - Measurements

- Impacts in tunnel or on viaduct
- Simultaneous measurements of impact force and vibration response
- Transfer of impact points to a line source (acc. to rolling stock)



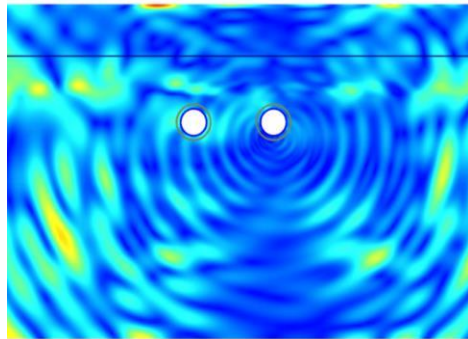
Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

4. Vibration transfer through soil

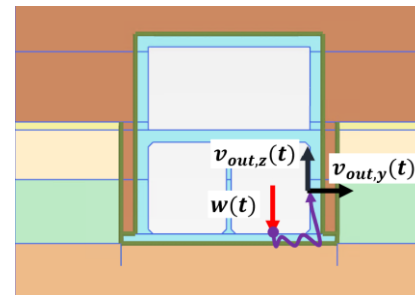
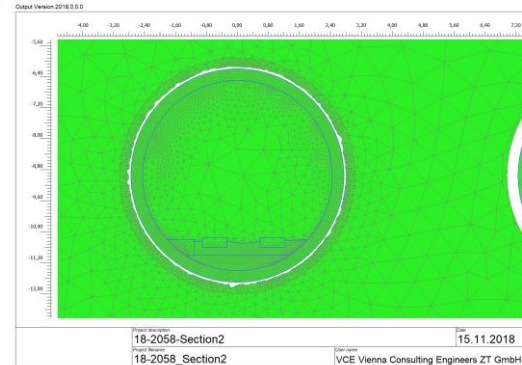
Vibration Transfer

Numerical simulations

- Numerical simulations for every location to be investigated



$TF_{numerical\ simulation}$



Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

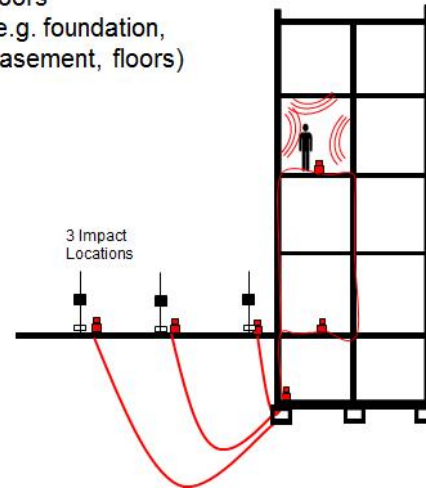
5. Vibration transfer through buildings

Structural / dynamic parameters of sensitive buildings

(Transfer of vibrations inside buildings)



- 7 categories representing most of the building types
- Buildings within influence zone of metro lines
- Impacts set outside the building
- Receivers next to the building and on floors (e.g. foundation, basement, floors)



Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

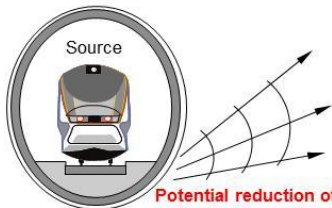
6. Prediction and verification of GBNV limits in the buildings

$$I(f) = F[S(f), M(f), T_1(f), T_2(f), R(f)]$$

- $I(f)$... Vibration and GBN Impact as a function of frequency
- $S(f)$... Excitation source (Train Input)
- $M(f)$... Mitigation measures as a function of frequency
- $T_1(f)$... Vibration transmission through soil
- $T_2(f)$... Vibration Transfer Subsoil-Building Foundation
- $R(f)$... Amplification inside Receiver

Excitation Source - Rolling stock vibrations

- Train Type
- Bogie Parameters
- Rail-Wheel Interface
- Train Speed
- Additional Vibration Sources (Switches & Crossings)



Potential reduction of Vibrations & GBN

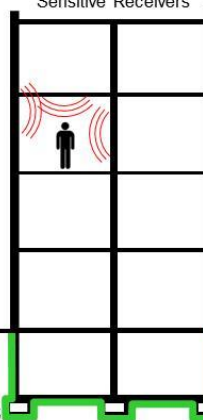
- Standard low noise slab track
- Additional N&V reduction measure according to ER

Vibration Propagation
(Transfer function)

Vibration Transfer

- Soil Parameters
- Distance Source-Receiver
- Transfer Mobility
- Determination according to FTA on site

Sensitive Receivers



Impact:

- Vibrations
- Ground Borne Noise
- Limits acc. to EIA / FTA
- Detailed Assessment
- Verification

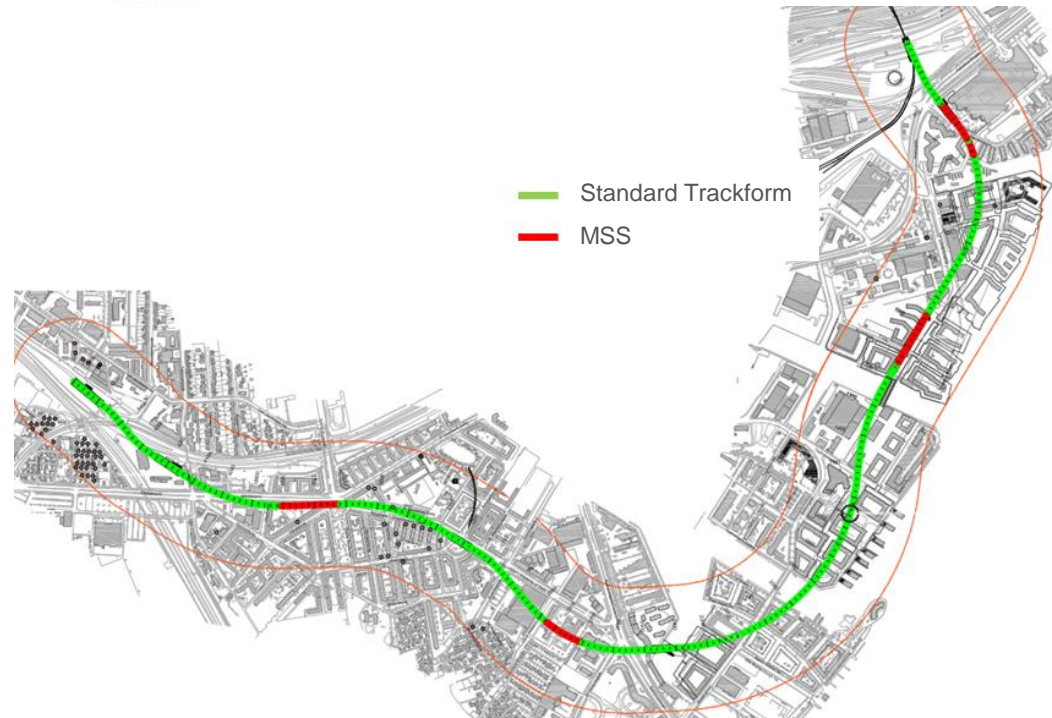
Sensitive Receivers

- Building Type
- Structural Behaviour
- Building Material
- Geometrical Dimensions
- Dynamics of Ceilings
- Type of Foundation

Future construction projects to consider ground vibration propagations and adapt in situ measures

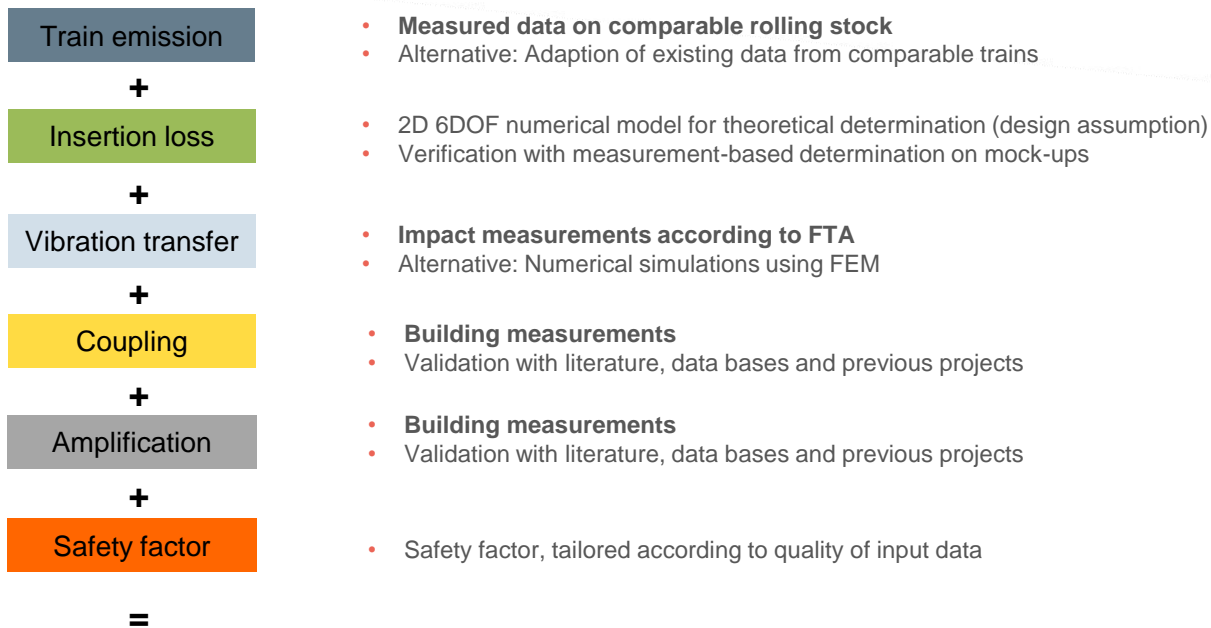
Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

7. Selection and extent of mitigation measures



Sequences / Process of GBNV Assessment

Summary

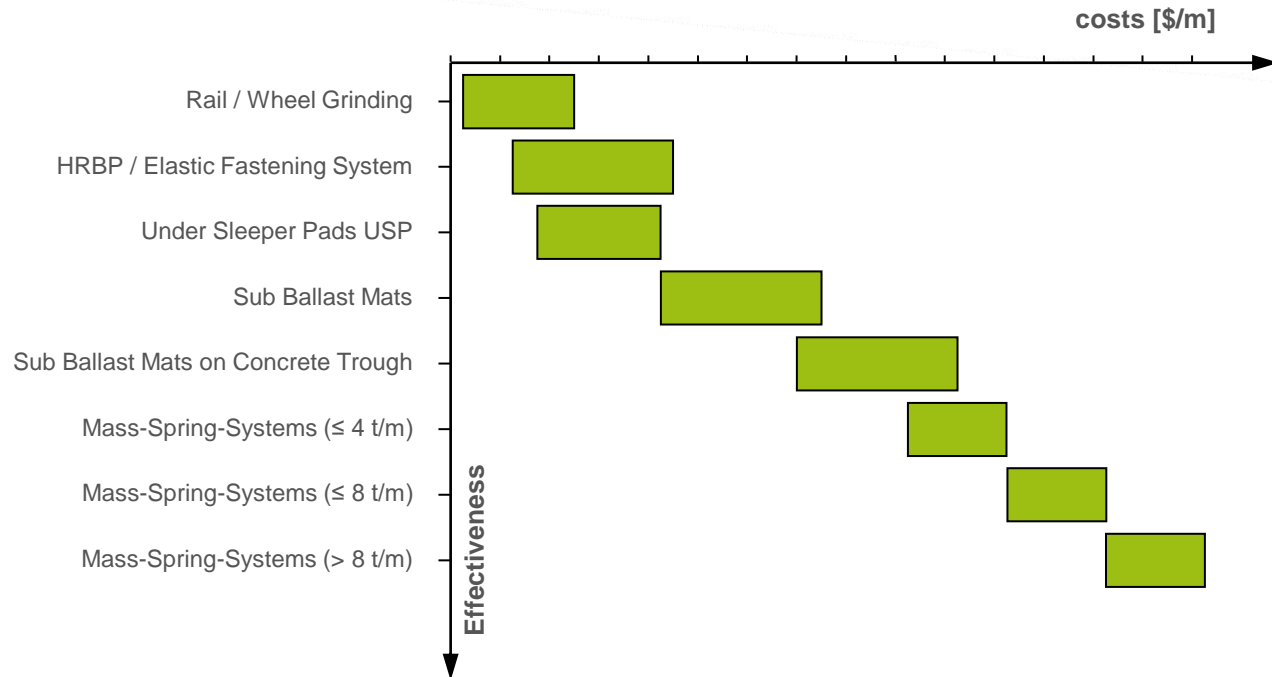




Measures to reduce Ground Borne Noise and Vibration Impacts

Design of Vibration Mitigation Measures

Variety of mitigation systems



Design of Vibration Mitigation Measures

Dynamic and Structural Design Principles

Dynamic Design - Definition Insertion Loss

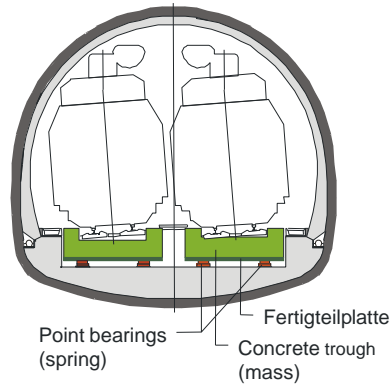
- **Definition of the necessary vibration reduction (“insertion loss”)**
 - Rolling stock, train speed, operation schedule
 - Track quality, safety margin
- **Design of a system to fulfil the requirements of the insertion loss (mass, spring, damper)**
- **Selection of a suitable elastic element**
- **Coordination with the structural design**

Structural Design

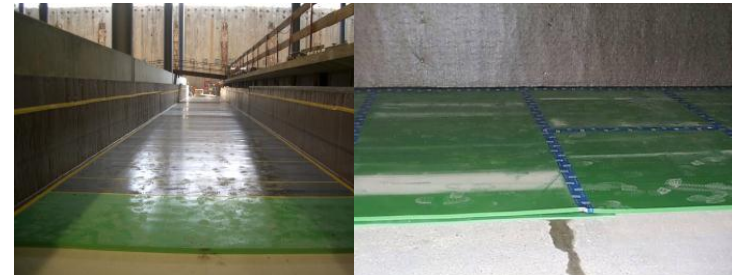
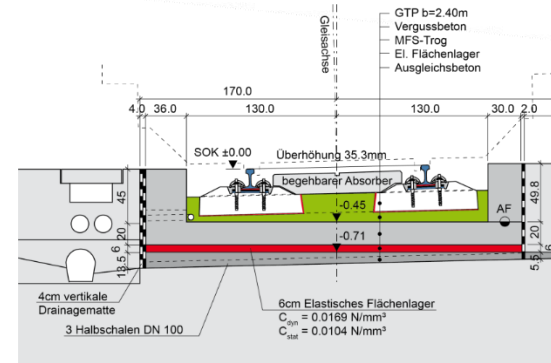
- **Available / required space**
 - Possible height of construction
 - Maintenance issues
- **Loads**
 - Vertical, Lateral, Temperature, etc.
- **Maximum tolerable deflections**
- **Vehicle dynamics**
 - Relative displacements
 - Transition zones
- **Subgrade**

Design Principles of Mass-Spring Systems (MSS)

MSS with Point Bearings

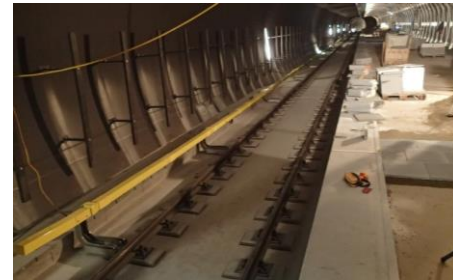
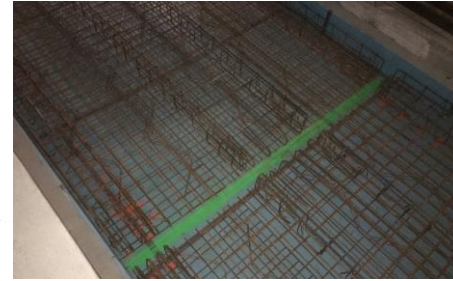
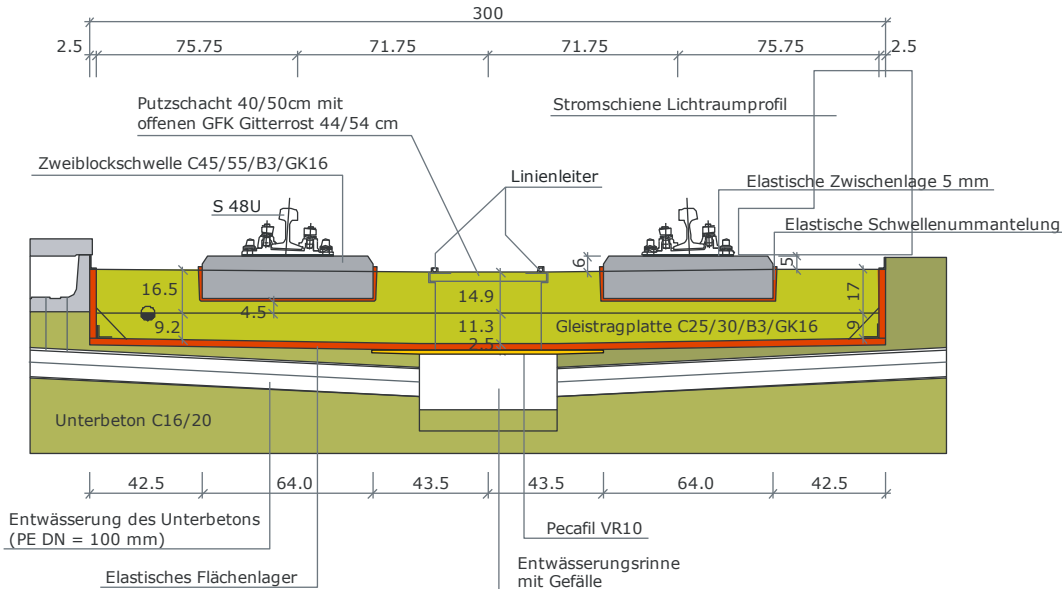


MSS with Full Surface Bearings



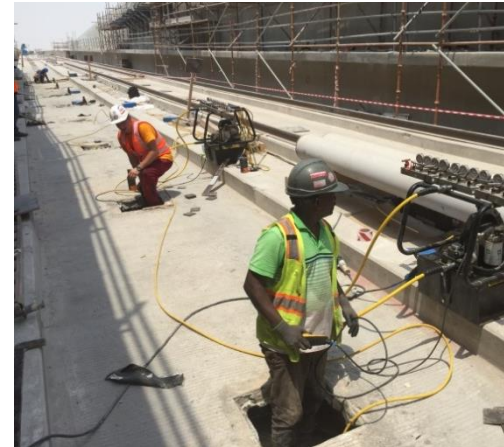
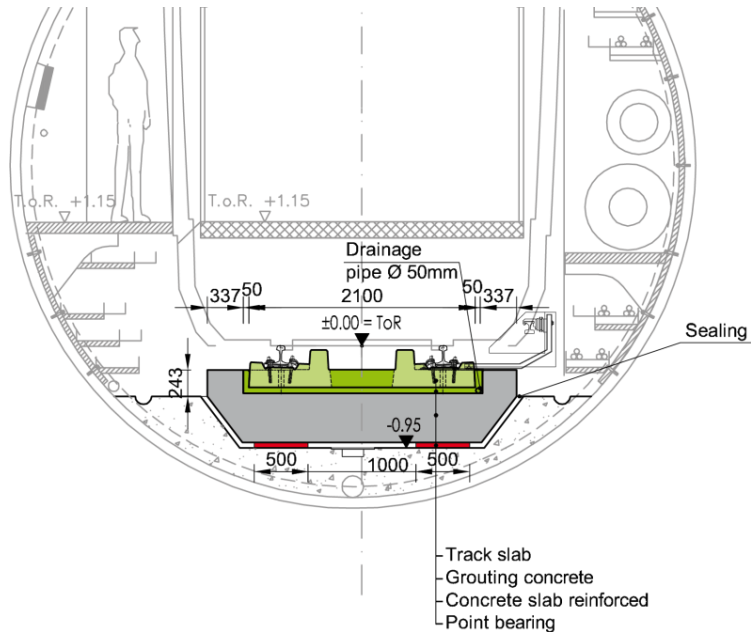
Vienna Urban Transport System / Metro

Mass-Spring-System with Full Surface Bearing $f_0 = 21.0$ Hz



Metro Doha / Qatar

Mass-Spring-System with Point Bearings $f_0 = 6.0$ Hz



Light tram Vienna / Austria

Mass Spring Systems with Full Surface Bearing



Selected References

Asia

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- China, Taiyuan, Metro Line 2, Trackform optimization
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Africa

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Europe

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Australia

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South America

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- Lima, Peru, Metro Line 1, Vibration and Ground Borne Noise Assessment





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