Hai Yang

Editor-in-Chief: Transportation Research Part B: Methodological

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The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon  
Hong Kong

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Dear Professor Yang,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript "Predicting wildlife-train collisions across space and time to inform railway operations" for publication in *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological*.

Wildlife-train collisions result in economic, social, and environmental costs. Damage to trains, delays in scheduled operations, and negative impacts on species persistence are all considerable effects that railway operators and managers seek to minimise. In areas with very large species, the costs may be severe and include train de-railments. Further, wildlife collisions are a problem that occur globally on current railways and will be exasperated as operations expand in future.

Our work demonstrates a statistical modelling framework that can be used by railway operation managers to analyse and predict wildlife collision risk. Our method utilises easily accessible data and combines knowledge from many disciplines to create a useful tool.

As our methodology is flexible and can be applied to other transport systems, we anticipate a broader interest from the Journal's readership.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by other journals. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological*. There are no conflicts of interest to be reported.

Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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