

# Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

## AUGUSTINE F. UBALDI, PE Civil Engineer

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

#### Railroads/Rail Transit:

- Qualified in rail operating rules and procedures.
- Qualified in rail radio procedures.
- Qualified in rail roadway worker on-track safety procedures in accordance with FRA Regulations Part 214, including operation of on-track equipment.
- Rail-highway grade crossing safety and design, following FHWA Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook and FRA Regulations Part 234.
- Railway signaling concepts, both for train control and grade crossing protection.
- Time, distance and speed investigations involving rail operations.
- Track structure design, both for new installations and major rehabilitation.
- Station repair, yard track improvement, bridge repair design.
- Track inspection and supervision of restoration and renewal of track and of CWR in accordance with FRA Track Compliance Manual, Subpart A, §213.7.
- Derailment inspection committee. Grade crossing accident investigation committee.

#### Airports:

- Qualified in Air Operations Area (AOA) movement procedures.
- Qualified in aviation radio procedures.
- Obstruction evaluation of objects effecting navigable airspace and airport safety areas.
- Airport evaluation for adherence to FAA regulations and safety standards.
- Airport planning, including application of FAA regulations, forecasts, determination of facility requirements.
- Existing pavement strength evaluation and new pavement section design.
- Air side improvement design, such as runway extensions and rehabilitation, taxiway and apron construction, airfield lighting, obstruction removal.

#### Construction Management:

- Development of plans, specifications and bid documents for rail and airport projects.
- Engineering services during construction, including site inspection, quality assurance testing, contractor safety requirements, and direction of job meetings.
- Contract administration, including pay requests, change orders, grant management, construction claims analysis and project closeout.
- Construction management of projects designed by others.

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2009 to **Robson Forensic, Inc.**

present *Associate*

Provide technical investigations, analysis, reports, and testimony towards the resolution of commercial and personal injury litigation involving engineering, design, construction, construction management, and failure analysis in the airport, railroad and rail transit industries.

2008 to **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad**

present *Volunteer*

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad operates a round trip scenic excursion train from Cleveland to Akron, 3 times a day, 5 days per week from June through October, and 2 times a day, twice per week from November through May. From mid-November to mid-December, it operates 2 Polar Expresses daily, a "Day Out with Thomas" event in May and numerous other excursion runs throughout the year. Volunteer duties include trainman, brakeman, track inspector and switchtender. Trained in operating and safety rules, passenger assistance and roadway worker on-track safety.

2007 to **Avi4tr, Inc**

present *Consulting Expert*

Consulting expert in airports and FAA regulations; railroads, rail transit, and FRA regulations; grant, project and construction management/administration; litigation support. Investigate cases involving rotor craft accident, requiring evaluation of adherence to FAA regulations in location of power lines. Provided expert reports, deposition and testimony in case involving contractor's claim for extra for airport apron project requiring review of special conditions, project documentation and analysis of claim.

2007 **Delta Airport Consultants, Inc**

*Vice President*

Delta Airport Consultants, Inc. was established in 1978 and specializes exclusively in airport consulting. The firm is dedicated to aviation across the country. Clients range from general aviation to large hub commercial service airports. Oversaw transition from Whitworth-Borta to Delta Airport Consultants. Managed the Ohio office, conducting business development activities and providing technical supervision, client liaison, project administration.

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1987 to **Whitworth-Borta & Co.**  
2007 *President*  
*Vice President*

This was a small, boutique firm specializing in airside airport design and construction services. Originally part of a larger Michigan firm, it became independent in 1996. Responsible for managing the firm, acting as CEO and CFO. Provided wide range of business administration duties, preparing project proposals, conducting business development activities, providing technical supervision, client liaison, project administration on all company projects. Took clients from start to finish of projects including pre-construction activities, pre-planning, master planning, budget estimating, conceptual estimating, detailed estimating, job cost accounting, scheduling, constructability reviews, general and special conditions documents, technical specifications, project management, contract administration, grant accounting, change orders, cost & time claims, project closeout.

### Key Projects/Accomplishments:

- \$1 million airfield lighting project for Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport.
- \$1.3 million runway extension/rehabilitation for Neil Armstrong Airport.
- Revalidation of site selection study for new Gallia-Meigs Regional Airport.
- Developed airport access agreement to FAA's satisfaction to eliminate "through-the-fence" activities.
- Involved in over 150 planning and construction projects ranging in size from \$25,000 to nearly \$3 million.

1979 to **Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority**  
1987 *Director, Construction Management & Engineering*  
*Senior Construction Engineer*  
*Project Engineer*

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) is the area-wide transit agency in Cleveland, Ohio. It was formed in 1975 by the combination of the Cleveland Transit System, Shaker Heights Transit System and several local, municipally owned bus lines. Beginning as a project engineer, provided design and construction management on projects such as bridge rehabilitation, track rehabilitation and signal system upgrade. As manager of the department, responsible for all agency facility design and construction, supervising all technical work, overseeing project administration on projects administered both in-house and by outside consultants and coordinating with outside consultants on contract matters.

### Key Projects/Accomplishments:

- Emergency repairs to 80-year-old bridge.
- Major track rehabilitation of heavy rail transit line.
- Upgrade of transit signal system from wayside signals to in-cab signal/automatic train stop system.

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- Design of track alignment changes to convert a portion of transit line from left-hand running to right-hand running for consistency with remainder of system.
- Fact witness for GCRTA in various suits brought against the Authority by contractors.
- Represented the Authority with both print and television media.

1974 to 1979 **DeLeuw, Cather & Co.**  
*Project Engineer*

*Trackwork Engineer*

DeLeuw, Cather & Co. (now part of Parsons Corp.) was a Chicago engineering firm selected to be the General Engineering Consultant on the design and construction of the \$7 billion Washington, D.C. rapid transit system. The company was also the lead designer for certain system-wide work, such as track and signals.

Key Projects/Accomplishments:

- Supervised design of contract documents for installation of trackwork.
- Developed system of multiple material purchase contracts with an “install owner-furnished materials” contract to mitigate schedule delays and inflationary costs.
- Developed design upgrade of track components for third rail electrification.
- Prepared rebuttal to contractor’s claim of defective specifications/differing site conditions.

1970 to 1974 **Penn Central Transportation Co.**  
*Supervisor of Track*

*Assistant Supervisor of Track*

Penn Central Transportation Co. was the result of the 1968 merger between the New York Central System and the Pennsylvania Railroad, originally covering operations in 16 states, 2 Canadian provinces and the District of Columbia. Responsible for the safe operation of the track, supervising construction, maintenance and emergency repairs of track and grade crossings. Oversaw a work gang in programmed renovation of track and was responsible for work under operating system constraints.

Key Projects/Accomplishments:

- Supervised 235 track miles of territory.
- Managed work force with two separate union rosters.
- Capable of operating all track machinery under jurisdiction.
- Developed a yard track upgrade plan to avoid “crisis” incidents and better schedule work crews.

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### TEACHING

2009 to present **Cuyahoga Community College**, Cleveland, Ohio  
*Adjunct Faculty*  
Construction Engineering Technology Program

### PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Registered Professional Engineer:

Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia,  
Virginia, Indiana

Certificate of Record - National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying  
Licensed Private Pilot (Single Engine Land)

Operation Lifesaver (a nonprofit organization providing public education programs to  
prevent collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and grade  
crossings) - Certified Presenter, 2011-present

### EDUCATION

B.S. Business Administration, University of Maryland-College Park, Adelphi,  
MD, 1981

B. S. Civil Engineering, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, 1970

*Continuing Education:*

NATCO Urban Bikeway Design Guide, Institute of Transportation Engineers  
Education Foundation, August 2011

Railroad Workplace Safety Seminar, CFR49 Part 214 Subparts B&C, Roadway  
Worker Safety and Bridge Worker Safety Protection, presented by TrackSense  
Inc./PDS INC., June 2011

FRA Track Safety Standards, CFR49 Part 213.118 and 213.119, Procedures for  
Installation, Adjustment, Maintenance and Inspection of CWR, presented by  
TrackSense Inc./PDS INC., June 2011

Fundamentals of Railway Train Control and Signaling, including PTC Systems,  
University of Wisconsin, Madison Extension, September 2010

FRA Track Safety Standards Seminar Refresher, CFR49 Part 213 Subparts A through  
F, presented by TrackSense Inc./PDS INC., June 2010

Railroad Crossing Safety and Light Rail Street Operations, ASCE Continuing  
Education, 2008

Airport Wildlife Hazard Training, USDA, APHIS, Columbus, OH, 2008

Airport Noise and Air Quality Models, University of Texas, Austin, TX, 2007

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**Civil Engineer**

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Ohio Aviation Association (OAA), Treasurer

Prior Offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Director

Civil Air Patrol (CAP), 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)

American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA)

Technical Committee 5-Track (past affiliation)

EXPERT NOT RETAINED