



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

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

MAY 23, 2024

3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

FACILITATOR	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>Dan Ruppert, Melissa Shurland, Matt Hensley, Ed Engle, Curt Massie, Ryan Sharpe, Jennifer Bastian, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Industry Members:</i> <i>Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Ed Golitko, Norman Forde, Frank Pazcazio, Kevin Sudano, James Michel, Rocky Chang, Dick Bruss, Brian Ley, Dave Warner</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Joe Paul, Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Art Peterson, Mike Jenkins, Ray Hessinger, Curtis McDowell, Troy Hughes, Tarek Omar, Barley Fields, Blair Slaughter, Larry Salci, Kevin Myles</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 noted that he could not confirm the presence of a quorum due to an insufficient number of states represented.

It was agreed to hold the meeting and follow the agenda with no votes to be taken.

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

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 462 copies have been distributed.

Steve Hewitt also noted that there had been a cyber-attack on AASHTO and the NGEC website which they maintain for the organization, went down. AASHTO was able to recapture a snapshot dating to 2022. It continues to work diligently to bring the website back to current.

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.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 5-9-24:

Due to the lack of a quorum, the action of approving the minutes from 5-9-24 was tabled until the next meeting 6-6-24..

4. Update: Multi-State Venture Car procurement –Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans:

Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

The Cab Car FDR is approved and closed, and all coach-type 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. Prerequisite-type tests are being completed at Stockton and Oakland in advance of PTC testing, followed by 238.111 testing on the corridor.

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. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Ray Hessinger was not available so this item was tabled until the next meeting – June 6th.

6. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement – Marci Petterson, CtDOT:

Marci Petterson was not available so this item was tabled until the next meeting – June 6th.

Following the meeting Marci sent Steve Hewitt a brief note: "*Still in PDR*".

7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements -Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:

Dan Ruppert provided a brief update on Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On the new Acela: Work continues on qualification for revenue service. Testing continues. Dan noted that there is capital work being done on the railroad – being busy is good – it does slow the testing down a bit. Still, overall, progressing well.

On the ALC42: There are 52 currently in service with 7 more in transit. The initial order of 75 will wrap up later this year. Option orders will begin in FY2025.

On the Airo: 43 are in production, 39 coach and 4 ALC42E's. Various FAI's are in process.

On the Long-Distance Fleet: This is an open procurement and they are progressing with the RFP.

8. Document Control Update- Review activities and updated timeline - Tammy Krause:

Document control has been working on two tasks:

- 1. Updating the DCRs for the Single Level Specification – I am putting together the table format of the received DCRs for the Single Level and the DCRs that were approved for the other specifications. This will be sent to the working groups by the 22nd.*
- 2. I am working with the Technical Writer on the Amtrak sub-specs to remove the Amtrak references. This is ongoing and we will submit them for approval when we finish.*
- 3. I have attached a revised timeline/work list for the TSC. This will have the TSC completing the Single Level Specification Revision by /9/24 and the Dual Mode Locomotive by 8/5/24.*

Steve Hewitt pointed out that the dates on the revised timeline do not match the dates that the Technical subcommittee will be meeting.

Tammy will take another look at the timeline and revise it with corresponding dates matching up with the NGENC Technical subcommittee's schedule.

9.

Overview – FRA Rolling Stock Research – Review Potential Topic List - Melissa Shurland, FRA:

Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided an overview on FRA Rolling Stock Research potential topics for discussion on future NGENC Technical subcommittee calls. This list followed a discussion that Melissa Shurland and others from FRA R&D had with Steve Hewitt and Dan Ruppert.

1. *FRA Safety Approach for Review and Issuance of Letter of Concurrence for Use of Advanced On-Board Energy Storage Systems*
2. *Review of RDI-22 Rail Decarbonization Technology R&D*
3. *Glazing Research*
4. *Passenger Rail Equipment Crashworthiness (side Impact)*
5. *US-ISO Standards Group*
6. *WhMD (wheeled mobility device) Sled Test*

It was agreed that the first presentation will be on topic 1 (above) and will take place on 6-20-24. The FRA Office of Safety will give the presentation. Melissa Shurland will let Steve Hewitt know who the presenter will be prior to 6-20-24.

The order of the other items on the FRA list will be determined based on FRA availability. The intent is to have one topic covered each month.

10.

NGEC Future Funding – Status: CRISI Grant Application – Steve Hewitt, NGENC:

The CRISI Grant Application is in the process of being completed. A draft is under review. The application packet will include some of the materials produced by the NGENC including the 2024 two-page background educational document; the TSSSA; and the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Recommended Practices "living" document.

The application will be for \$2 million with Amtrak providing the 20% match (\$1,600,000 federal grant and \$400,000 (20%) match provided by Amtrak). The performance period will be for at least 5 years.

Letters of Support:

Submitting letters of support for the NGENC by members of the industry and states is most critical to the success of the application. It is extremely important that NGENC members – both states and industry – prepare and submit letters of support. Over the last two weeks, Steve Hewitt has sent out a cover letter with the details for submitting the letters (prepared by Tim Ziethen) and a template for the support letter. The template is developed as guidance and does not have to be used but can be. The deadline is this week so that the letters can be included in the application packet, but letters can be accepted after the packet is sent to FRA. If your letter is still working its way through approval channels – that's fine – submit it as soon as possible – the sooner the better. Along with the minutes from this meeting Steve Hewitt will again send the cover letter and template for the support letter.

The application deadline is 5-28-24.

11.

Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:

Steve Hewitt raised one additional item as information:

2025 NGENC Annual Meeting – new location:

Over the past few months, AASHTO has been searching for a home for the 2025 Rail Winter Meeting. They searched the DC and Virginia area and found a home in **Crystal City, VA at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View**. This is not in our usual location but the hotel does offer easy access to Reagan National Airport (DCA) and DC via the Metro for those who really want to go into the city. They were unable to use the Hyatt Regency as another group is booked in the large ballroom and thus, we wouldn't be able to continue to increase our meeting size.

AASHTO feels that the hotel is an upgrade for us in terms of look and feel and amenities. The hotel has renovated sleeping rooms, offer lots of natural light in the meeting foyer space as well as a shuttle to and from DCA as well as to the Crystal City metro.

The Rail Meeting Date: January 28-30 with the NGECC meeting taking place on Thursday 1-30-25 in the afternoon. The exact times and further info will follow over the next few months.

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

Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 6-6-24

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

2024 NGECC Backgrounder educational document:

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

To date 462 copies have been distributed.

The two-pager is also posted on the NGECC website at www.ngecc.org.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

As of 5-23-24, there are currently around 200 industry participants.

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

Multi-State Venture Car procurement as of 5-23-24:

The Cab Car FDR is approved and closed, and all coach-type 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. Prerequisite-type tests are being completed at Stockton and Oakland in advance of PTC testing, followed by 238.111 testing on the corridor.

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.

Next Update: 6-6-24

Document Control as of 5-23-24:

Document control has been working on two tasks:

- 1. Updating the DCRs for the Single Level Specification – I am putting together the table format of the received DCRs for the Single Level and the DCRs that were approved for the other specifications. This will be sent to the working groups by the 22nd.*
- 2. I am working with the Technical Writer on the Amtrak sub-specs to remove the Amtrak references. This is ongoing and we will submit them for approval when we finish.*
- 3. I have attached a revised timeline/work list for the TSC. This will have the TSC completing the Single Level Specification Revision by /9/24 and the Dual Mode Locomotive by 8/5/24.*

Steve Hewitt pointed out that the dates on the revised timeline do not match the dates that the Technical subcommittee will be meeting. Tammy will take another look at the timeline and revise it with corresponding dates matching up with the NGECC Technical subcommittee's schedule.

Next Update: 6-6-24

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 4-25-24:

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 3rd 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.

Next Update: 6-6-24

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

CtDOT Rail car Procurement as of 5-23-24:

Still in PDR.

Next Update: 6-6-24

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 5-23-24:

On the new Acela: Work continues on qualification for revenue service. Testing continues. Dan noted that there is capital work being done on the railroad – being busy is good – but does slow the testing down a bit. Still, overall, progressing well.

On the ALC42: There are 52 currently in service with 7 more in transit. The initial order of 75 will wrap up later this year. Option orders will begin in FY2025.

On the Airo: 43 are in production, 39 coach and 4 ALC42E's. Various FAI's are in process.

On the Long-Distance Fleet: This is an open procurement and they are progressing with the RFP.

Next Update: 6-20-24

FRA Rolling Stock Research Topics for monthly presentations:

Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided an overview on FRA Rolling Stock Research potential topics for discussion on future NGEC Technical subcommittee calls. This list followed a discussion that Melissa Shurland and others from FRA R&D had with Steve Hewitt and Dan Ruppert.

1. *FRA Safety Approach for Review and Issuance of Letter of Concurrence for Use of Advanced On-Board Energy Storage Systems*
2. *Review of RDI-22 Rail Decarbonization Technology R&D*
3. *Glazing Research*
4. *Passenger Rail Equipment Crashworthiness (side Impact)*
5. *US-ISO Standards Group*
6. *WhMD (wheeled mobility device) Sled Test*

It was agreed that the first presentation will be on topic 1 (above) and will take place on 6-20-24. The FRA Office of Safety will give the presentation. Melissa Shurland will let Steve Hewitt know who the presenter will be prior to 6-20-24.

NGEC Future Funding – Status: CRISI Grant Application:

The CRISI Grant Application is in the process of being completed. A draft is under review. The application packet will include some of the materials produced by the NGEC including the 2024 two-page background educational document; the TSSSA; and the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Recommended Practices "living" document.

The application will be for \$2 million with Amtrak providing the 20% match (\$1,600,000 federal grant and \$400,000 (20%) match provided by Amtrak). The performance period will be for at least 5 years.

Letters of Support:

Submitting letters of support for the NGEC by members of the industry and states is most critical to the success of the application. It is extremely important that NGEC members – both states and industry – prepare and submit letters of

support. Over the last two weeks, Steve Hewitt has sent out a cover letter with the details for submitting the letters (prepared by Tim Ziethen) and a template for the support letter. The template is developed as guidance and does not have to be used but can be. The deadline is this week so that the letters can be included in the application packet, but letters can be accepted after the packet is sent to FRA. If your letter is still working its way through approval channels – that’s fine – submit it as soon as possible – the sooner the better. Along with the minutes from this meeting Steve Hewitt will again send the cover letter and template for the support letter.

The application deadline is 5-28-24.

2025 NGEC Annual Meeting:

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in the afternoon on 1-30-25 at a new location: **Crystal City, VA at the [Renaissance Arlington Capital View](#)**. It will, once again, be held in conjunction with other rail meetings taking place throughout the week.

Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 6-6-24

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 248 377 912 887

Passcode: tZDxGr

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Agenda

5-23-24

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 5-9-24 | Dan Ruppert |
| 4. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 6. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement | Marci Petterson |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 8. Document Control Update – review activities and updated timeline | Tammy Krause |
| 9. FRA Rolling Stock Research- Review potential Topic List | Melissa Shurland |
| 10. NGEN future funding – CRISI Grant Application | Steve |
| 11. Other | All |
| 12. Adjourn | Dan Ruppert |

**Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting
6-6-24**