

TRAIN COASTING ADVICE BY COMPUTER - SUMMARY REPORT OF ECML TESTS

This report summarises the results of some in service tests of an in-cab computer system (train coasting advisory system, TCAS) designed to make better use of coasting as a train driving technique with the aim of reducing operating costs. The reduction in costs can arise from two sources. The first is in reduced traction energy consumption and the second is in reduced brake maintenance costs.

The tests have shown that the TCAS approach to coasting advice is technically sound and that, subject to some minor further development, the system would be capable of achieving worthwhile energy savings and a reduction in brake maintenance, and at the same time improve timekeeping. The economic studies have identified the parameters affecting the economic viability of the system. It is recommended that before any major implementation takes place a short initial investigation be carried out to assess the potential benefit. Our earlier work on the Western Region high speed train service suggests that this could be a useful first scheme.