VISP

DC, DCC or Both?

Solving a planning conundrum!

MetroNorth NMRA May 25th 2024

Boyd Misstear

European Train Enthusiasts Colonial Chapter (www.ete.org) SIG

Swiss Railways Society (www.swissrailsoc.org.uk)

Why this conundrum?

- Brought about when deciding how to achieve the objectives for a new layout section called Visp
- Currently the Weston HO BLS is DCC Motorola format while the MGB & RhB HOm are interchangeable DC / DCC
- Certain locomotives will never be digitalized!

Why Visp?

- The name Visp has been chosen, with modelling license, after a real location on the Rhone Valley in Switzerland's Canton Valais
- This is where the 14.612 km long base railway tunnel on the Lötschberg North/South standard gauge traffic of the BLS meets the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGB) metre gauge as well as SBB standard gauge East/West movements

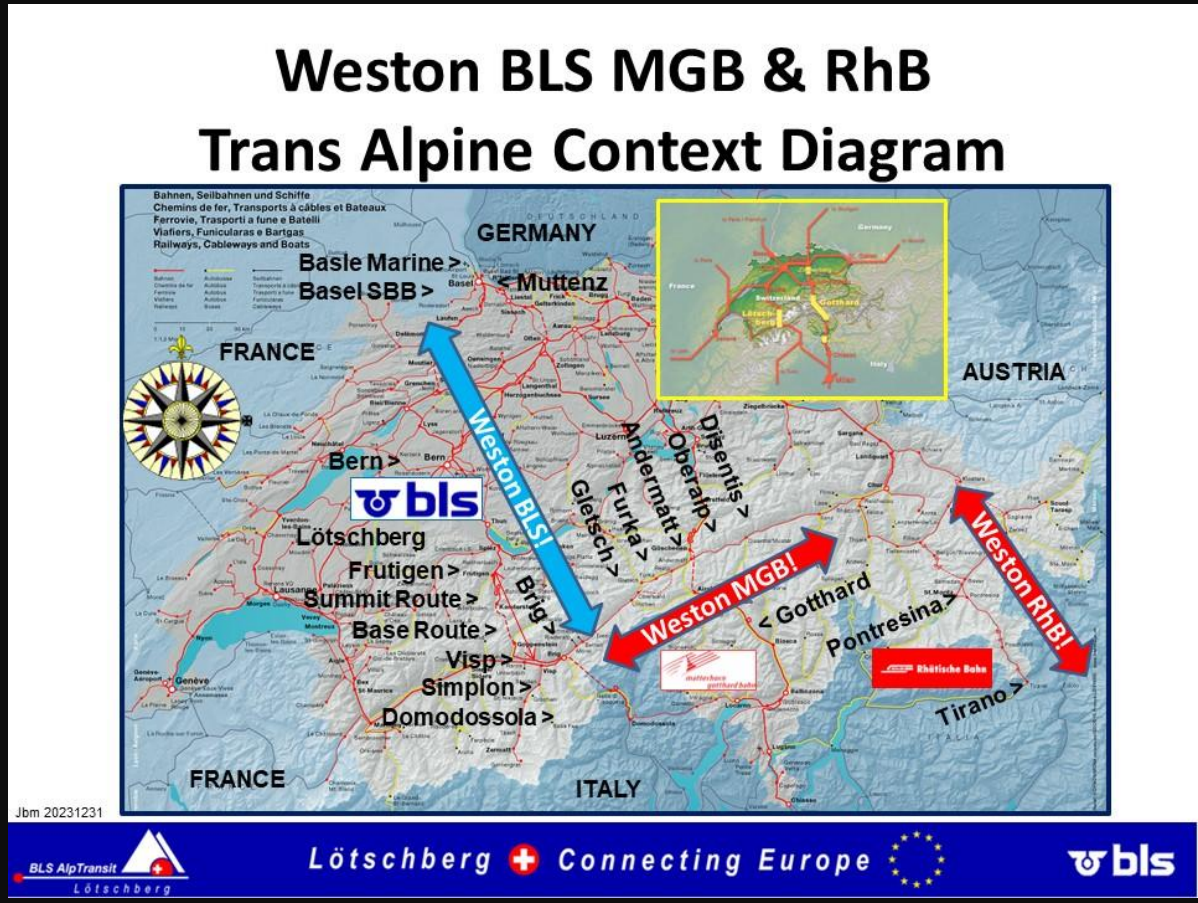
Planning objectives

- Increase the interest and challenges for operating sessions
- Improve the traffic variety across the layout as a whole
- Introduce a modern intermodal yard to exchange container traffic between standard (HO) and narrow gauge (HOm)
- Introduce a lakeside port to handle interchangeably both commercial container and tourist paddle steamer traffic
- Facilitate a through narrow gauge connection to interconnect an already built Brig passenger location with the remainder of the HOm existing network

Winters Build Project - Andermatt to Brig via Visp Requires 4 removable links!

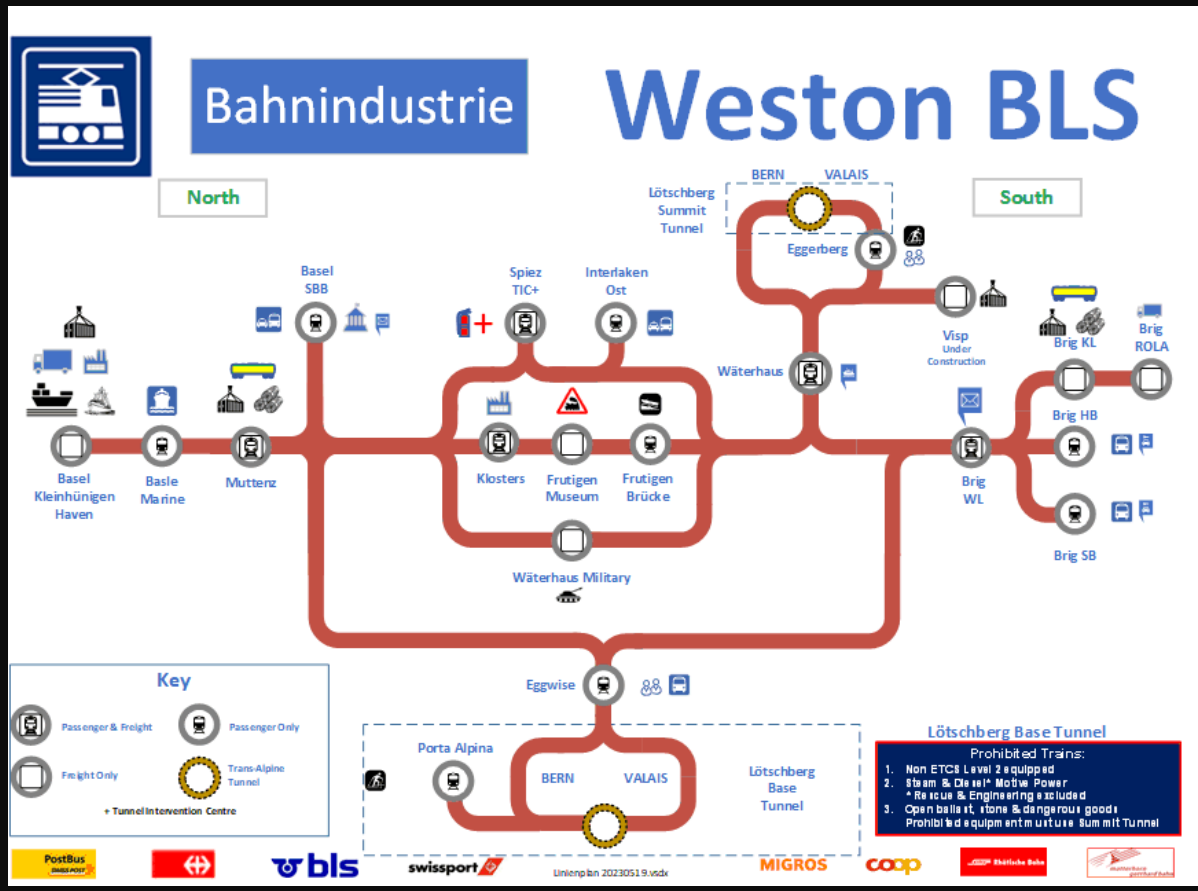
- This is where we left off 12 months ago
- What progress?

Let’s recap …

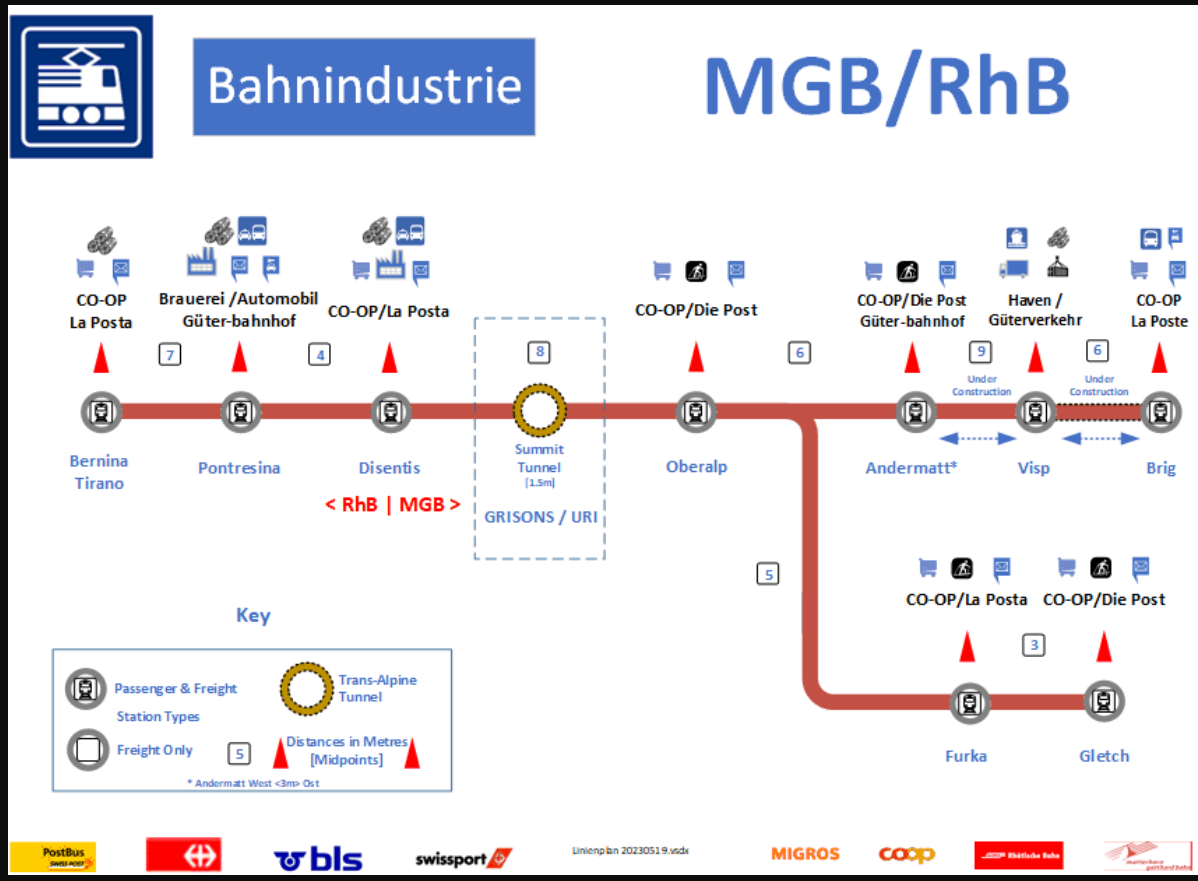

Weston BLS MGB & RhB
Trans Alpine Context Diagram
Bahnen, Seilbahnen und Schiffe
Chemins de fer, Transports à câbles et Bateaux
Ferrovie, Trasporti a fune e Battelli
Viafiers, Funicularas e Bartgas
Railways, Cableways and Boats
GERMANY
Basle Marine >
Basel SBB >
< Muttenz
FRANCE
AUSTRIA
Weston BLS!
Bern >
bls
Lötschberg
Frutigen >
Summit Route >
Base Route >
Visp >
Simplon >
Domodossola >
Andermatt >
Oberalp >
Disentis >
Furka >
Gletsch >
Brig >
Weston MGB!
< Gotthard
Pontresina >
Weston RhB!
Tirano >
FRANCE
ITALY
Jbm 20231231
BLS AlpTransit Lötschberg
Lötschberg Connecting Europe
bls

Let’s recap …

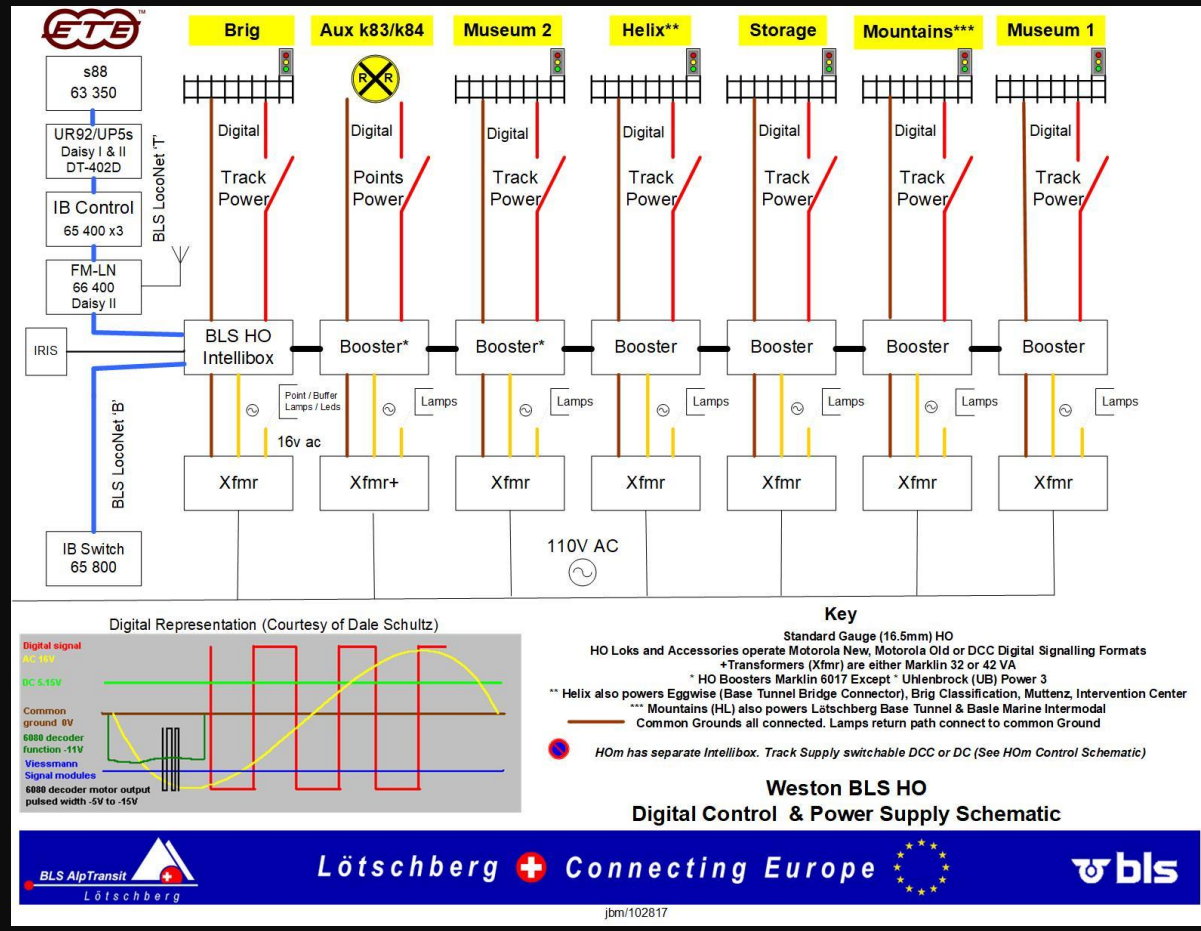
- Industry on the Standard Gauge (HO)



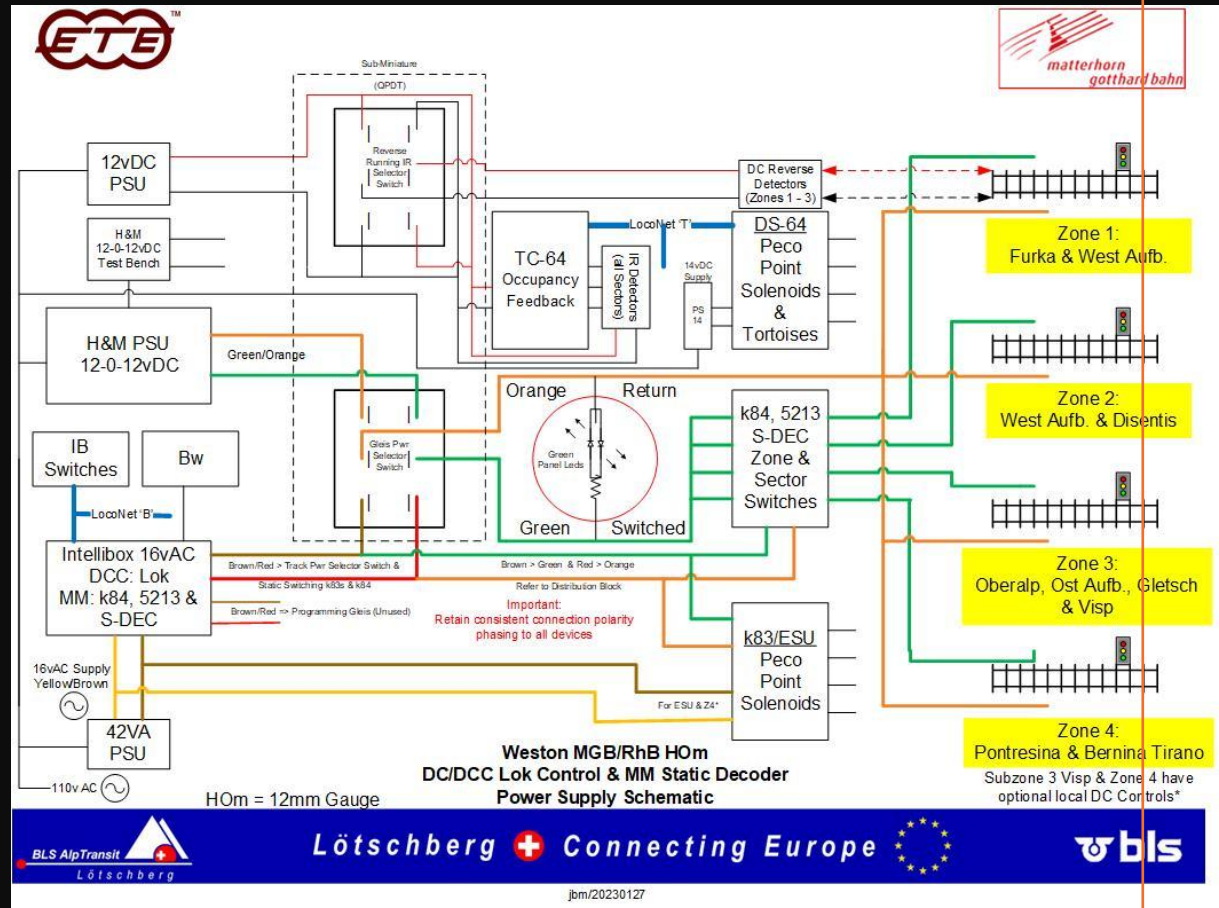
Industry on the Metre Gauge (HOm)



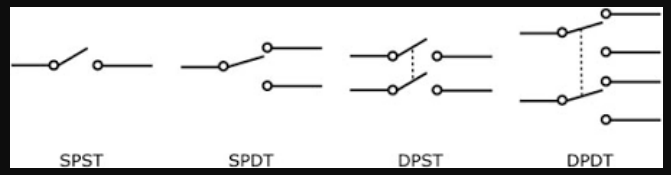
HO Gleis / Track Power Distribution

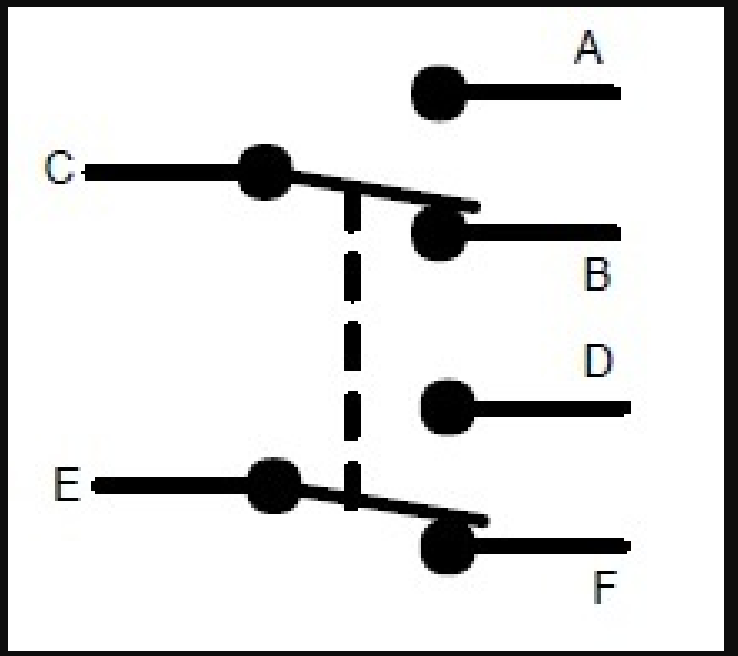


Implementing HOm DC / DCC Switchable Solution



Using a Simple Double Pole Double Throw Centre Off Switch



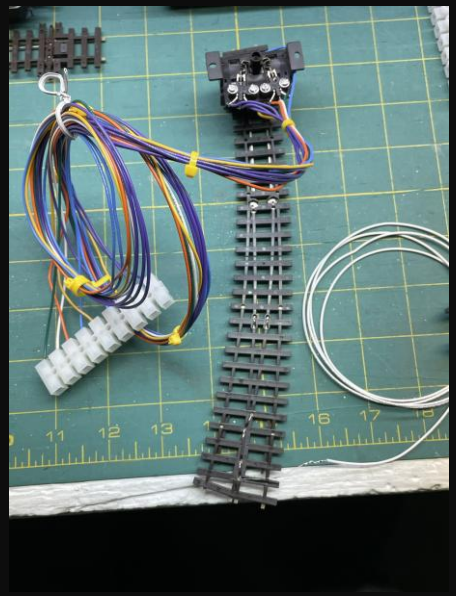


DC / DCC switch

Before proceeding with track installs, control wiring is first ...

Regional / Local Control

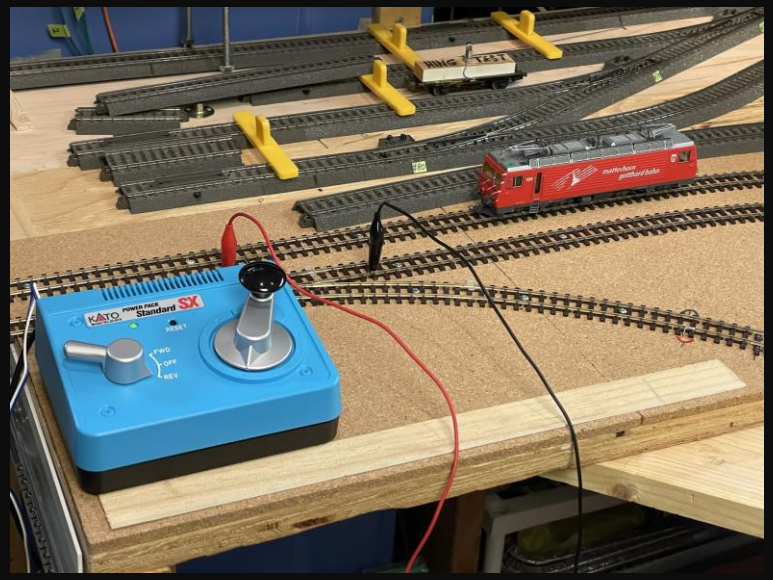
Installation of the HOm connections



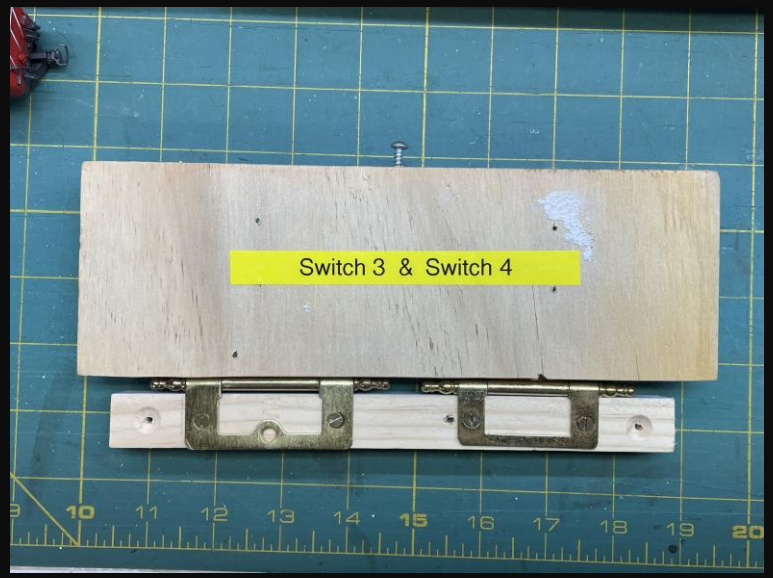
Laying HOm from Andermatt to Visp

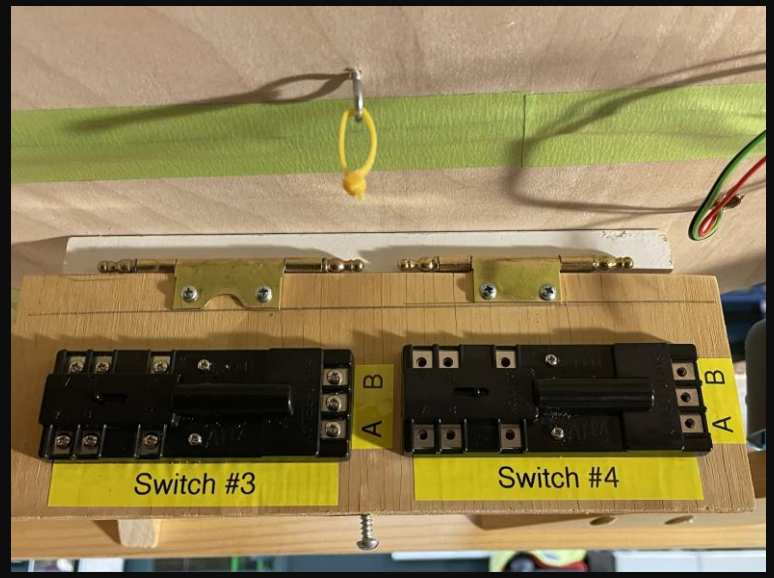
Planning turntable

Cabling across room for DC & DCC

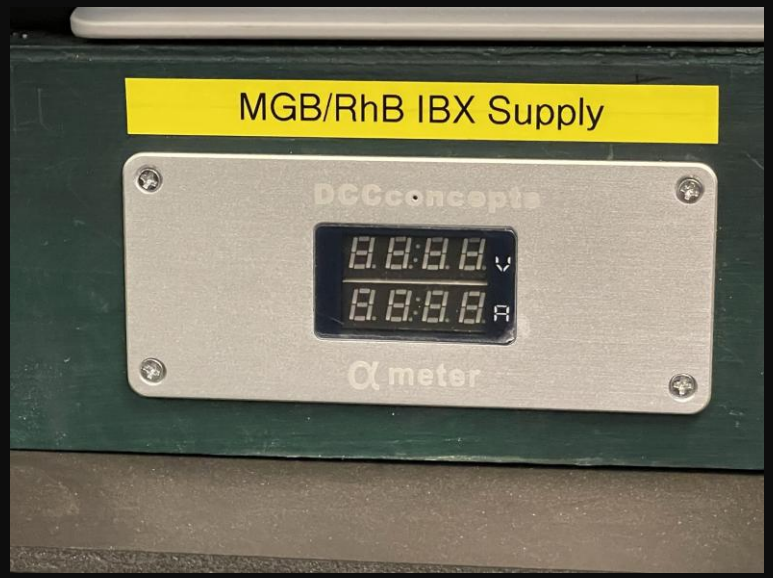


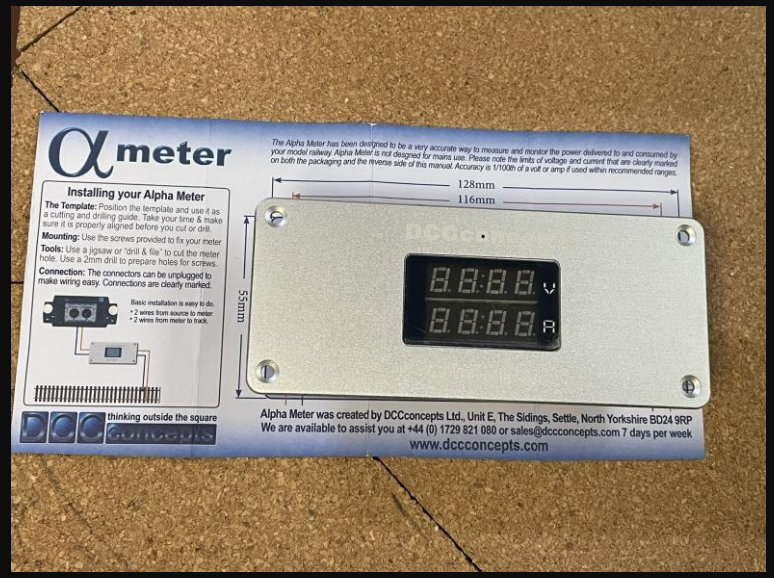
Finding safe locations for Frog Snap Relays





Monitoring Power





Gaining Andermatt access and retaining shelving

Sliding shelves installation and protections

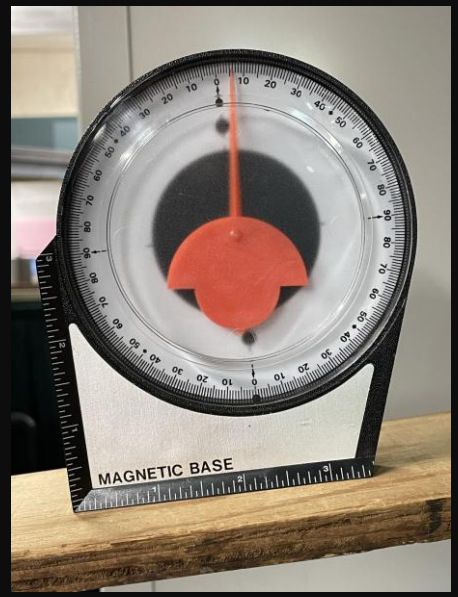
Using door hanger runners

Finished Sliders

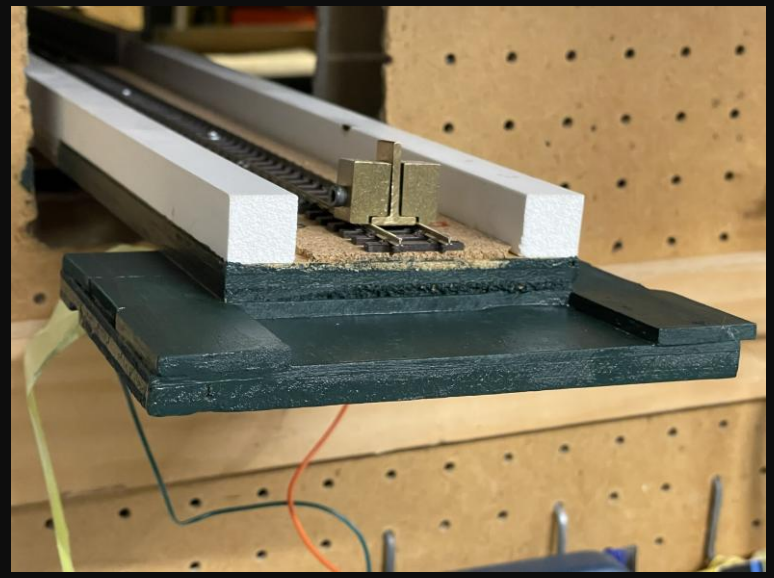
Bridging the HOm route through the HO Base Tunnel

Fixed and removable sections

Mind the gradients and ambient conditions!



Working in confined spaces



Removing the army field hospital

Multilevel installations

Helping hands welcomed!

Lesson learned – pullout drawer won’t work ☹

Replacement - Drop & Swivel design

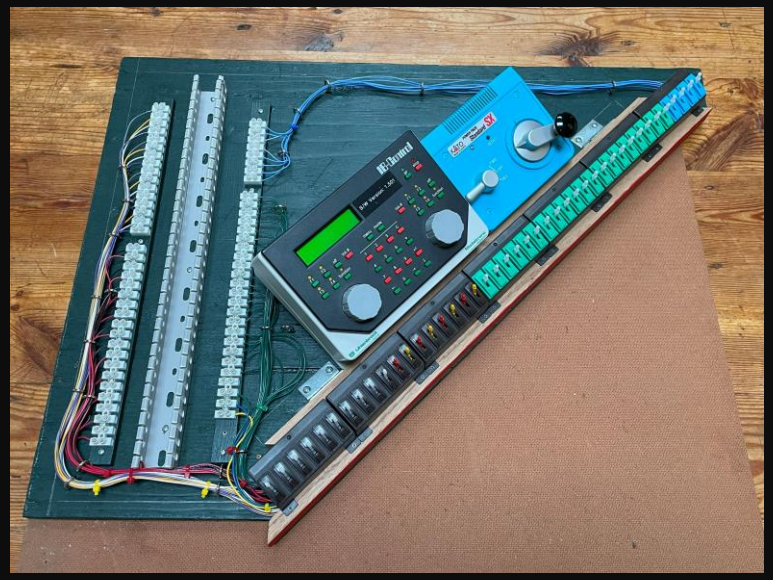
Track edge protection

Intermodal crane base – adjust for HO and HOm

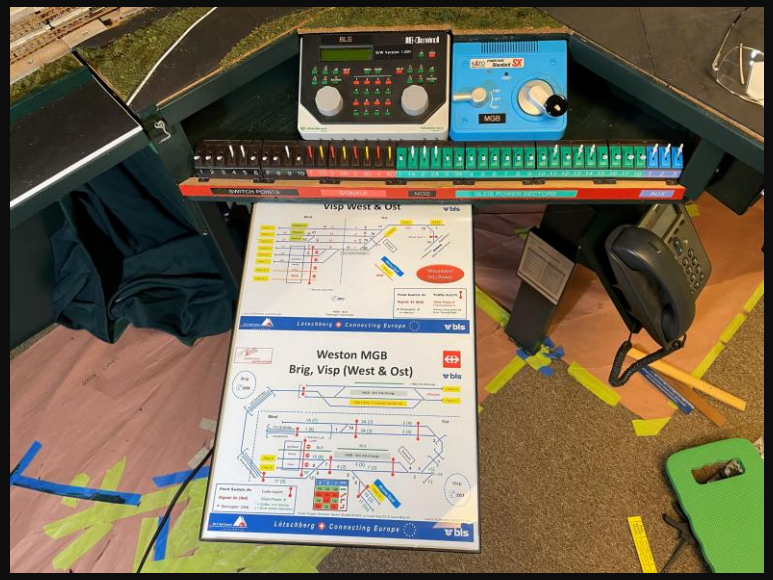
Where to place operator controls?

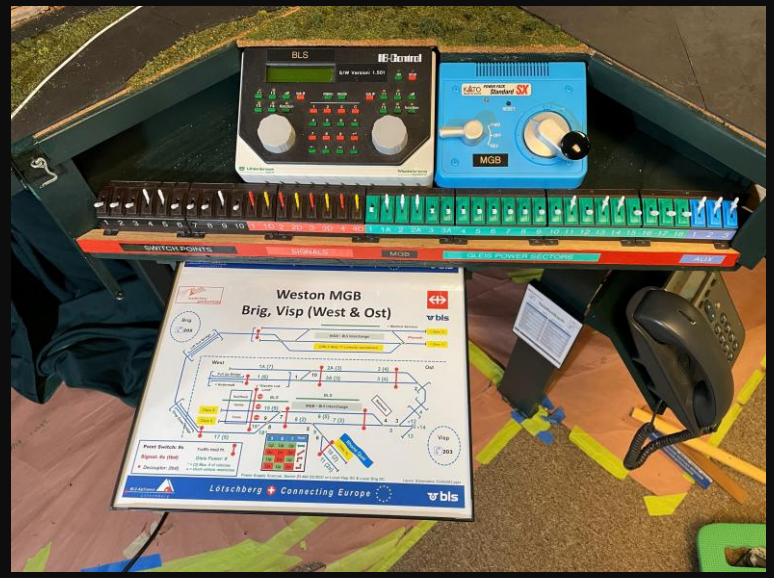
Drop & Lift access

Point/Signal/Power/Aux Manual Levers

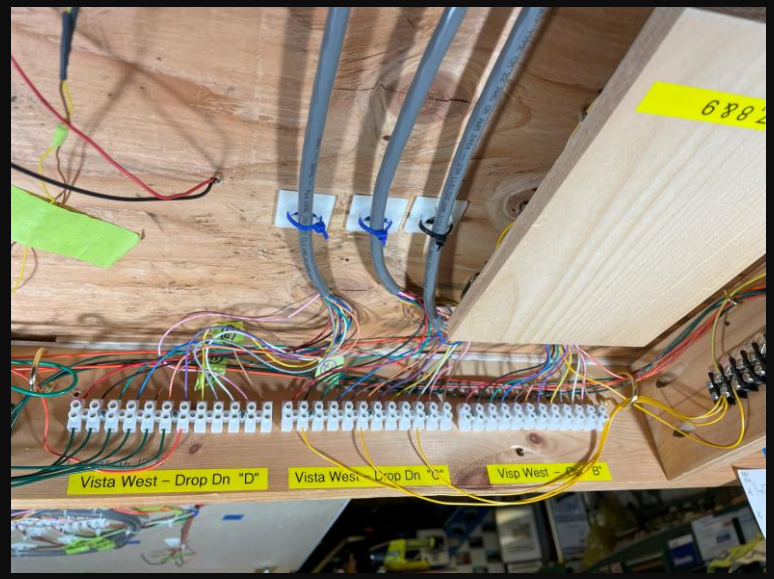


Circuit Diagramming





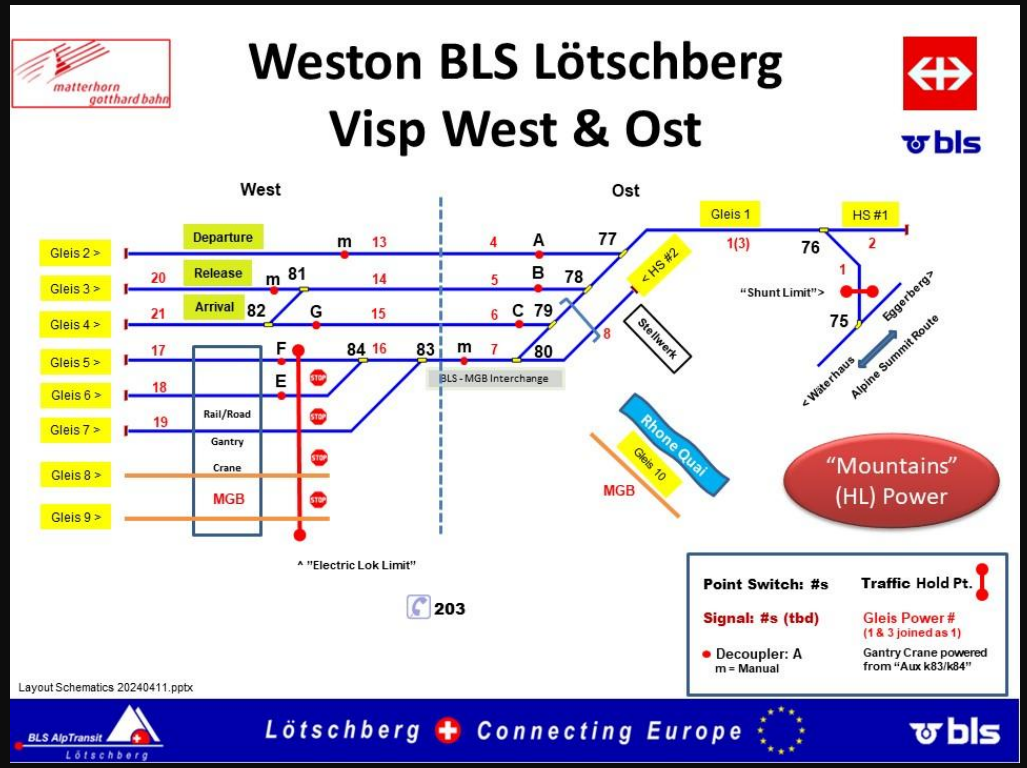
Becoming crowded beneath ☺



Section and Uncoupler Controls

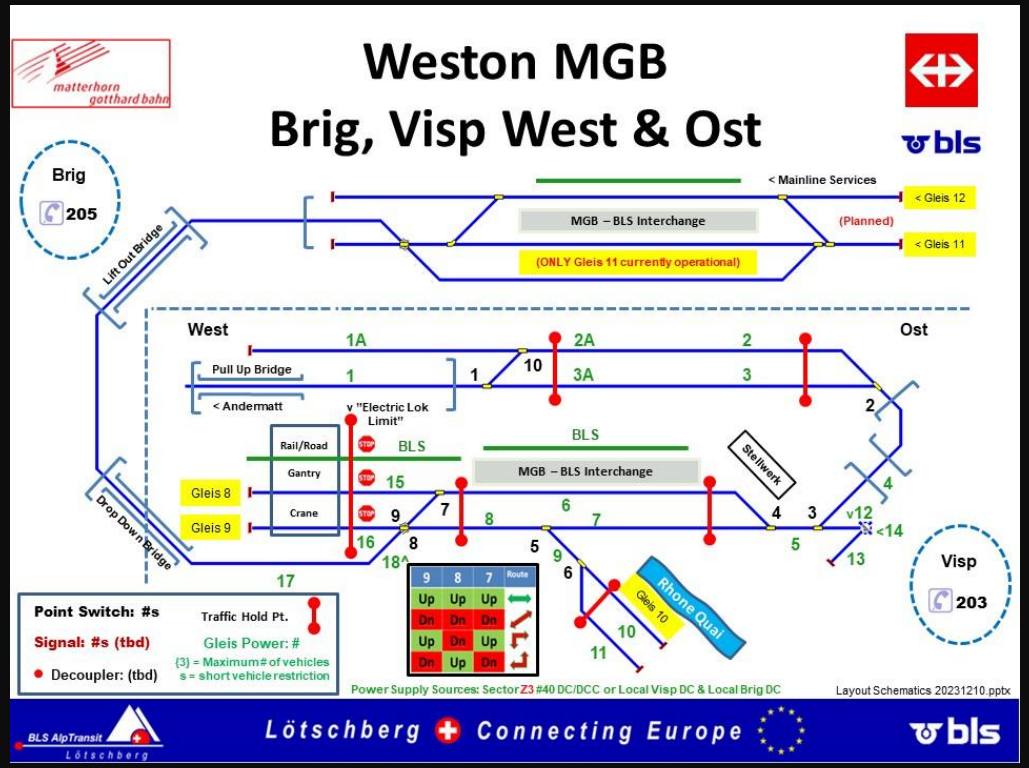
Operator aid

Visp HO Schematic



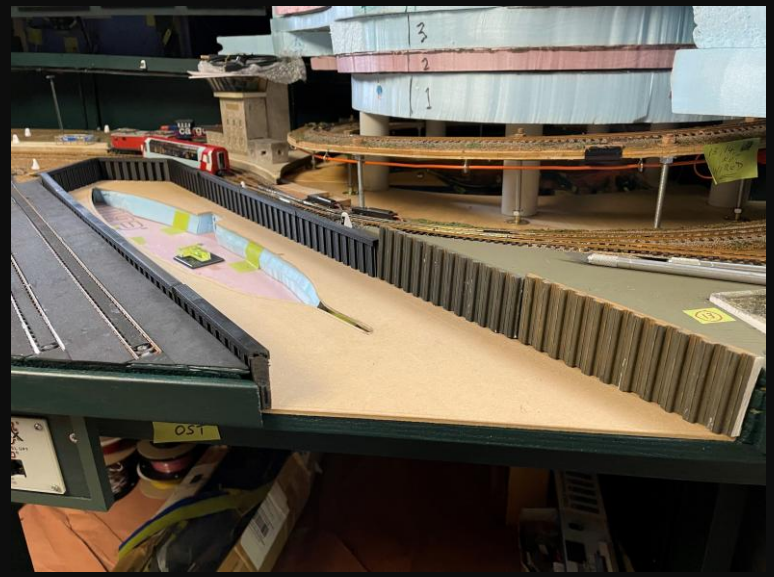
Operator aid

Visp HOm
Schematic

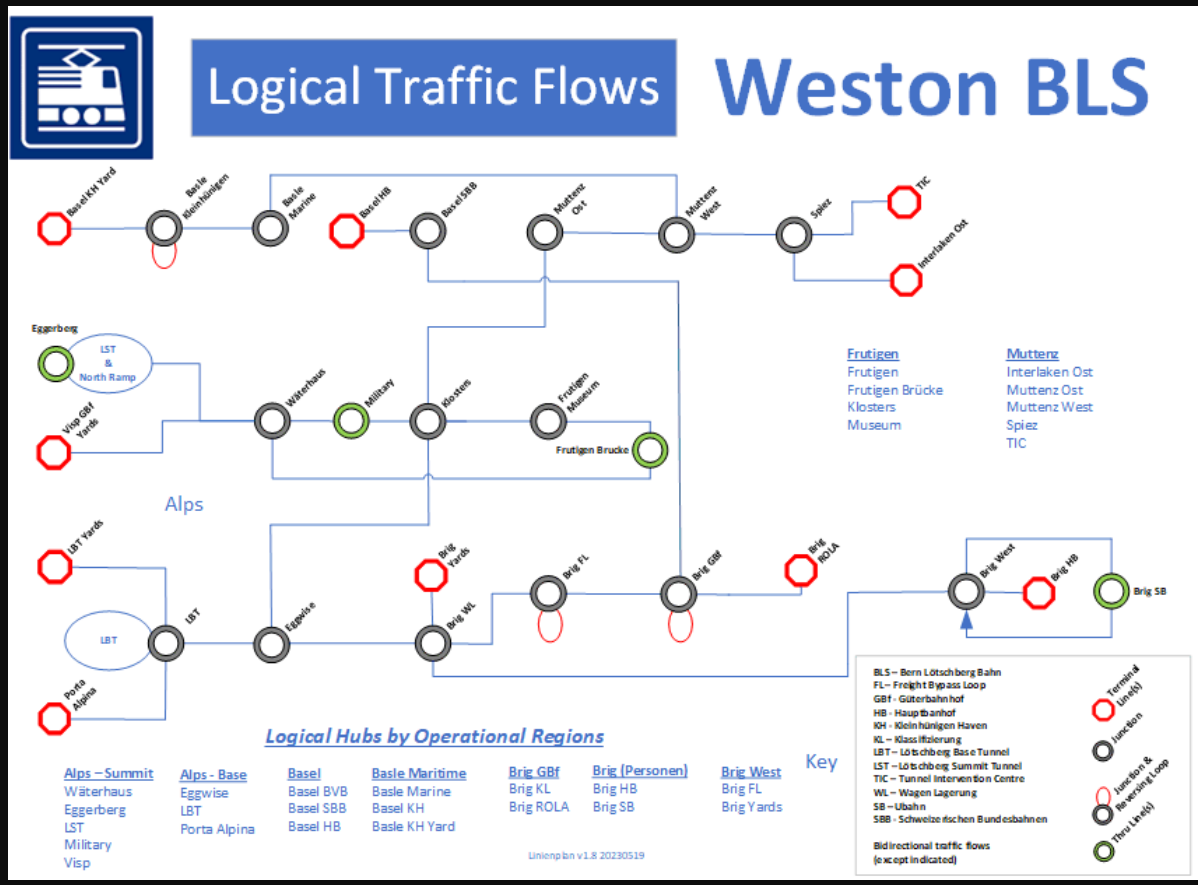


Next autumn’s focus

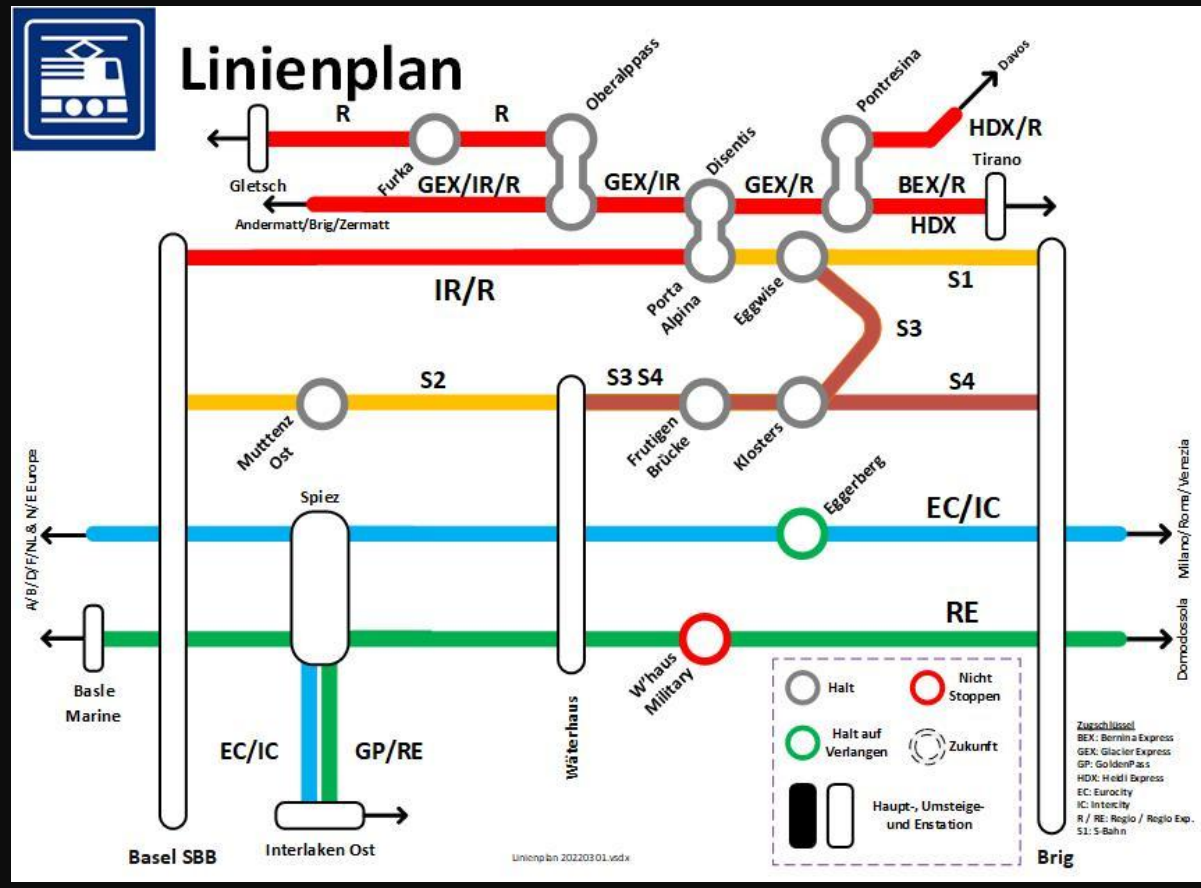
- Ferry / barge port
- “Water”
- Signals
- Mountain scenery
- Timetabling
- Structures
- Intermodal crane operation



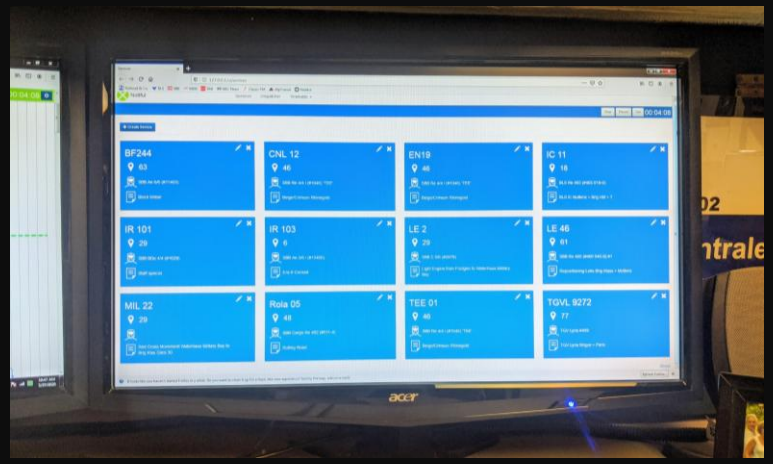
Timetabler & Dispatcher aid #1



Timetabler & Dispatcher aid #2



Timetabler & Dispatcher aid #3



Meanwhile – area is operational

Thank you!
Questions?

Layout:
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