



Since implementing RailConnect TMS in October of 2002, the Port Terminal Railroad Association has originated a sophisticated use of AEI readers, Inbound Blocking Tables, and ShipperConnect to become a leader in automation.

The PTRA serves more than 160 customers in the Houston Port Terminal area, including some of the largest petrochemical facilities in North America. Prior to using TMS and ShipperConnect, these customers would fax handwritten switching requests and bills of lading to the PTRA where instructions were manually entered into a system. With ShipperConnect, these shippers now have visibility of their cars via the Internet and can submit switching requests, bills of lading, and other pertinent information to the PTRA with the click of a mouse.

Utilizing tight integration among 25 AEI readers, the PTRA now automatically captures more than 91% of all inter-terminal car movement events including train arrivals and departures, industry places and pulls, and interchanges. Inbound Blocking Tables are used to generate both switch billing and demurrage automatically, resulting not only in reduced labor costs, but in increased accuracy. Previously, over seven percent of all bills were disputed. This number is now less than one percent.

The paperless railroad is on track at the PTRA.