



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

## NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2024

3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> Dan Ruppert, Joe Paul, Melissa Shurland, Curtis McDowell, Ray Hessinger, Matt Hensley, Curt Massie, Art Peterson, Mike Jenkins, Kevin Myles, Blair Slaughter, Larry Salci, Barley Fields, Steve Hewitt, <b>Industry Members:</b> Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Jack Madden, Allen Meek, Ed Golitko, Dave Warner, Frank Pazcazio, James Michel, Patrick Jacob, James Campbell, Rich Bowie, Ron Lammerts, Jeff Schultz, Joe Kenas, Bill Luebke, Dick Wilcox
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Ryan Sharpe, Matthew Simmons, Tarek Omar, Jodi Lehmkuhl, Jennifer Bastian</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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).**

**3.**

**Approval of the Minutes from 3-28-24:**

On a motion by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, and a second by Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, the minutes from 3-28-24 were approved as presented.

**4.**

**Update: Multi-State Venture Car procurement – Steve Hewitt for Caltrans:**

With Caltrans unavailable today, Steve Hewitt read into the record the following report provided this week by Jodi Lehmkuhl, Caltrans:

*The Cab Car FDR is 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 are complete. The Cab Car 238.111(b) test plan has been submitted to FRA and the first two cab cars have been shipped to Stockton in preparation for testing.*

*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.*

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

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

Locomotive 301 completed factory testing and will complete FAIs on Locomotive 301 by the end of the month. They are working on the FAI for 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail assembly in Germany.

Completing final assembly of Locomotive 302.

The procurement is moving along well and they should have the Dual Mode Locomotive out of Siemens for testing in the near future.

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

On the Acela: Amtrak is working with FRA on QP2 testing – trying to move to the final steps. They are having multiple daily calls/updates with the OEM and FRA. This procurement is heading in the right direction. Trainsets are being delivered to various locations as reported previously with #12 moving to Penn Coach yard. The remaining units will be stored at Alstom until they are placed into service. Worker force training is taking place with Alstom at two of three sites – with training at the third site -Sunnyside yard - starting soon.

On the Airo trainset: This procurement is moving full speed ahead. They are closing out design efforts. Working on FAIs and wrapping up work on various systems. 40 vehicles are in production – 4 Locomotives and the rest (36) are coaches.

The first will go on the Pacific Northwest for testing – and 12 months later into service.

They are building out a commissioning facility for Airo and others.

Overall, this procurement is progressing “pretty well”.

On the ALC 42: Work on this equipment is progressing steadily with 50+ units in service. The total to be purchased is 125. Performance has steadily improved – Amtrak’s working with the OEM has been successful.

On the Long-Distance Fleet: This is an active procurement. Amtrak continues to respond to questions from the carbuilders within the RFP process.

**7. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Marci Petterson, CtDOT:**

Marci Petterson was not available for this meeting, but provided the following update to be read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

*PDRs are continuing. The project team and Transportation representatives from CtDOT’s service providers, Amtrak and TASI, are in Montreal this week at Alstom’s Prototype center to review the Low Fidelity Cab Mock Up and provide comments as to layout and design assumptions.*

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

Tammy Krause was unavailable and did not provide a Document Control update for this meeting.

Vehicle Weight Working Group update – Dave Warner:

Dave Warner, Weight WG Team Leader, reported that he hoped to have a revised draft by the end of April and will schedule the next meeting thereafter. He recently sent out a reminder to working group members.

**9.**

**Follow-up/continue Discussion: Potential future presentations – Dan/Steve:**

a. Technological advances/emerging technologies/technology transfer:

Steve Hewitt reported that Melissa Shurland had reached out to the FRA's lead on the topic of Technology Transfer, but he has not heard from her yet.

Melissa said she would follow up. She noted that they are interested in a standardized specification for technology transfer.

Dan suggested that he, Steve, Melissa and the Technology Transfer person to discuss "our baseline thinking" and then invite the individual to participate on the next call (5-9-24) or whatever works best.

Melissa agreed and will check back with dates and times for a brief call with Dan and Steve Hewitt.

(Following the meeting, Melissa connected with Michel Geary, FRA, and offered 4-30-24 at 2:00pm or 5-2-24 at 10:00am for a call with Dan, Steve, Melissa and Michele. Steve has reached out to Dan about his availability.)

b. Lessons learned during Equipment Acquisitions/Procurements

Steve Hewitt reminded industry and state members that we are looking for suggestions on additional topics on either emerging technologies or even lessons learned from vehicle acquisitions. This information could lead to an update of the Best Practices Document the NGEC created a few years ago. Ideas on topics of interest should be sent to Steve Hewitt and Dan Ruppert.

**10.**

**NGEC future funding – CRISI Grant Application – Steve:**

The NOFO for the next round of CRISI Grants came out at the end of March 2024. Amtrak intends to, once again, apply for a CRISI Grant for long-term funding for the NGEC. Work has begun on developing the application. All CRISI applications are due to FRA by 5-28-24.

In the last round, Amtrak applied for a CRISI grant for funding the NGEC. In the end, with many great applications and too little money to go around, the grant for funding the NGEC was not awarded. In the debrief with FRA, Amtrak learned that the application was very well done and compelling and there were no major flaws or any real flaws at all, simply not enough money to fund all of the many requests received. Amtrak was encouraged to apply again on behalf of funding the NGEC, and is doing so.

In the last round, one of the critical factors that carried weight was the tremendous support the NGEC received from the industry through letters of support. It is hoped that we are able to get that kind of support and more this time around. It will be critical for sure.

As was done in the previous round, Amtrak will send out a letter to industry members from Tim Ziethen requesting letters of support and providing information as to where to send the letters and other guidance.

Please watch for Tim's request letter and, if so inclined, please support the CRISI application for funding the NGEC. The NGEC is currently being funded by Amtrak out of its AOP, but this was simply a 12-month interim funding to bridge the gap until long-term funding could be secured. It is critical that the NGEC be funded long-term and this should come by way of an FRA grant. The best vehicle at this time seems to be through CRISI. The NGEC Executive Board and Amtrak, as well, continue to look for other possible funding options.

**11.**

**Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:**

With no other business forthcoming, Dan Ruppert adjourned today's meeting at 3:29pm Eastern.

**Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 5-9-24**

**Decisions and Ongoing Action Items**

**2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:**

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The two-pager is also posted on the NGEC website at [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org).

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:**

As of 4-25-24, there are currently around 200 industry participants.

**Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).**

**Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 4-25-24:**

*The Cab Car FDR is 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 are complete. The Cab Car 238.111(b) test plan has been submitted to FRA and the first two cab cars have been shipped to Stockton in preparation for testing.*

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**Next Update: 5-9-24**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 as of 4-25-24:

Dave Warner, Weight WG Team Leader, reported that he hoped to have a revised draft by the end of April and will schedule the next meeting thereafter. He recently sent out a reminder to working group members.

**Next Update: 5-9-24**

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:**

Locomotive 301 completed factory testing and will complete FAIs on 301 Locomotive by the end of the month. They are working on the FAI for 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail assembly in Germany.

Completing final assembly of 302 Locomotive.

The procurement is moving along well and they should have the Dual Mode Locomotive out of Siemens for testing in the near future.

**Next Update: 5-23-24**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

**Marci Petterson, ConnDOT provided the following update as of 4-25-24:**

*PDRs are continuing. The project team and Transportation representatives from CTDOT's service providers, Amtrak and TASI, are in Montreal this week at Alstom's Prototype center to review the Low Fidelity Cab Mock Up and provide comments as to layout and design assumptions.*

**Next Update: 5-24-24**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 4-25-24:**

On the Acela:

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This is an active procurement. Amtrak continues to respond to questions from the carbuilders within the RFP process.

**Next Update: 5-23-24**

**Discussion: Potential future presentations – developing a list of presentations/topics:**

- a. Technological advances/emerging technologies/technology transfer:

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Melissa said she would follow up. She noted that they are interested in a standardized specification for technology transfer.

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**Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 5-9-24**

#### ATTACHMENTS



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#### **PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting**

**3:00PM Eastern**

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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#### **Agenda**

**4-25-24**

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt    |
| 2. Review Action Items  | Steve Hewitt    |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 3-28-24                                     | 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. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurements                              | Marci Petterson |
| 8. Document Control Update  | Tammy Krause    |
| 9. Follow-up/continue Discussion: future presentations –            | Dan/Steve       |
| c. Technological advances/emerging technologies/technology transfer |                 |

d. Lessons learned during Equipment Acquisitions/Procurements

10. NGEF future funding – CRISI Grant Application/other

Steve

11. Other

All

12. Adjourn

Dan Ruppert

**Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting  
5-9-24**