

Improving Rail Safety and Transportation with Real-World AI Applications

Larry Jordan | Wi-Tronix, LLC | President and CEO



Overview

November 2, 2023

- Introducing Wi-Tronix
- AI Primer
- AI Applications in Safety and Transportation
- Crossing Inspection using AI
- Trespasser Hotspot Detection using AI
- Safety Critical Voice Radio Communications Improvements using AI

Who we are



Wi-Tronix, LLC is a leading provider of remote monitoring, video analytics, and predictive diagnostic solutions for high-value mobile assets specializing in rail.

We utilize both edge computing and cloud-based SaaS services to provide real-time data aggregation and analytics to enable operational efficiency.

At Wi-Tronix, it's simple. We strive to integrate technology to enable businesses to improve the operational efficiency, safety, service reliability, and sustainability of the world's transportation systems.

Inspired by technology, motivated by safety



**Founded in
2004**

Led by founders
160+ employees
Based in suburban
Chicago



**14,000+ rail
vehicles**

Platform agnostic
monitoring & analytics
Integrating data on
diverse fleets & data
sources



**60+ customers
4,000+ users**

4,000+ users across
freight, passenger, and
light rail markets in the
US, Canada, Mexico,
and Australia



**Siemens
investment**

2017 investment capital
for growth and
international outreach



**Innovators at
our core**

Leadership team with
100+ years of rail
industry expertise

“

Any significantly
advanced technology
is indistinguishable
from magic.

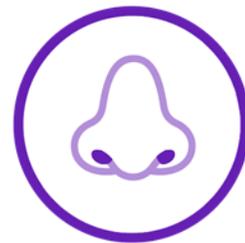
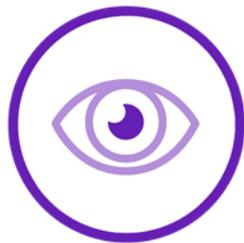
Arthur C. Clarke

”

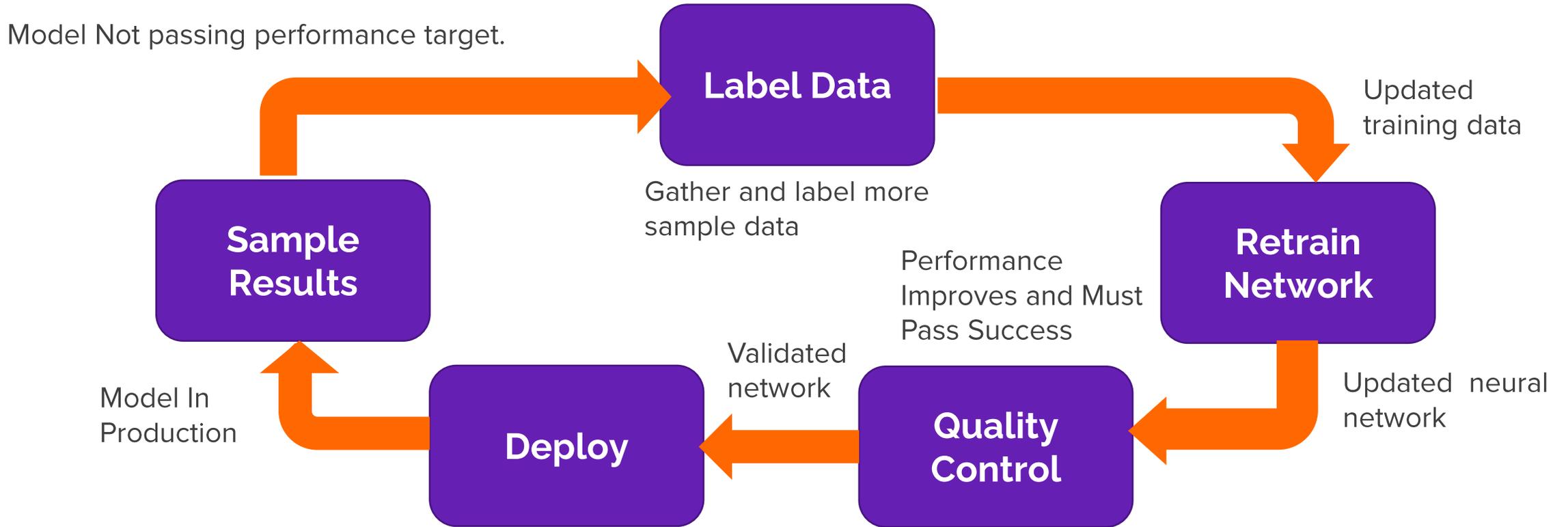


Artificial Intelligence: The Magic

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is intelligence demonstrated by machines, as opposed to the natural intelligence displayed by animals and humans.
- Artificial Neural Networks or Deep Neural Networks are inspired by the biological neural networks of human and animal brains.
- Deep Neural Networks combined with modern sensors create the ability to See, Hear, Feel and Smell



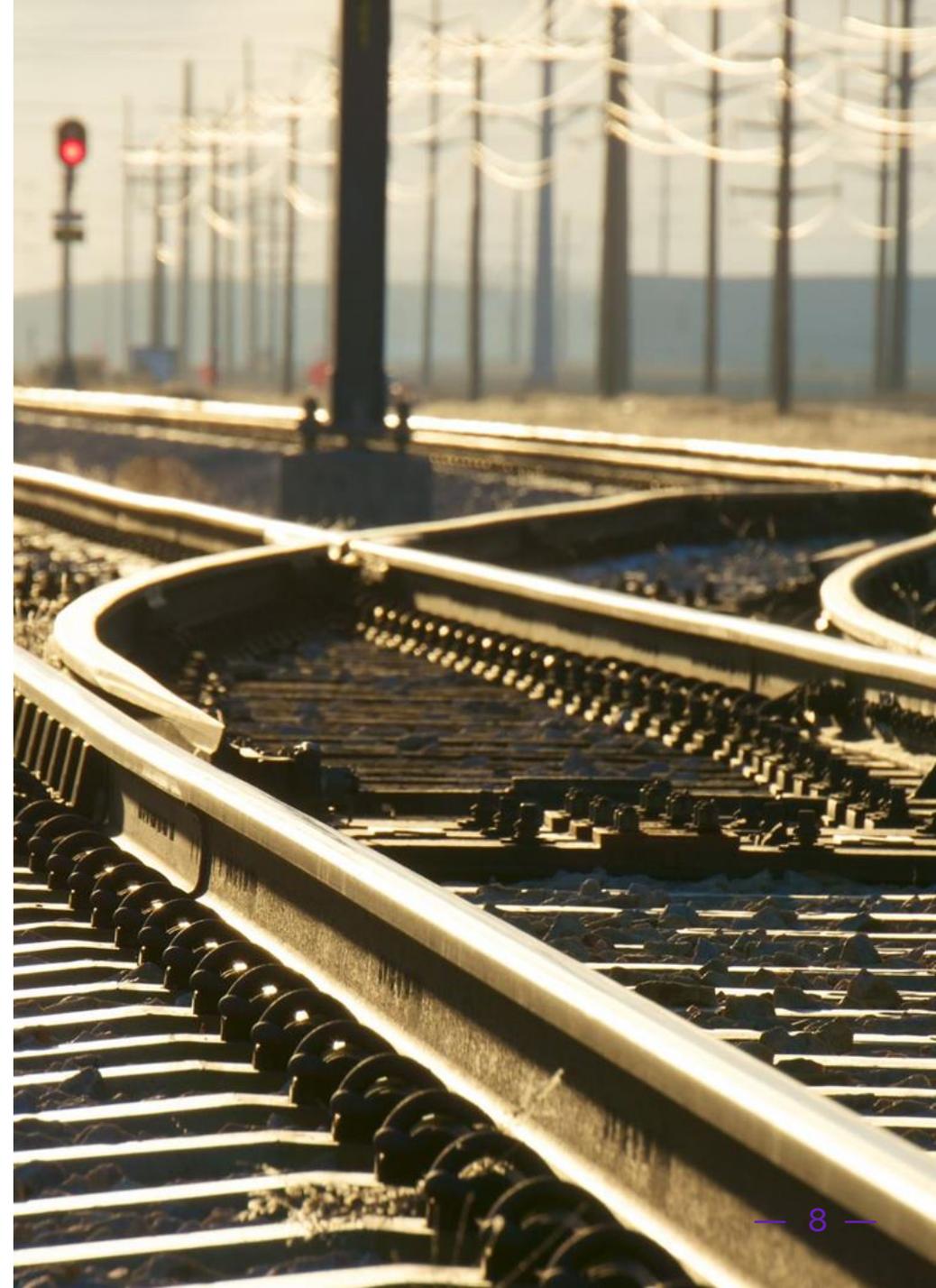
Typical AI model training loop



Iteration speed is critical to quick learning!

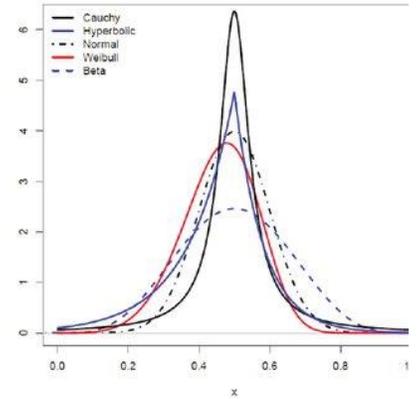
AI-enabled transport applications - rail

- Inspection of vehicle and mobile equipment
- Inspection of infrastructure
 - Track and ballast
 - Crossing gates and light
- Monitor operator performance
 - Mobile Device Detection
 - Alertness Detection
- Determine hazards
 - Near-miss Detection
 - Intruder Detection
 - Passenger Aggression Detection



Obstacles to conquer

- Artificial intelligence is generally probabilistic as opposed to deterministic
 - Many industries have a tradition of “deterministic” safety
- Established regulation is centered around human operations
 - Industry and regulators need to team to shift to performance-based regulation to enable innovative technology such as artificial intelligence
- Human error is more tolerated by society than machine error
 - Litigious environment requires AI based systems to have performance significantly higher than humans
 - Tesla’s objective is performance 10x better than the average human driver
 - Human performance levels may not be well understood



REGULATION



AI-powered crossing inspection

Improving public safety while reducing inspection costs

Reviewing the numbers: National statistics

US Railroad System



732
Railroads



143,804
Route miles of track



204,315
At-Grade Railroad Crossings
(Public, Private, and Pedestrian)

Nationwide Public At-Grade Crossings

Active

56%

(with gates, bells,
and/or flashing lights)



Passive

44%

(with signs/markings, but not
active warning devices)



9

People or vehicles
are hit by a train daily

96%

Of rail-related fatalities over past 10 years are due to
railroad grade crossing and trespassing incidents

Source: <https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/201911/Grade%20Crossing%20Resource%20Guide%20022015.pdf>

The problem

- Fatalities at grade crossings and from trespasser incidents are increasing over last 5 years – not declining as desired
- Successful development & deployment of trespassing solutions also remains flat
 - Limited pockets of success
 - Sustainability has not been achieved



5-year Grade Crossing Trends

Fatalities

258
(2018)

273
(2022)



5.8%



5-year Trespassing Trends

Fatalities

499
(2018)

675
(2022)



35%



➤ *Need a new approach with today's technology to solve this!*

The solution:

Majority of rail vehicles have forward facing cameras

99.99% of captured camera imagery gets thrown away...

How can we use it for improving public safety?



➤ *Detect exceptions and take action!*

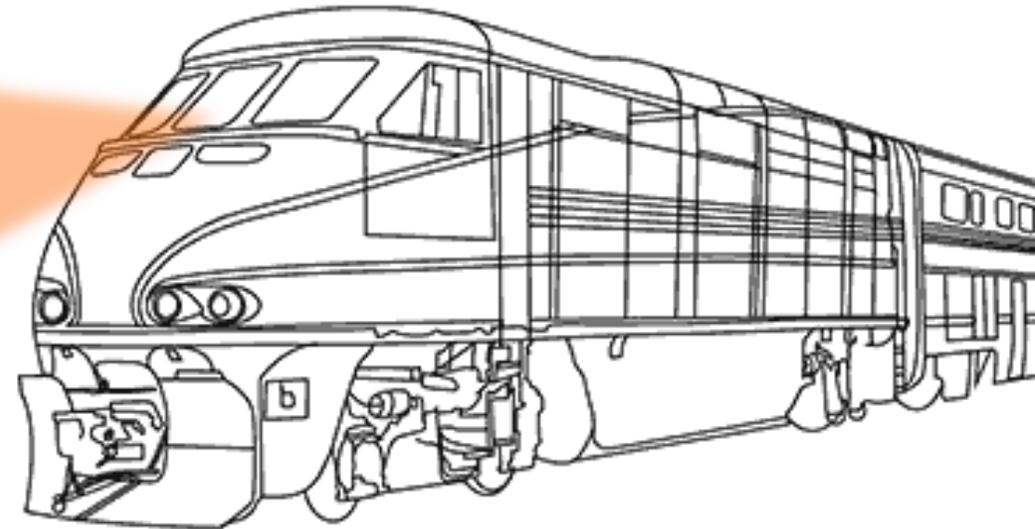
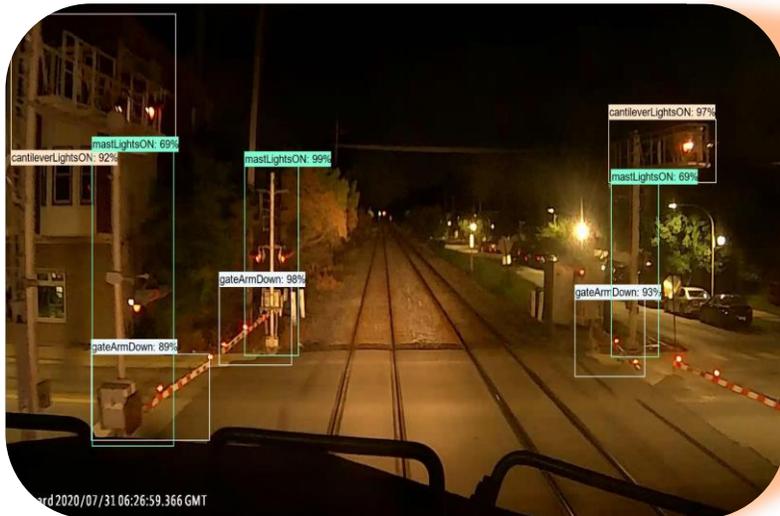
Utilize onboard cameras with AI to identify and improve grade crossing and trespasser problems

AI-powered crossing verification: What can be automated?

Goals:

- Gate arm status [CFR 234.223, CFR 234.255]
- Mast and Cantilever light flasher status [CFR 234.217, CFR 234.253]
- Detect gate arm misalignment [CFR 234.223, CFR 234.255]
- Warning system activation verification [CFR 234.225, 234.257]
- Commercial power availability verification

Front-facing imagery + AI to verify crossing



Assessing warning times

Additional visibility to crossing objects via long range cameras

Standard outward camera:



Long range camera:



- *Start activation: 20 seconds before*
- *Gates down: 5 sec before train arrives*

Wi-Tronix rail crossing assist

An innovative, AI-based vehicle platform approach for remote monitoring of crossings

- ✓ Lower lifecycle cost: **Platform approach** allows for continuous innovation to solves for multiple problems today and in the future
- ✓ Enhanced safety and **30% faster** response to gate arm malfunction reports
- ✓ Reduced investment: **No sensors at crossing**
- ✓ **Reduce operational** cost by using AI and on-demand video to confirm proper operation of the crossing

Outward 2022/07/07 00:08:49.097 GMT



AI-powered trespasser detection

Front-end AI-enabled cameras will guide future decisions related to infrastructure, and safety education and enforcement

Grant: \$1,648,000 | Awarded to Brightline and Wi-Tronix by the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program

- **Step 1:** Install HD forward-facing cameras throughout Brightline's fleet (21 locomotives)
- **Step 2:** Capture video data to develop/train AI model
- **Step 3:** Identify unsafe behaviors on Brightline's corridor; Brightline to identify areas in need for additional community outreach, law enforcement presence, or engineering projects



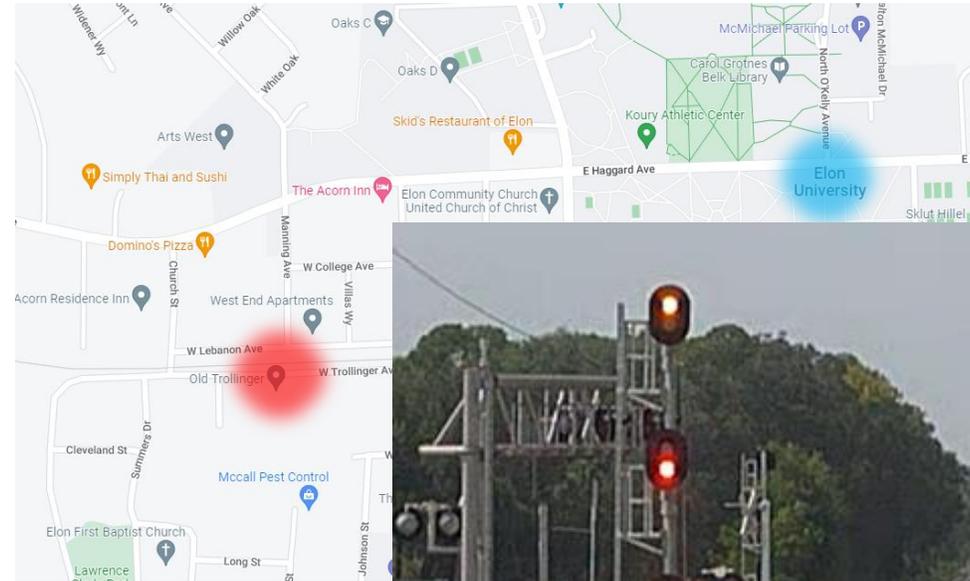
Trespasser hotspot detection

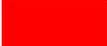
What:

- Solution that utilizes artificial intelligence (AI) to **collect trespasser hotspots** and trespasser behavior

Benefits:

- Focus investments on **high-risk areas**
- Enables railroads to perform **targeted public awareness** and educational campaigns
- Enables law enforcement personnel to perform **efficient policing** of public safety actions



-  Trespassing hot spot
-  Proximity to public areas (school, library, church, etc.)



Outward 2023/01/06 09:30:46.214 GMT

East Palestine, Ohio February 3, 2023



Introducing **RAIL** Radio View

Safety critical voice radio communications improvements using AI

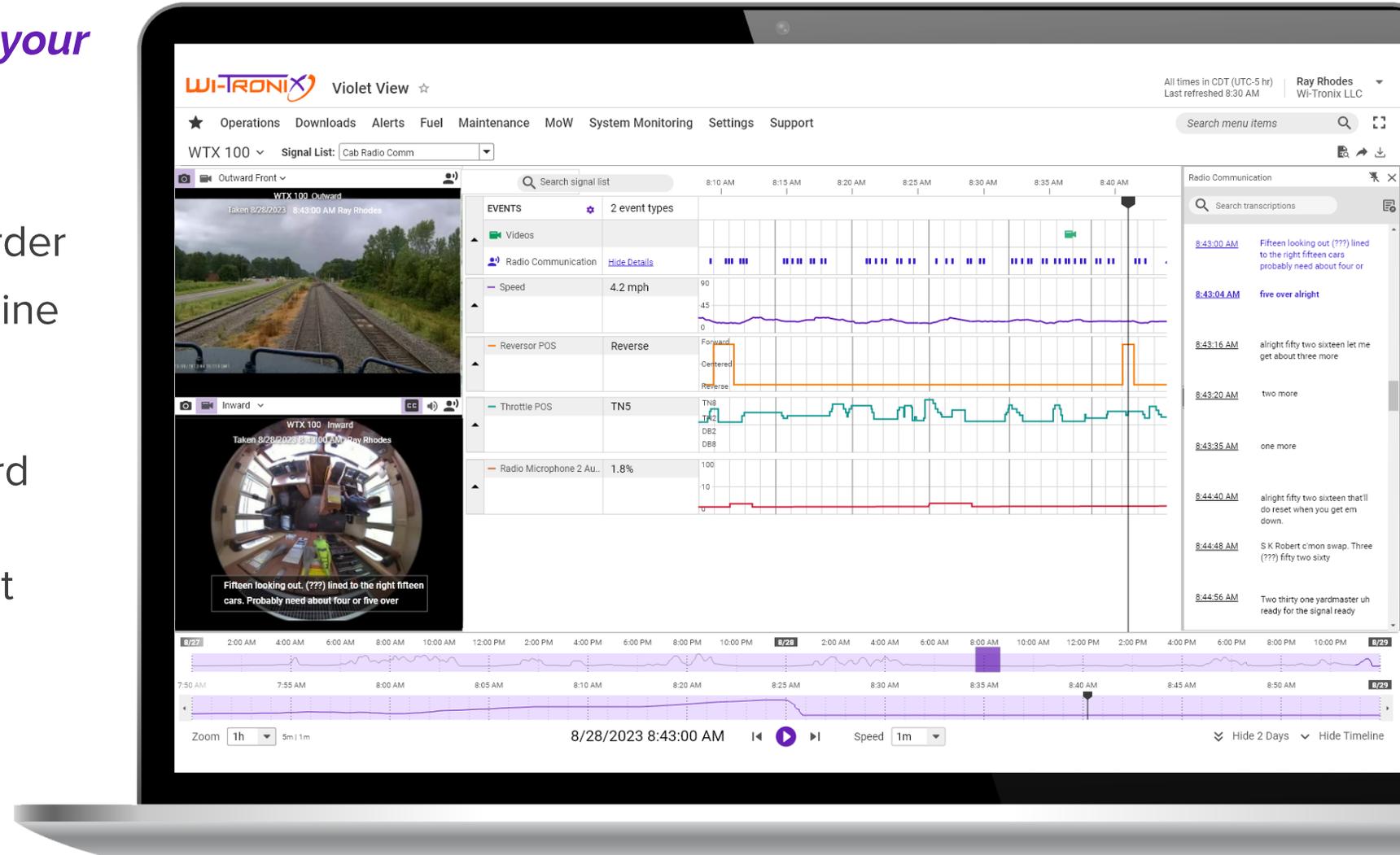
Defining the problem

- **Limited visibility** on crew compliance with radio announcements for reporting emergencies to dispatch
 - **Lack of visibility** into whether dispatchers promptly attend to emergency calls
 - When no message is received from the defect detector, or if the message is unclear or not understandable, the crew is required to immediately **reduce speed/stop** and contact the train dispatcher
 - **No visibility** to determine whether the crew is following the above rule, leading to potential **safety concerns**
 - Failure to properly protect shoving movements **can be fatal**
 - Railroads have **limited to no visibility** to crew radio communication during shoving movement
- *How do we provide visibility to radio communication?*
- *How do others address this?*

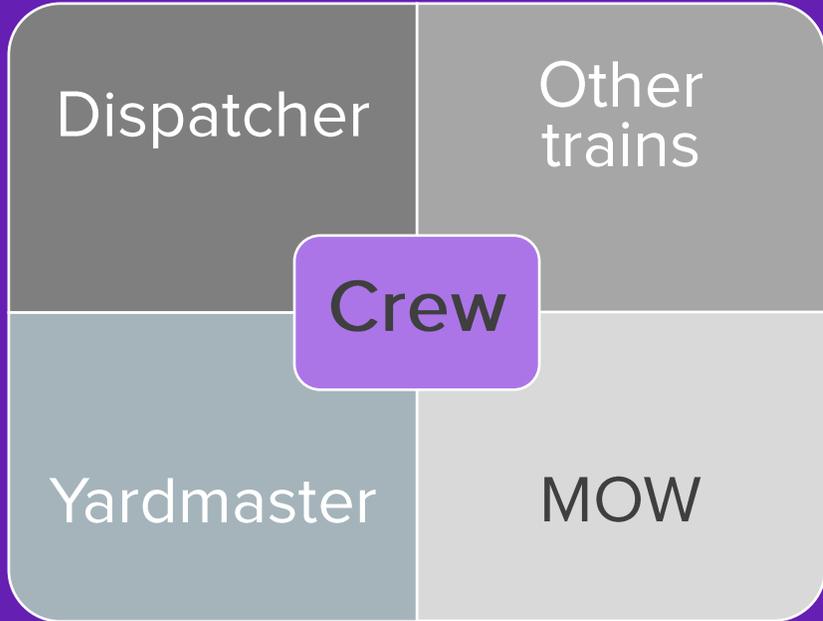
RAIL Radio View

One-click audio transcription access adding another level to your immersive experience

- ✓ **Record** cab audio and transcription in the event recorder
- ✓ **See** transcriptions on the timeline in Violet View (online event recorder player)
- ✓ **View** closed captions on inward camera view
- ✓ **Search** key words from the last 48 hours



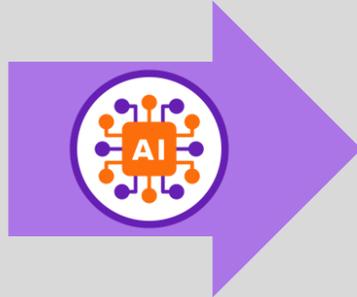
What is recorded?



Enable in-depth incident and low-cost operational testing verification of critical communication in the following scenarios:



Audio to AI Transcription Defect Detector



C.S.X. Equipment defect detector. Milepost 1.0.1 Track 2

CSX Equipment Defect Detector Milepost 1.0.1 Track 2. No defect. No defects total axle six eight ten of transmission

Audio to AI Transcription example

*The Audio clip you're about to hear was recorded from the unit installed in the field with Violet.

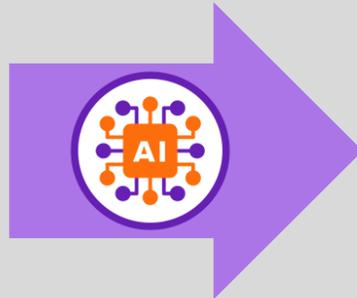


*that second motor, see what's going on with it if it's clean or if it's got a traction motor cut out. All right, I'll give it a look as soon as we get up there. All right. Dispatcher asked you about that **DEP**. It shows it's dead, but I guess you told him it was running. It shows running. It's showing loading right now. Good enough. Southbound look good? Yeah, **cold** hoppers look good. You'll have a good evening. Thank you, too.*

**Please note: transcription above is transcribed by AI*

Audio to AI Transcription of Train to yard master example

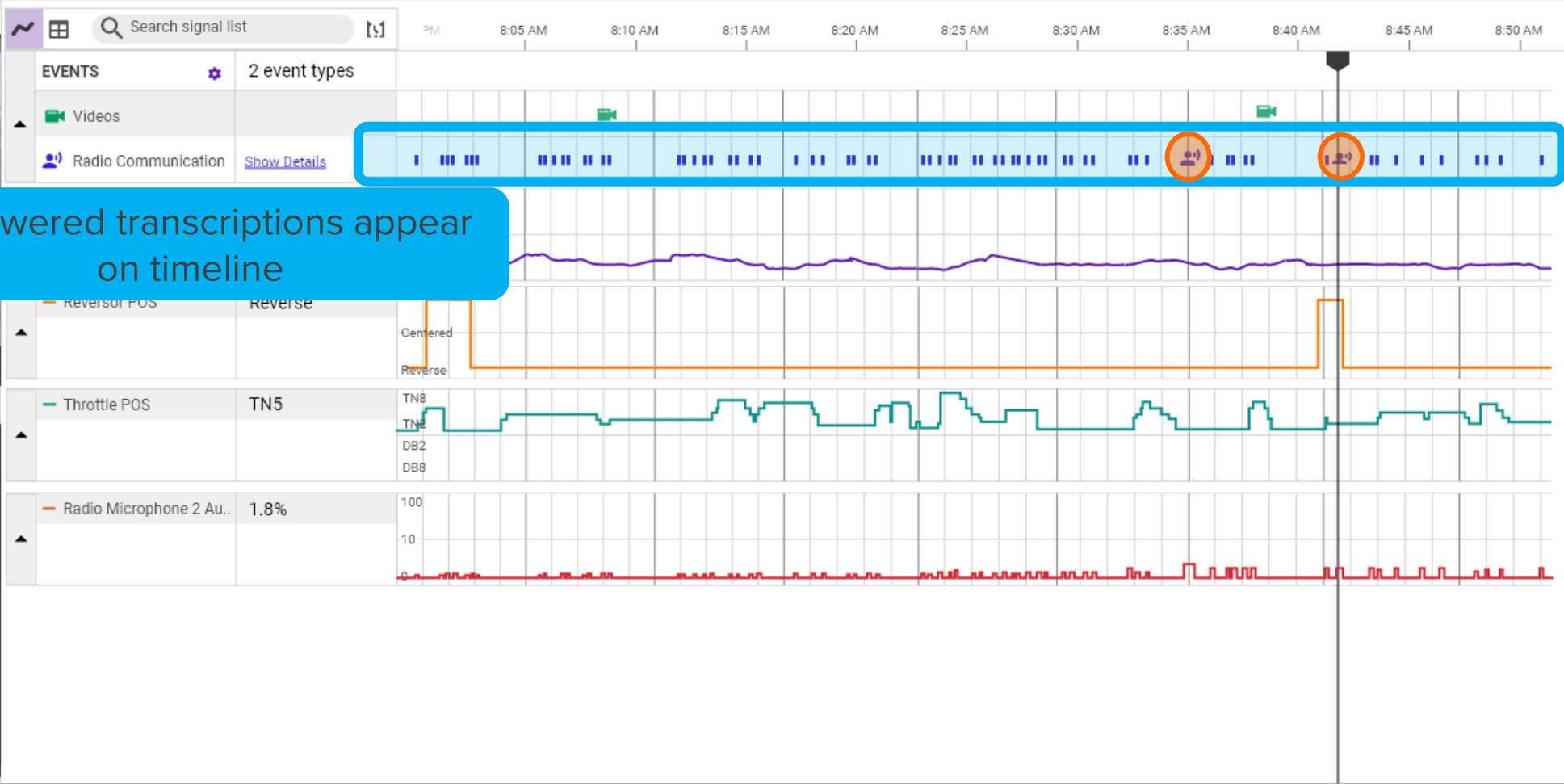
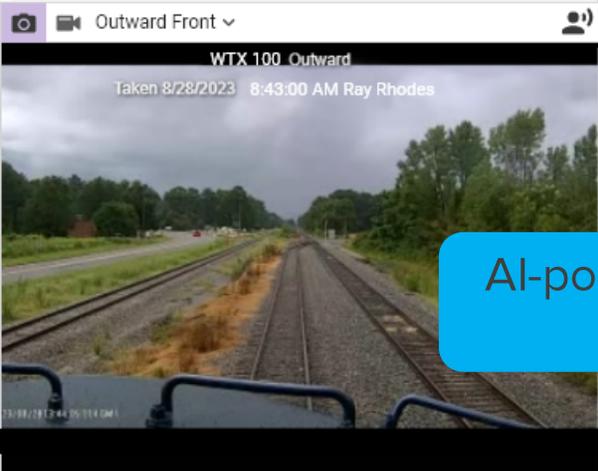
*The Audio clip you're about to hear was recorded from the unit installed in the field with Violet.



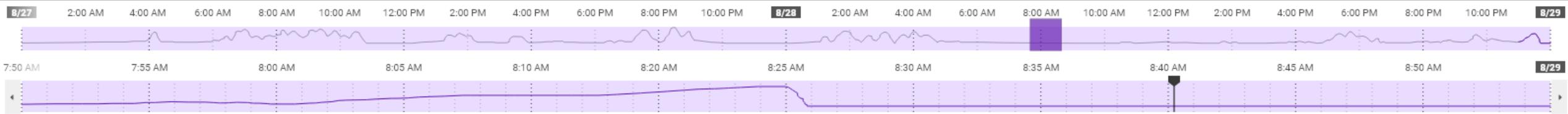
I agree, just a fly. I'll do it for you. Greg, you want this light number? You can give it to me. 05406. 05406. Alright. 231, north.

**Please note: transcription above is transcribed by AI*

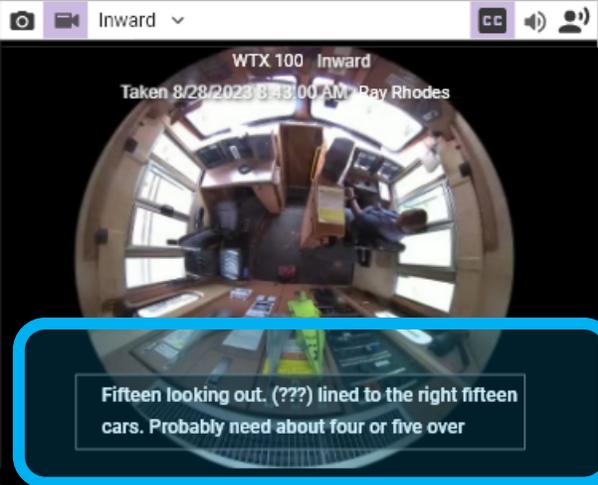
WTX 100 ▾ Signal List: Cab Radio Comm ▾



AI-powered transcriptions appear on timeline

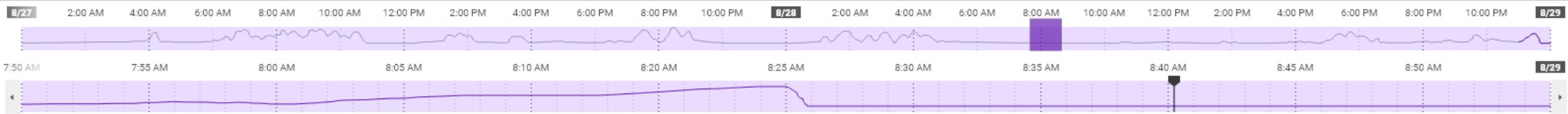


WTX 100 Signal List: Cab Radio Comm

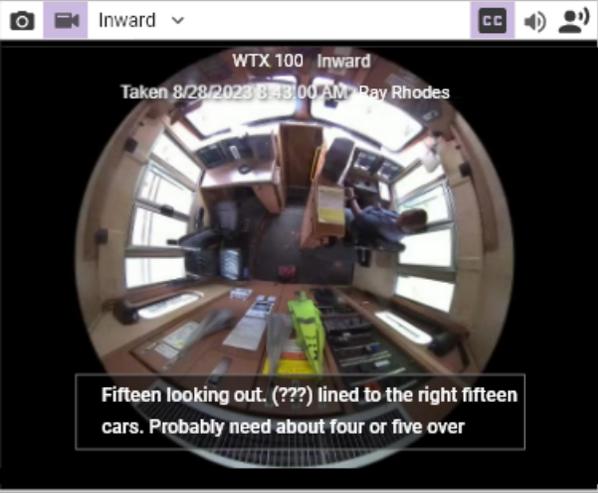


Inward camera view with closed captions

Fifteen looking out. (???) lined to the right fifteen cars. Probably need about four or five over



WTX 100 ▾ Signal List: Cab Radio Comm ▾

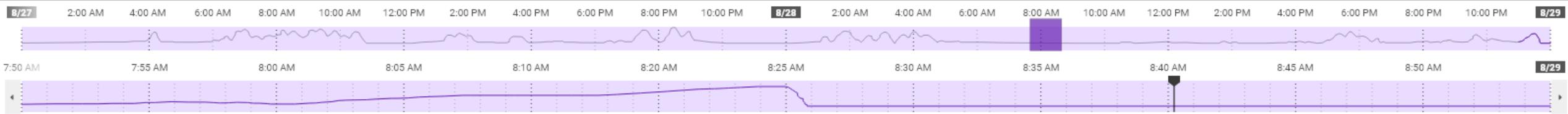
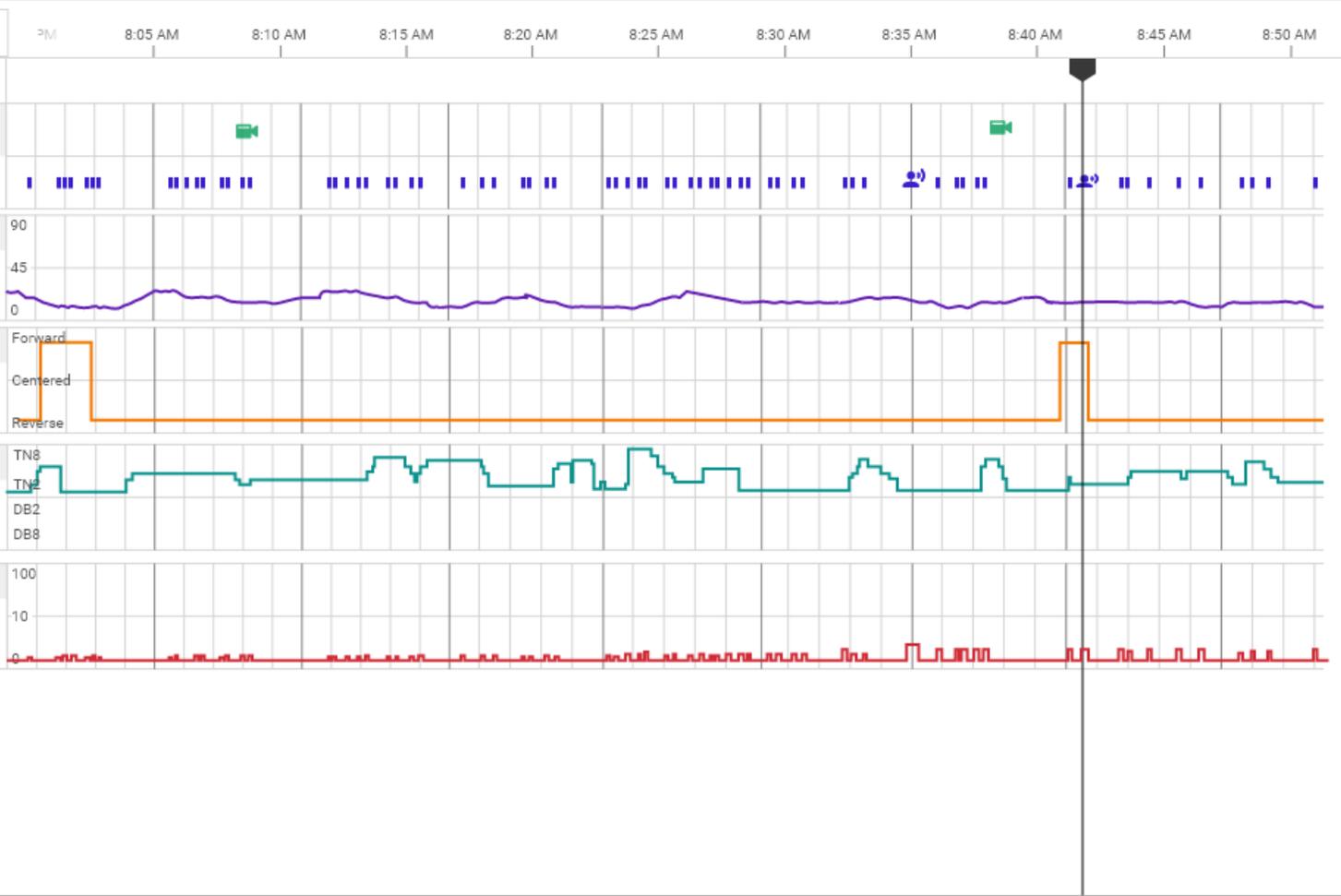


Search signal list 🔍

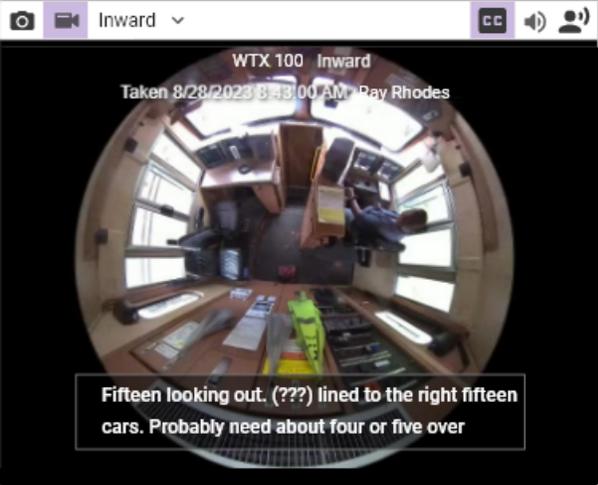
EVENTS ⚙️ 2 event types

- Videos
- Radio Communication [Show Details](#)

Transcription view:
Select "show details"



WTX 100 ▾ Signal List: Cab Radio Comm ▾



Search signal list 🔍

EVENTS 2 event types

- Videos
- Radio Communication [Hide Details](#)

Speed 4.2 mph

Reversor POS Reverse

Throttle POS TN5

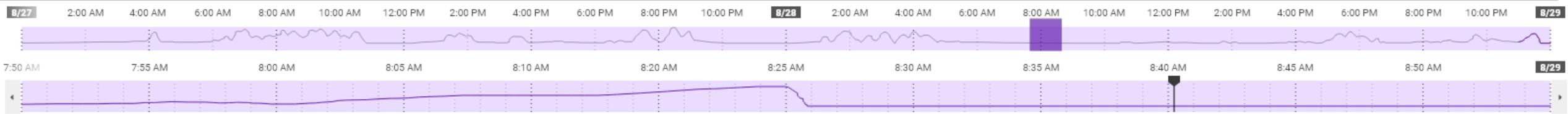
Radio Microphone 2 Au... 1.8%

Radio Communication

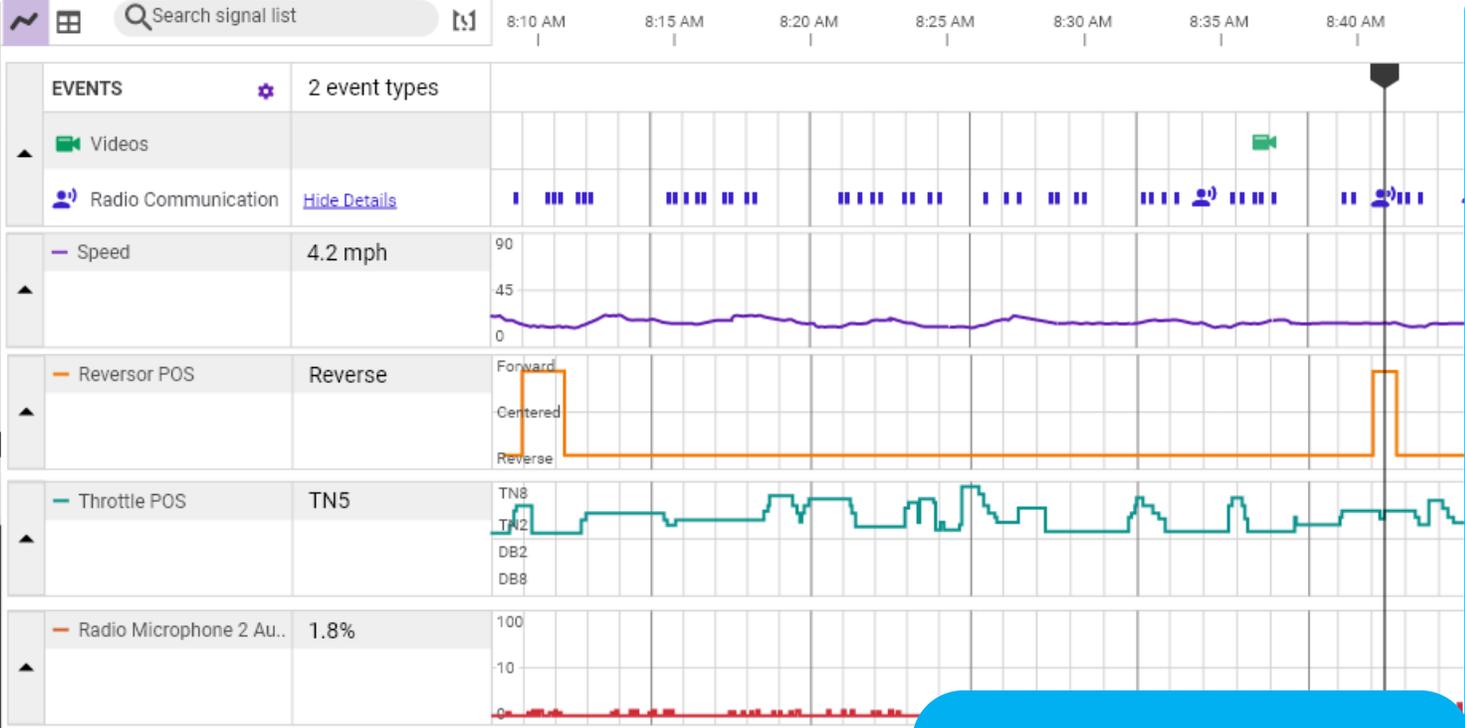
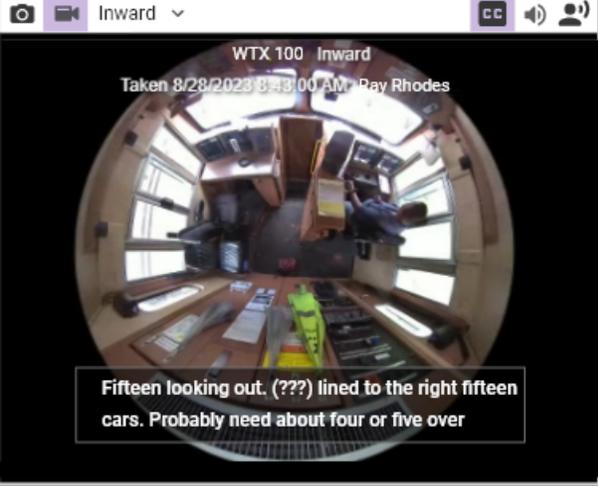
Search transcriptions 🔍

- [8:43:00 AM](#) Fifteen looking out (???) lined to the right fifteen cars probably need about four or
- [8:43:04 AM](#) five over alright
- [8:43:16 AM](#) alright fifty two sixteen let me get about three more

Window appears to show previous 48 hours of transcriptions



WTX 100 Signal List: Cab Radio Comm

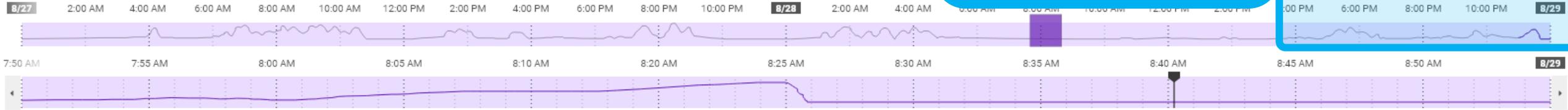


Radio Communication

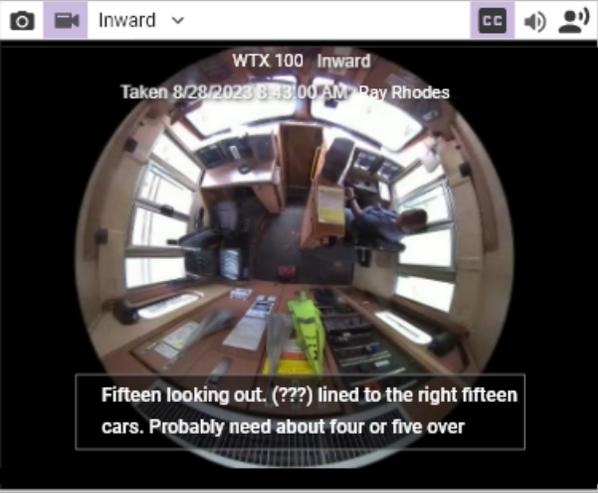
Yardmaster

- 8:43:00 AM Fifteen looking out (???) lined to the right fifteen cars probably need about four or
- 8:43:04 AM five over alright
- 8:43:16 AM alright fifty two sixteen let me get about three more
- 8:43:20 AM two more
- 8:43:35 AM one more
- 8:44:40 AM alright fifty two sixteen that'll do reset when you get em down.
- 8:44:48 AM S K Robert c'mon swap. Three (???) fifty two sixty
- 8:44:56 AM Two thirty one yardmaster uh ready for the signal ready

Window can be pinned to the right for easy viewing of data and AI-powered transcriptions



WTX 100 Signal List: Cab Radio Comm

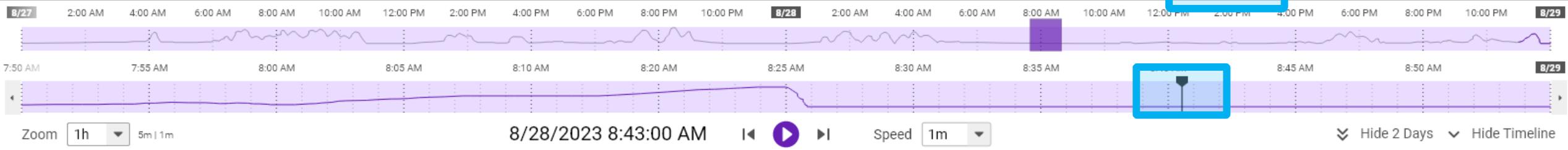


Selecting a time in the transcription window will take you to that point on the timeline

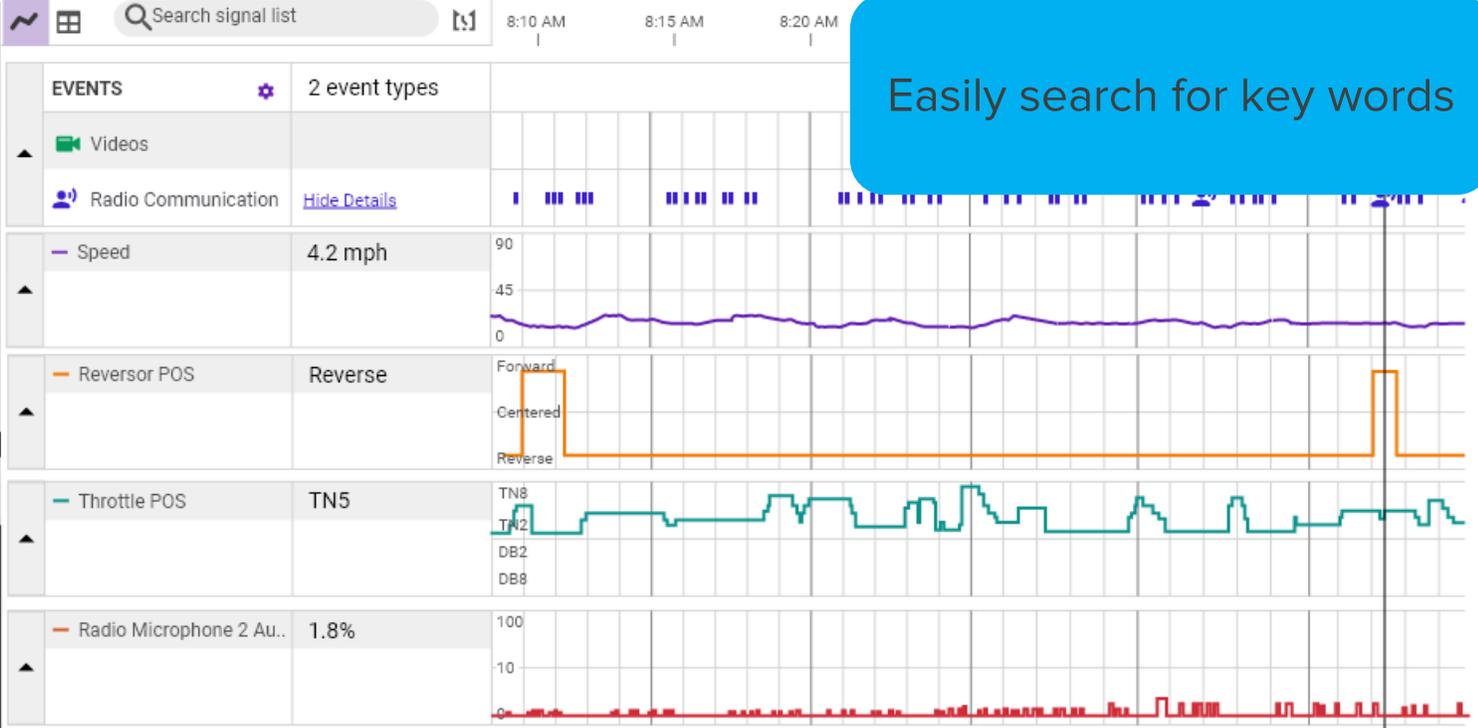
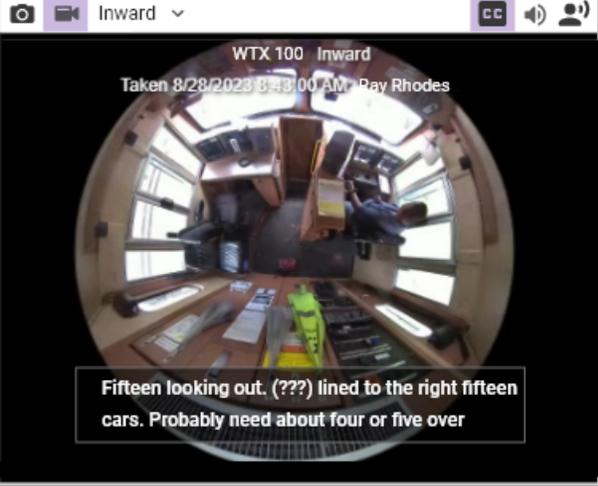
Radio Communication

Search transcriptions

- 8:43:00 AM Fifteen looking out (???) lined to the right fifteen cars probably need about four or
- 8:43:04 AM five over alright
- 8:43:16 AM alright fifty two sixteen let me get about three more
- 8:43:20 AM two more
- 8:43:35 AM one more
- 8:44:40 AM alright fifty two sixteen that'll do reset when you get em down.
- 8:44:48 AM S K Robert c'mon swap. Three (???) fifty two sixty
- 8:44:56 AM Two thirty one yardmaster uh ready for the signal ready



WTX 100 Signal List: Cab Radio Comm



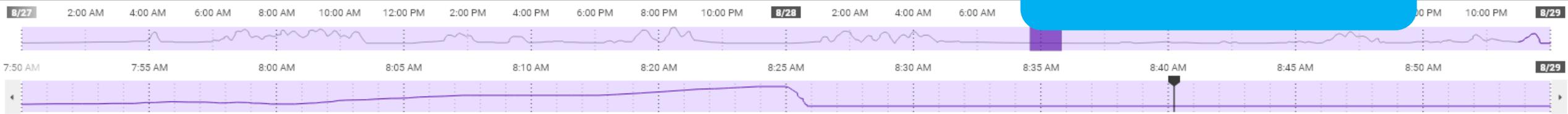
Easily search for key words

Radio Communication

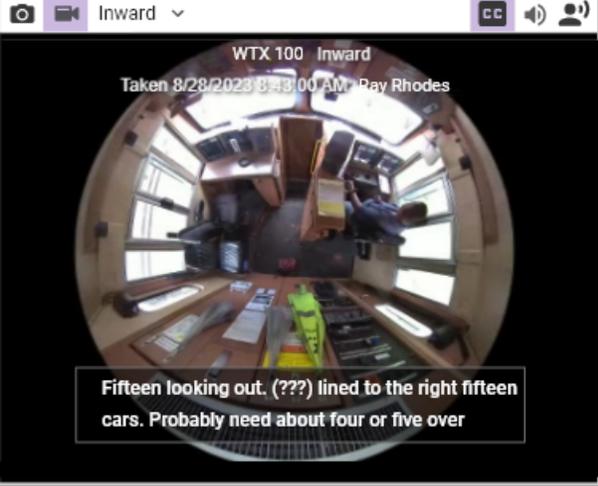
Search: Yardmaster

- 8:43:00 AM Fifteen looking out (???) lined to the right fifteen cars probably need about four or
- 8:43:04 AM five over alright
- 8:43:16 AM alright fifty two sixteen let me get about three more
- 8:43:20 AM two more
- 8:43:35 AM one more
- 8:44:40 AM alright fifty two sixteen that'll do reset when you get em down.
- 8:44:48 AM S K Robert c'mon swap. Three (???) fifty two sixty

Search results highlighted

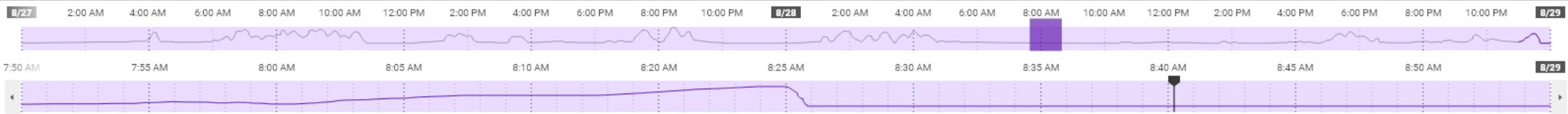


WTX 100 Signal List: Cab Radio Comm

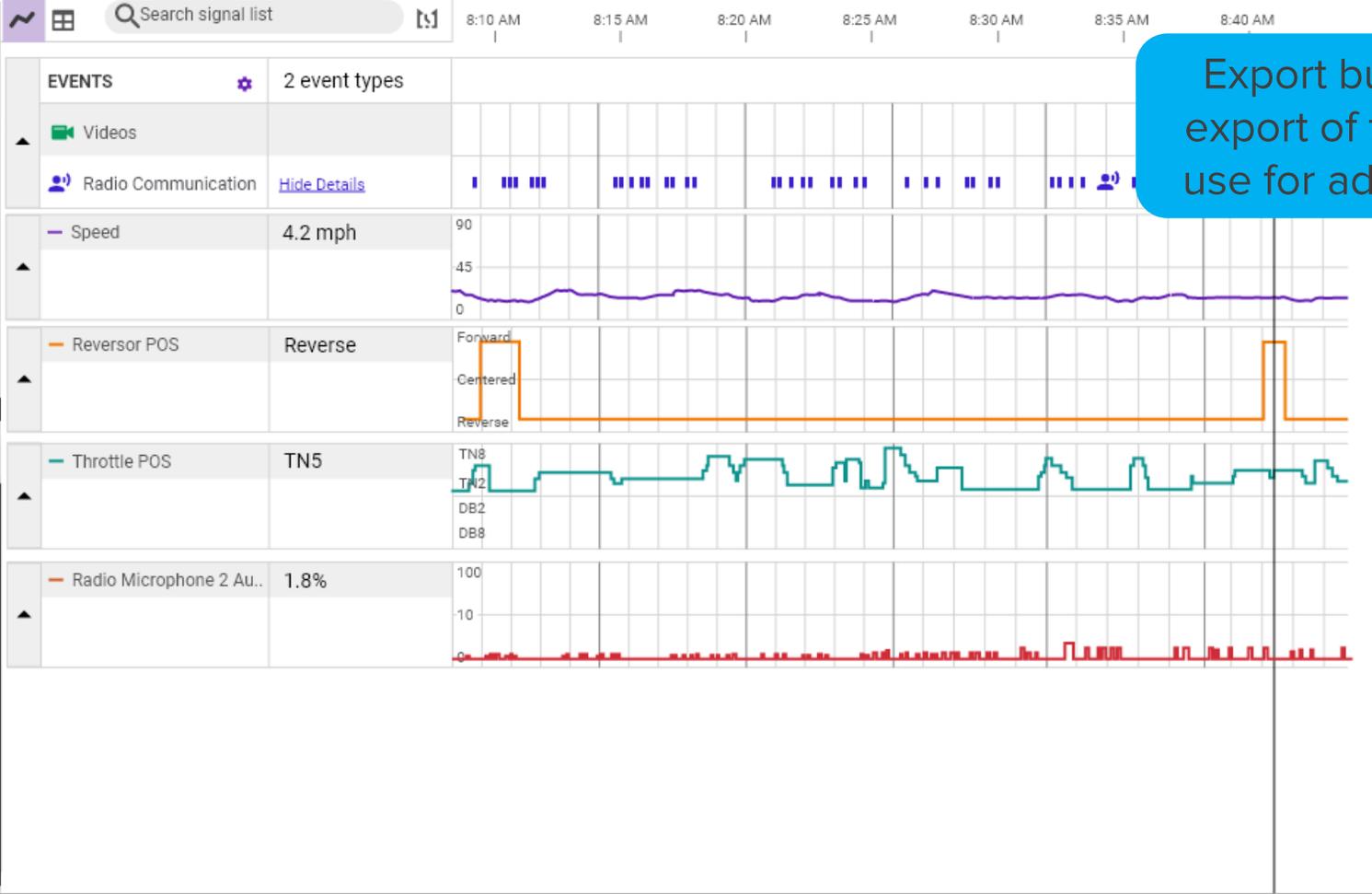
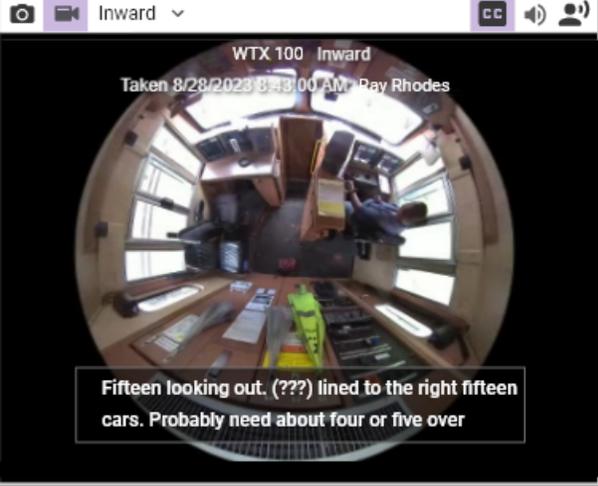


Arrows allow for easy navigation of all search results

- Radio Communication
- 8:43:04 AM five over alright
 - 8:43:16 AM alright fifty two sixteen let me get about three more
 - 8:43:20 AM two more
 - 8:43:35 AM one more
 - 8:44:40 AM alright fifty two sixteen that'll do reset when you get em down.
 - 8:44:48 AM S K Robert c'mon swap. Three (???) fifty two sixty
 - 8:44:56 AM Two thirty one yardmaster uh ready for the signal ready

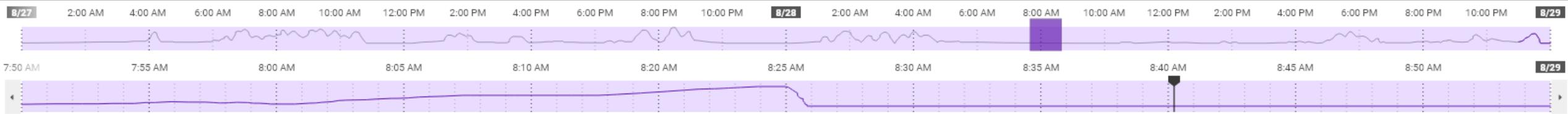


WTX 100 Signal List: Cab Radio Comm



Export button allows for export of transcriptions to use for additional analysis

- 8:43:04 AM five over alright
- 8:43:16 AM alright fifty two sixteen let me get about three more
- 8:43:20 AM two more
- 8:43:35 AM one more
- 8:44:40 AM alright fifty two sixteen that'll do reset when you get em down.
- 8:44:48 AM S K Robert c'mon swap. Three (???) fifty two sixty
- 8:44:56 AM Two thirty one yardmaster uh ready for the signal ready



What else can we do with transcriptions from radio?

- *What if AI could process the transcriptions to **understand** what was said (or not said) in the dialog?*
- *What if AI can **automatically** process this dialog to **detect exceptions**?*

Potential AI Automated alerts from transcriptions:

- Proper radio communication around Emergency rail incidents
- Proper response to defect detector events
- Proper radio communication during shoving movements



Rail Safety can be transformed with real world AI-powered solutions!

AI is not magic. A robust training program is required. Just as human education can be costly, AI training can also be costly.

Clear system performance criteria is required to properly implement and deploy AI enabled solutions.

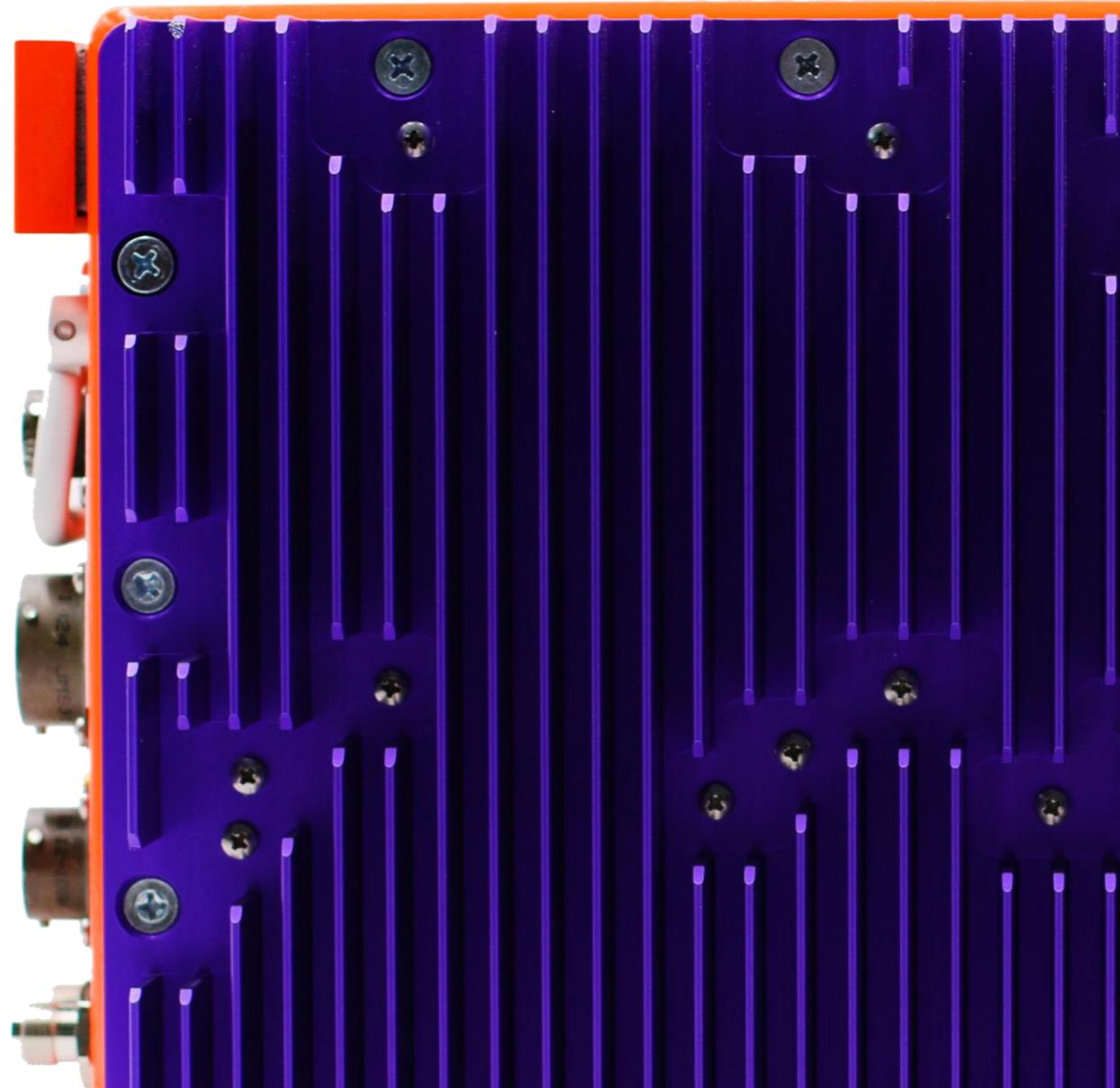
AI is a tool that can improve rail safety in areas that were previously considered unsolvable.

AI is an element of an overall solutions and solutions always need to be outcome focused.

thank you

Larry Jordan

Lawrence.B.Jordan@wi-tronix.com



©2023 Wi-Tronix, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
Wi-Tronix Confidential and Proprietary.