



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

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

JANUARY 4, 2024 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Curtis McDowell, Ray Hessinger, Ed Engle, Art Peterson, Matt Hensley, Curt Massie, Marci Petterson, Mike Jenkins, Dan Ruppert, Jennifer Bastian, Dave Warner, Larry Salci, Steve Hewitt, Barley Fields</i> Industry Members: <i>Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Jack Madden, Brian Ley, Stephen Mark, Steve Ojalvo, Frank Pazcazio, Jonathan Michel, Allen Meeks, Mehrad Samani, Rob Magdule, Joe Kenas, Bill Saddler, Peter Klauser, Joanna Hallisey, Allen Meek</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Joe Paul, Ryan Sharpe, Matthew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Melissa Shurland, Tarek Omar,</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt could not confirm the presence of a quorum due to the absence of FRA representation.

It was agreed to hold the meeting and take minutes but hold no votes.

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:

2023 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2023 NGEC two-pager is available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

To date 368 copies have been distributed.

The Executive Board has accepted the FASC proposed changes and has asked Steve Hewitt to finalize the number of Venture Cars (70) in service and the number of Chargers (need input from Joe paul) and select photos (need IDOT interior photo). Once these details are received it will go to Laura Seabaugh for formatting.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are currently about 206 industry participants.

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

CtDOT Rail car Procurement:

On 1-4-24, Marci Petterson, CtDOT reported that they in the pre Preliminary Design Review (PDR) stage reviewing Alstom's offered solutions for the specification.

Next Update: 2-2-24 –Marci Petterson or the Program Manager will give a presentation – Virtually.

University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study as of 11-9-23:

Hamid Sharif, University of Nebraska, provided an update on the High-Speed Wireless Study. He gave a brief background/overview of the study and the progress thus far in its current phase:

The University of Nebraska Advanced Telecommunications Engineering Lab has been studying the sub-giga-Hertz frequencies for rail applications to ease the current spectrum saturation for railroads, under the direction of FRA. We have studied the 160 MHz frequency as an example of these sub-giga Hertz bands. Theoretical and computer models were designed to represent a typical Transmitter, a Receiver, and a channel model for this frequency band. Then, different applications and rail scenarios were simulated, and performance data were collected.

After conducting modeling and simulation testing, they began to conduct field testing. Up to now the data from the field testing is close to the modeling and simulations.

They will continue on this phase through the end of December and will look to FRA for funding to continue the study in different areas.

Additionally, as they plan for the next phase of this project, they are interested in hearing any suggestions for implementing any other sub-giga frequencies or any specific rail application utilizing the 160 MHz.

Next Update – 2-2-24 NGEN Annual Meeting

Hamid Kashani will give a presentation virtually as a new contract with FRA has not yet been approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 12-8-23:

Due to the lack of a quorum this agenda item was tabled.

4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement as of 1-4-24 – Steve Hewitt for Caltrans:

In the absence of Caltrans on the call, Steve Hewitt read into the record the update received earlier today from Jodi Lehmkuhl, Caltrans:

The remaining Cab Car FDR items are in the final closure stage. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been approved by the states and the FRA. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are complete, and the requested Café Car MCAT simulations have also been approved by FRA.

The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspections have occurred with final open items in review and closure.

137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service. The first Caltrans trainset is now in service on the Amtrak San Joaquins.

Next Update: 1-18-24

5. Update - Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Ray Hessinger:

Steve Hewitt read into the record the most recent update provided by Metro-North to NYSDOT:

Metro-North (MNR) has picked up options for 8 additional locomotives (Base is 19), CTDOT picked up options for an additional 6 locomotives.

Metro-North (MNR) and Siemens conducted the FAI for the truck completely assembled (with pre-series Schunk current collector installed) in the Siemens factory in Sacramento on 11-29-23.

On 11-29-23, Siemens and Metro-North performed the data maintenance demonstration of truck and collector assemblies.

MNR Locomotive #301 completed low voltage cable tray installation and is progressing towards machine room complete and ready for install.

MNR Locomotive #302 completed car shell painted and ready for final assembly and is progressing according to schedule in sub-assembly.

MNR, LIRR and Siemens started technical design clarification meetings and agreed on a monthly meeting going forward.

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

6.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:

On the Charger Locomotive:

63 with 59 active of the state units are in active service. 39 ACL 42's are active. George Hull to confirm these numbers and follow-up with Steve Hewitt)

On the Airo Trainset:

There are 24 vehicles in production – 22 railcars and 2 locomotives - and it is on track.

On the Acela:

Waiting on FRA to finish review of Test Plan – expecting to begin re-testing next week.

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

7.

Document Control Update- Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes – read into the record by Steve Hewitt in Tammy's absence.

Reviewing and updating the Single Level Rail Car specification:

I have received 1 DCR for the single level specification.

Updating the Technical Working Groups member lists:

I received some changes from Ken Martin of the communications group. The VTI and Propulsion Groups really could use some additional volunteers.

8.

Review – Working Group on Weight Issues Specifications – Tammy Krause/Dave Warner:

Without a quorum, this document could not be considered for approval today for submittal to the Executive Board. Dave Warner walked through the specification which will be an initial release.

Peter Klauser asked for clarification on some of the numbers used in the weight calculation. He noted that "numbers are important...it means we are building heavier cars."

In response to Peter's request as to where to send comments - Dave said the comment should go to him.

George Hull noted that the proposed specification has been presented and reviewed (sent out to all members several weeks ago) and the next step is for the subcommittee voting members to vote on it on the next call (1-18-24).

9.

NGEC Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:

Review of DRAFT agenda:

Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of the current DRAFT agenda and noted that he will be sending it out again along with today's minutes. The agenda is pretty well set with the final actions being to confirm speakers. Hopefully that will occur on the next Executive Board meeting on 1-23-24.

Setting timelines for registering to attend:

Steve asked that members planning to attend the Annual Meeting let him know by 1-8-24 and inform him whether they will attend in-person or virtually. Steve must send any materials to be printed, including name badges to Kamasha Hendrickson, AASHTO, by COB **1-8-24**.

Below is the link for the 2024 Winter Rail Meeting provided by Kamasha Hendrickson, AASHTO Senior Meeting Planner:

The per diem rate is now \$193 per night (Single/Double rooms). Please share this updated link with your attendees.
<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-HTO4> - the Cut-Off Date: January 5, 2024.

Set timeline for presentations to be submitted:

Speaker presentations need to be sent to Steve Hewitt by **1-29-24** so they can all be loaded on a thumb drive and brought to the meeting by Steve and Dave Warner – who has graciously agreed to be Mr. PowerPoint once again at the meeting – Thank you Dave!

A new/revised NGENC PowerPoint template is being finalized by AASHTO and once completed – Steve Hewitt will send it to Dave Warner and all speakers.

10.
Status – Changing from WebEx to Teams – Steve Hewitt:

A Teams Link for the Annual Meeting went out today and for the Executive Board meeting to be held on 1-23-24. The next Technical subcommittee meeting on 1-18-24 will remain as is on WebEx. After the Annual meeting on 2-2-24, the calendar will likely be adjusted with a new link – for Teams.

11.
Other/Adjourn – George Hull, Amtrak:

With no other business forthcoming, George Hull adjourned today's meeting at 3:38pm.

Next meeting – 1-18-24

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

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Maintaining Industry Participation List:

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Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-4-24:

The remaining Cab Car FDR items are in the final closure stage. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been approved by the states and the FRA. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are complete, and the requested Café Car MCAT simulations have also been approved by FRA.

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Next Update: 1-18-24

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I have received 1 DCR for the single level specification.

Updating the Technical Working Groups member lists:

I received some changes from Ken Martin of the communications group. The VTI and Propulsion Groups really could use some additional volunteers.

Next Update: 1-18-24

Working Group on Weight Issues:

Without a quorum, this document could not be considered for approval today for submittal to the Executive Board. Dave Warner walked through the specification which will be an initial release and asked that any comments should be sent to him at david.warner@stvinc.com.

Peter Lauser asked for clarification on some of the numbers used in the weight calculation. He noted that "numbers are important...it means we are building heavier cars."

Dave asked him to send his comment to him.

George Hull noted that the proposed specification has been presented and reviewed (sent out to all members several weeks ago) and the next step is for the subcommittee voting members to vote on it on the next call (1-18-24).

Next: 1-18-24 vote

University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study:

Hamid Sharif, University of Nebraska, provided an update on the High-Speed Wireless Study. He gave a brief background/overview of the study and the progress thus far in its current phase:

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They will continue on this phase through the end of December and will look to FRA for funding to continue the study in different areas.

Additionally, as they plan for the next phase of this project, they are interested in hearing any suggestions for implementing any other sub-giga frequencies or any specific rail application utilizing the 160 MHz.

Hamid also noted that he has been invited by Steve Hewitt to give a presentation on the study during the Annual Meeting of the NGE in Washington, DC on 2-2-24.

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

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

Next Update – 2-2-24 NGEC Annual Meeting – Virtual Presentation

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

Steve Hewitt read into the record the most recent update provided by Metro-North to NYSDOT:

Metro-North (MNR) has picked up options for 8 additional locomotives (Base is 19), CTDOT picked up options for an additional 6 locomotives.

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MNR, LIRR and Siemens started technical design clarification meetings and agreed on a monthly meeting going forward.

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 1-4-24, Marci Petterson, CtDOT reported that they in the pre Preliminary Design Review (PDR) stage reviewing Alstom's offered solutions for the specification.

Next Update: 2-2-24 –Marci Petterson or the Program Manager will give a presentation – Virtually.

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On the Charger Locomotive:

59 of the state units (SC 44) are in active service. 39 ACL 42's are active. (these numbers are being confirmed by George and he will follow-up)

On the Airo Trainset:

There are 24 vehicles in production – 22 railcars and 2 locomotives - and it is on track.

On the Acela:

Waiting on FRA to finish review of Test Plan – expecting to begin re-testing next week.

On the Long Distance Fleet:

The release of the RFP is expected to occur shortly (from 12-8-23 update).

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

NGEC 2024 Annual Meeting:

Steve Hewitt reminded members that the NGEC Annual Meeting will be held on 2-2-24 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC.

A DRAFT agenda has been prepared and is under review by Executive Board Members. It was presented as a first DRAFT on 10-31-23.

The format will be similar to last year's with presentations on the status of procurements, updates on experiences with the new equipment, as well as a Treasurer's report, NGEC elections for the State Board members and the officers, and more...

Registration will take place at 8:00am Eastern with the meeting kicking off at 8:30AM and ending around 12:30PM Eastern.

It will be a hybrid meeting – in-person and virtual – details to follow.

Tech SC members – please let Steve Hewitt know by 1-11-24 if you plan to attend and whether it will be in-person or virtually.

AASHTO has provided the hotel link for the rail meetings to be held during that week. As always, the NGEC is a part of several meetings held in conjunction with AASHTO's Council on Rail Transportation.

Below is an updated link for the 2024 Winter Rail Meeting provided by Kamasha Hendrickson, AASHTO Senior Meeting Planner:

The per diem rate is now \$193 per night (single/Double rooms). Please share this updated link with your attendees.

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-HTO4>

Cut-Off Date: January 5, 2024

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

555 12th St, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: khendrickson@aaashto.org

Status – Changing from WebEx to Teams – Steve Hewitt:

A Teams Link for the Annual Meeting went out today and all meetings after the 1-18-24 Technical subcommittee meeting will be via Teams after this one.

Next Meeting – 1-18-24

ATTACHMENTS



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

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

3:00PM Eastern

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

Agenda

1-4-24

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 12-8-23 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinge |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Document Control Update | Tammy Krause |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Status – Finalizing 305-901- Status- Activities of the Communications on Cars Working Group.- Status – Car-Body Materials Working Group- Status – Simultaneous review/update of the Single Level Car Specification and the Dual Mode Locomotive Specification- Finalize updates to the Technical Working Groups members/team leaders and filling vacancies. | |
| 8. Review – Working Group On Weight Issues – Specification | Tammy/Dave Warner |
| 9. Annual Meeting 2024 | Steve Hewitt |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review DRAFT agenda- Set timelines for registering to attend – in-person or virtually- Review updated link for reserving a room at the Hyatt in the AASHTO Rom Block- Review attendee list- Set timeline for presentations to be submitted | |
| 10. Status: Changing from WebEx to Teams | Steve Hewitt |
| 11. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next Meeting
1-18-24