

# 2024 NGECC Annual Meeting

## Caltrans Venture Passenger Railcars Procurement Updates

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The NGECC will provide national leadership  
in standardization, acquisition, and  
management of passenger rail equipment.

# Caltrans-IDOT Railcar Project History

- Joint Purchase: Caltrans & IDOT
- \$371M contract funded by FRA and California Proposition 1B
- Amended SCOA contract; Siemens is new carbuilder
- Project restart in Nov. 2017 after contract amendment
- Production by Siemens on existing single-level Venture platform



# Project Status & Accomplishments

## Deliveries to California and Illinois

- 72 cars delivered to Midwest/Chicago
- 24 cars delivered to Caltrans/Stockton



# Project Status & Accomplishments

## All 137 Coaches in Production, Testing & Delivery Phases

- Midwest revenue service started February 2022
- Caltrans revenue service started December 2023
- Conditional acceptance ongoing for Caltrans & IDOT
- FDRs in closeout stage for Vending and Cab Cars
- Final FAIs in closure for Vending and Cab Cars
- Cab Car FRA sample car inspection in closure
- Deliveries to Stockton & Chicago ongoing as space permits



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# Project Status & Accomplishments

## Successful development & testing activities

- APTA-compliant workstation table design validated and in production
- Completed design of bridge-plate for level boarding
- Wheel profile measurement program initiated
- Draft weld inspection process completed
- First vending cars delivered to Caltrans
  - Ongoing integration of vending machines with Caltrans, SJJPA, vending machine OEM and Siemens
- First cab car delivery anticipated in February 2024



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# Project Challenges and Opportunities

## Problems to work through

- Car Storage
  - Storage remains a challenge at customer and Siemens sites
- Production, Commissioning, and Supply Chain
  - COVID pandemic has long-lasting effect on component supply and logistics affecting production and commissioning
- Production Quality Assurance
  - Caltrans and IDOT partnered with Siemens to establish approaches to improve quality and to set monthly quality reporting



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# Project Challenges

## Solutions and Progress

- Accessible Toilet Room water panels
  - Material clarifications complete with EPA
- Wheelchair lift
  - Pinch point design refinement ongoing
- Vending vehicle qualification
  - Approved by FRA
- Air reservoirs
  - Improvements in place to address interior and exterior paint adhesion
- Welding
  - Underframe weld lifecycle monitoring program implemented



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# Next Steps

- IDOT to place café cars in service after Amtrak acceptance
- Begin Cab Car corridor testing activities
- Continue development on Caltrans high-level boarding solutions
- Monitor vehicle performance & reliability in revenue service
- Work with SCOA/Siemens and stakeholders to improve overall project delivery and finalization



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