



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2024 3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

FACILITATOR	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>Dan Ruppert, Joe Paul, Melissa Shurland, Curtis McDowell, Ray Hessinger, Ed Engle, Matt Hensley, Curt Massie, Kirk Fredrickson, Marci Petterson, Art Peterson, Mike Jenkins, Tammy Krause, Blair Slaughter, Jennifer Bastian, Barley Fields, Steve Hewitt, Industry Members: <i>Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Jack Madden, Allen Meek, Ed Golitko, Norman Forde, Dave Warner, Josh Coran, Frank Pazcazio, John Graham, Kevin Sudano, Jack Martinson, Jonathan Michel, James Michel</i></i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Ryan Sharpe, Matthew Simmons, Kevin Myles, Larry Salci, Tarek Omar, Jodi Lehmkuhl</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Technical subcommittee Chair Dan Ruppert, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2024 NGEC two-pager is now available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

To date 460 copies have been distributed.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are currently around 200 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

CtDOT Rail car Procurement:

On 3-28-24, Marci Petterson reported that they have started Preliminary Design Review (PDR). Steve Hewitt will include Marci on future agendas for monthly updates.

Next Update: 4-25-24

3.

Approval of the Minutes from 2-29-24:

On a motion by Art Peterson, for IDOT, and a second by Matt Hensley, NCDOT, the minutes from 2-29-24 were approved as presented.

**4.
Update: Multi-State Venture Car procurement –Caltrans:**

Caltrans was unavailable and no update had been provided prior to this meeting, so this item was tabled.

**5.
Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger provided a brief summary of the February report he had received from Metro-North:

The first Locomotive has completed the in-factory testing. The second Locomotive has the engine and roof installed. The procurement is on schedule. The first shipment is expected later this year.

**6.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:**

On the Acela:

Testing and valuation continues in phase one.

Alstom and FRA to confirm testing process moving forward. There have been a few delays. The timeline was tight to begin with and some weather issues caused some delays with a decrease in evening testing. FRA is being kept up to speed on oscillation issues and mitigation. Overall the procurement is moving forward.

Trainsets: 10 Trainsets are largely completed – 6 are in the Penn Coach Yard and 2 are in Hornell or Alstom. Work on FMI is complete. Good progress overall.

On the Airo trainset: Progress is strong – there are 37 in production – 35 coaches and 2 locomotives. The first Locomotive is in the paint stage. Working on Cab cars. Some FAIs still need to be completed. The first trainset is anticipated to be on the corridor for testing in the Spring of 2025.

On the ALC 42:

They continue to get units delivered. Thus far 48 are in service. 6 are in commissioning or transit. 21 are in production and 50 are to be started.. Dan added that performance has been significantly improved. There were some train killer events but those are diminishing as they learn more and develop FMI to correct issues with component failures. Overall, moving in the right direction.

On the GP38 Acquisition:

There has been some improvement as they continue to work with the vendor. 19 are in production and a few are in transit. 15 have been conditionally accepted

On the Long-Distance Fleet:

It is in the middle of procurement. Bidders are working with the acquisition team on preliminary bids within the RFP process. They are looking at the end of this year or early next year for the award.

**7.
Document Control Update- Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes:

The Materials Working Group (WG) continues to meet regularly, their last meeting was 3/4 and their next meeting is 4/1. Please contact Michael Gill (Michael.Gill@atkinsrealis.com) if you are interested in joining.

The Communications WG will be meeting on 4/2. Please contact Ken Martin (kmartin@sharma-associates.com) if you are interested in joining.

I am working with the Technical Writer to create the DCRs for the single level document and we will then be submitting them to the WGs.

Vehicle Weight Working Group update – Dave Warner:

Dave Warner, Weight WG Team Leader provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

"The Vehicle Weight Working Group met on Monday, March 11. There were three DCRs to be discussed, covering four topics. We came to an agreement on three of the four topics. The fourth, dealing with the amount of lateral and longitudinal imbalance to be allowed on a PRIIA vehicle is going to take a bit of time to resolve. What is in the current proposed document is definitely not correct, and finding the correct language is more complicated than simply changing one number. We had good carbuilder and technical expertise present in the meeting, and we've a plan in place with a goal of developing the correct language by the beginning of the summer."

8. Discussion: Potential future presentations – developing a list of presentations/topics/calendar – Dan Ruppert:

Dan introduced this discussion as a follow-up from the Annual meeting. He was very interested in the University of Nebraska Study and the presentation given during the Annual Meeting and would like to have some similar presentations throughout the year. He believes that it is important to leverage the knowledge that this group has to help those who are new to this field or simply interested in learning more about new technologies.

Dan asked for input/thoughts:

Blair Slaughter, Amtrak, agreed with Dan's thoughts on Nebraska and said that he, too, was intrigued by the presentation. As a follow-up he has reached out to Nebraska and has had conversations with them on what they have done.

Dan wondered if there is an opportunity for this group to get other similar presentations.

Blair responded that he thought there was.

Dan reiterated that he thought there was value for people who are newly coming into this industry to hear from those with experience.

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, commented that when this was brought up at the last Executive Board meeting, there was interest. He added that not all of the Board members are on the Technical Subcommittee but would like to be informed when a presentation is to be given during a subcommittee call so that they would have an opportunity to attend.

Dan added that he thinks such presentations are an opportunity to present technology discussions to a broad group. He believes the effort may have to be solicited to get input and involvement.

Ray Hessinger added that it will be important to be sensitive with regard to commercial propriety.

Blair Slaughter commented on the fact that the FRA has an activity around technology transfer and thinking outside of railroads to solve railroad issues.

Melissa Shurland, FRA, noted that they are trying to be proactive in the field of technology transfer. "We are waiting to see hard technology on the trains and would welcome input from this group." Melissa added "We have a mandate to be more pro-active on technology transfer."

Melissa agreed to introduce Steve Hewitt to the Director of the FRA's program related to Technology Transfer issues. Steve would be happy to have the introduction and would hope that someone from that group would give a presentation on what the FRA is doing in this area and what they are looking for. This would, hopefully, stimulate further discussions/presentations.

Dan Ruppert closed today's discussion noting that he believes there is interest and desire to go forward and welcomes input from members on topics or points we should be discussing.

9. Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:

With no other business forthcoming, Dan Ruppert adjourned today's meeting at 3:32pm Eastern.

Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 4-11-24

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

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Maintaining Industry Participation List:

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Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 2-29-24:

The Cab Car FDR is now approved, and all FDR stages are complete. The Cab Car and Café Car MCAT simulation reports have been approved by the states and the FRA.

The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspections have occurred with final open items in review and closure. The Cab Car 238.111(b) test plan is being revised based on recent comments for return to Amtrak and subsequent submittal to FRA. The first cab car and café car are being prepared for shipment.

All 137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches and Caltrans trainsets are currently in revenue service and additional cars are being added as they are commissioned and accepted.

Nothing new reported on 3-28-24, as Caltrans was not present.

Next Update: 4-25-24

Document Control as of 3-28-24:

The Materials Working Group (WG) continues to meet regularly, their last meeting was 3/4 and their next meeting is 4/1. Please contact Michael Gill (Michael.Gill@atkinsrealis.com) if you are interested in joining.

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Vehicle Weight Working Group update – Dave Warner:

Dave Warner, Weight WG Team Leader provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

The Weight WG had a meeting on 3/11 to review the DCRs that were received on their spec. Here is Dave Warner's update:

"The Vehicle Weight Working Group met on Monday, March 10. There were three DCRs to be discussed, covering four topics. We came to an agreement on three of the four topics. The fourth, dealing with the amount of lateral and longitudinal imbalance to be allowed on a PRIIA vehicle is going to take a bit of time to resolve. What is in the current proposed document is definitely not correct, and finding the correct language is more complicated than simply changing one number. We had good carbuilder and technical expertise present in the meeting, and we've a plan in place with a goal of developing the correct language by the beginning of the summer."

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University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study:

Hamid Sharif, University of Nebraska, provided a summary presentation on the High-Speed Wireless Study during the NGEN Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGEN website at www.ngen.org.

This study, as of 2-2-24 had not been granted funding from FRA for its next phase. The item will be tabled until further information is received.

*Hamid Sharif
Advanced Telecommunications Engineering Lab
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Phone: 402-917-6363
Email: HSHARIF@UNL.EDU*

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

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Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

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Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

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Action:

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Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 4-11-24

ATTACHMENTS



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PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting
3:00PM Eastern

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Agenda

3-28-24

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| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 2-29-24 | Dan Ruppert |
| 4. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 7. Document Control Update | Tammy Krause |
| 8. Discussion: Potential future presentations – developing a list of presentations/topics/calendar | Dan Ruppert |
| a. Technological advances/emerging technologies | |
| b. Lessons learned during Equipment Acquisitions/Procurements | |
| 9. Other | All |
| 10. Adjourn | Dan Ruppert |

**Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting
4-11-24**