

SUPERSTRUCTURE PROTECTION WITH RECYCLED RUBBER UBM

CASE STUDY

Berkshire Line
Massachusetts (US)

EFFECTIVE
SUPERSTRUCTURE
PROTECTION.



FIRST US INSTALLATION OF COST-EFFECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE UNDER BALLAST MATS (UBM) ON THE BERKSHIRE LINE

THE PROJECT

The Berkshire Line in Massachusetts, operated by MassDOT's Rail & Transit Division, has been primarily used for freight transport to date. To accommodate future passenger traffic, the line is undergoing extensive renovation and modernisation measures.

Sustainable protection thanks to decades of experience

As part of the renovation works, Getzner's under ballast mats made from recycled rubber are being installed on sections of the heavily used line. This enhances the track elasticity, protects the superstructure by reducing ballast deterioration on the hard surface of the bridge deck, and reduces rail seat forces. As a result, maintenance needs are reduced and the service life of the tracks is extended.

Getzner offers a wide range of solutions to meet the diverse requirements of ballasted tracks in the railway industry. The economic and technical performance of Getzner's under ballast mats has already been demonstrated worldwide across more than three million square metres. The durability of these solutions has been proven in countless projects over decades.



Meaningful recycling: Along the Berkshire Line, Getzner's under ballast mats made from polyurethane-bonded end-of-life tyre (ELT) rubber granules and fibres are now providing sustainable track protection for the first time in the USA.

THE GETZNER SOLUTION

Getzner UBM performance for North America

The Berkshire Line marks the first deployment of Getzner's MATRACK UBM solution in the US, following its proven success and widespread adoption across Europe. The Getzner MATRACK UBM portfolio has been tested in accordance with the EN 17282 standard in TC3 category for mixed traffic. Furthermore, the EU-manufactured mats meet the highest quality standards for hazardous chemicals (REACH/POP).

Integrated protection

The MATRACK UBM are fitted with a synthetic protection layer - a so-called geotextile - which acts as a robust separation between the ballast and resilient layer. It distributes the forces coming from the trains evenly and transfers them to the underlying resilient layer made from polyurethane-bonded end-of-life tyre (ELT) rubber granules and fibres. The permanently bonded geotextile prevents ballast particles from penetrating into the resilient layer, thereby ensuring good performance over the lifetime of the track.

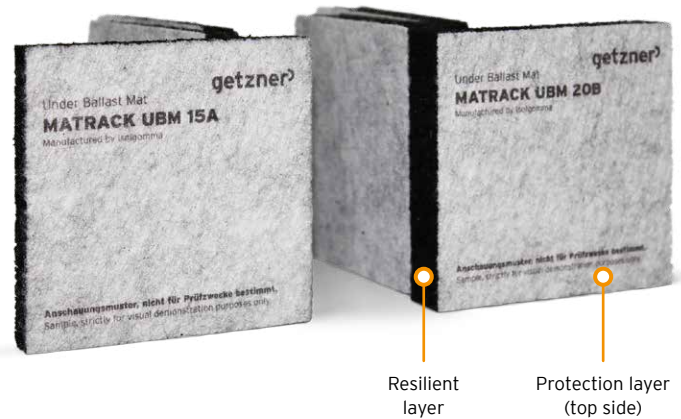
Lower installation and life-cycle costs

As MATRACK UBM are supplied in prefabricated sheets and no separate geotextile is required, they can be laid quickly and easily, resulting in a significant reduction of installation time and costs.

These mats, specially developed for use on ballasted tracks, also feature a flat geometry. This reduces the accumulation of fine particles under the resilient layer, which in turn lowers maintenance requirements and contributes to a long-lasting solution.

On-time delivery

To meet the demanding delivery schedule, Getzner deployed optimised logistics and supply chain coordination: "Despite the short lead time between order receipt and the required delivery date, Getzner's integrated service cycle and experienced logistics team ensured a reliable, on-time delivery in full alignment with the project requirements," explains Mychal Weidman, Area Sales Manager at Getzner USA. With MATRACK UBM, the operator can rely on a proven, cost-effective superstructure protection solution that is ideally suited to the customer's technical needs and economic requirements.



Fast installation: The integrated protection layer of the under ballast mats enables faster and more efficient on-site installation by eliminating the need to place a separate geotextile layer.

BENEFITS

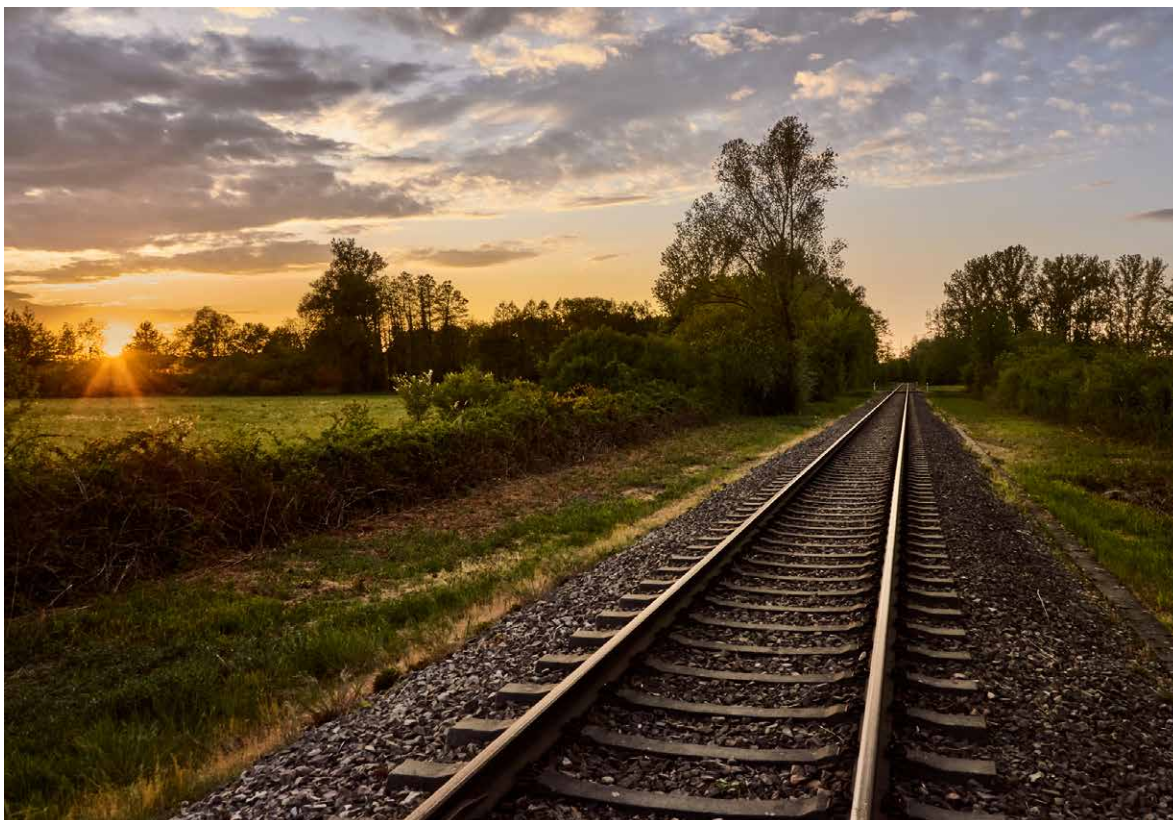
- Improved long-term track quality
- Enhanced load distribution reducing forces on critical structures like bridges
- Superstructure protection and less ballast degradation
- Lower installation and life-cycle costs
- Complete engineering package in accordance with EN 17282 standard

FEEDBACK



"We were contacted to identify a suitable under ballast mat solution for the MassDOT Berkshire Line Civil Improvements Project. The competitor solution was deemed unsuitable due to its long lead time. Our proposed MATRACK UBM was approved by the engineering consultants as a technically suitable solution in line with the tight project schedule. Getzner's comprehensive railway product portfolio ensures that we remain competitive while meeting the diverse needs of any project or customer."

Mychal Weidman, Area Sales Manager, Getzner USA



ADVANTAGES

Thanks to the MATRACK UBM, the operator of the Berkshire Line in Massachusetts benefits from low installation and life-cycle costs, while also reducing the forces on structures like bridges along the line. This cost-effective solution improves track quality and supports sustainable track renovation for future passenger services. Getzner MATRACK UBM made from recycled rubber are tested in accordance with EN 17282 and were implemented in North America for the first time as part of this project.

Customer	Northern Construction Service, LLC
Operator	Massachusetts DOT Rail & Transit Division
Solution	Getzner MATRACK UBM with integrated protection layer
Implementation	2026

Additional references can be found on our website:



[getzner.com/
references](https://getzner.com/references)

getzner.com

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