



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

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2024

3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

FACILITATOR	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Dan Ruppert, Melissa Shurland, Ray Hessinger, Matt Hensley, Maria Hobbs, Curt Massie, Curtis McDowell, Ryan Sharpe, Art Peterson, Mike Jenkins, Sarah Hernandez, Jennifer Bastian, Steve Hewitt Special Guest: Dr. Phani Raj, FRA Office of Safety Industry Members: Laura Sullivan, Karen Jacobsen, Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Ed Gollitko, Kevin Sudano, Jack Madden, Marcin Taraszkiewicz, Jim Tilley, Ray Ginnell, Ron Lammerts, Darrell Smith, Tom LaMano, Dave Warner, Ken Martin, Stuart Trout, Guido Vogel, Josh Coran, Allen Meek, David Wilcock, Fank Pazcazio, Franziska Lambrecht
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Troy Hughes, Joe Paul, Tarek Omar, Barley Fields, Blair Slaughter, Tammy Krause, 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 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 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 463 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.

FRA Rolling Stock Research:

On 5-23-24, 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.

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.

6-6-24 – Steve Hewitt asked if Melissa had the name of the individual who would give the presentation on topic one on 6-20-24. Melissa agreed to provide the name in the chat box of the Teams meeting.

Phani Raj, Office of Safety, FRA, will give the first presentation. Phani.raj@dot.gov.

First Presentation: 6-20-24

2025 NGEC 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 want to go into the city. AASHTO was unable to find meeting space at 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.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes from 6-6-24:

On a motion by Art Peterson, IDOT, and a second by Ryan Sharpe, Calidot, the minutes from 6-6-24 were approved as presented. .

4. FRA's Requirements and Approval Procedures for New Technology Use in Rail Operations – Dr. Phani Raj:

Dr. Phani Raj, FRA Office of Safety, kicked off the first of a series of FRA presentations to be given on different topics related to areas of technology research related to Rail rolling stock. These presentations will be given monthly, schedule permitting.

Dr. Raj gave an excellent presentation entitled "FRA's Requirements and Approval Procedures for New Technology Use in Rail Operations".

The presentation will be of great help to our members in understanding how technological advances are approved initially by the Office of Safety. The Office of Safety works closely with FRA's Research and Development as new technology emerges. The Office of Safety reviews all technology before it can be approved for use on rail rolling stock. Once approved, a letter of concurrence is issued with the determination of whether or not the technology under safety review can be used in rail rolling stock.

The complete presentation will be distributed to all members along with these draft minutes and will be posted on the NGEC website.

We thank Dr. Raj for taking the time to participate on this meeting of the subcommittee and the information he provided will be very helpful to members going forward.

Thank you, to Melissa Shurland, FRA, for arranging for this presentation and for the series of presentations that will be given over the months ahead.

The next presentation will be given by Melissa Shurland on the 7-18-24 Technical subcommittee meeting. Melissa will provide Steve Hewitt with the exact title of her presentation but it will be on research related to technology. There will be a pause in August due to vacations and the summer schedule, but the presentations will begin again in September.

5.

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

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

All coach type FDR stages are complete, including Cab Car and Café Car. 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 238 consist has completed all clearance and trainline testing and is now awaiting a window for corridor 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.

6.

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

Siemens is continuing type testing on a variety of components.

A big milestone was reached in May with Locomotives #301 and #302 having been shipped from Siemens to Pueblo for continued type testing.

7.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Dan Ruppert:

On the new Acela:

Stage 1 testing continues and work continues on qualification for revenue service.

On the Airo Trainsets:

Progress continues to go well. There are 48 in production – 44 coach cars and 4 locomotives. Testing is going well and "progressing nicely".

On the ALC42:

53 have now been accepted into service and several are in transit with seven currently in production. No real significant issues. Things are proceeding on a nice steady pace.

On the Long-Distance Fleet:

This is an open procurement and not a lot can be shared at this point. Some dates have been shuffled and they are working with the vendors and car suppliers. Progressing well over all.

8.

Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement – Marci Petterson, CtDOT: Tabled

Marci Petterson was not available and did not provide an update for today's call, so this item was tabled until the 7-18-24 meeting.

9.

Document Control Update – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause was unavailable for today's call but provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (Steve Hewitt read them into the record.):

The next revision of the Single Level Specification has 131 proposed changes. Of these DCRs, 114 of them came from the Bi-Level Specification Revision D that was completed in February of last year, and 14 are from the Trainset Revision B that was completed in October of 2019. There are 3 DCRs that are new. The Leaders of the Mechanical, Interiors, Electrical and VTI Working Groups have received the DCRs for their respective areas. The master list of DCRs will be sent to the entire TSC at the end of next week.

I have received no DCRs for the Dual Mode Locomotive. Can someone please send me the latest version of the specification that was used by Metro North to purchase Dual Modes and I will use that to create DCRs.

I continue to meet with the Technical Writer to review the PRIIA Subspecifications for De-Amtrak.

10.

Status: NGEN CRISI Grant Application and Support Letters – Steve Hewitt:

The CRISI Grant Application for funding the NGEN was submitted on time to the portal. It included many letters of support. Tim did not have the exact number, but it was a good representation.

Letters of Support:

Submitting letters of support for the NGEN by members of the industry and states is most critical to the success of the application. It is extremely important that NGEN members – both states and industry – prepare and submit letters of support. **It is not too late to send in support letters. They should be sent to Tim Ziethen and Meghan Hestand, Amtrak Grants.**

11.

NGEN Website Recovery – Steve Hewitt:

AASHTO has about completed its efforts to re-post all of the information that was lost when AASHTO had a cyber-attack which affected its website and the NGEN's as well. Steve Hewitt has been providing information for the uploads as needed.

12.

Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:

With no other business forthcoming, Dan Ruppert adjourned today's meeting at 3:46pm Eastern.

The July 4th meeting of the subcommittee is CANCELED – the next meeting will take place on 7-18-24

Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 7-18-24

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

2024 NGEN Backgrounder educational document:

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Multi-State Venture Car procurement as of 6-20-24:

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Next Update: 7-18-24

Document Control as of 6-20-24 provided by Tammy Krause:

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Next Update: 7-18-24**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 6-20-24:**

A big milestone was reached in May with Locomotives #301 and #302 having been shipped from Siemens to Pueblo for continued type testing.

Next Update: 7-18 -24**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:****CtDOT Rail car Procurement as of 5-23-24 – provided by CtDOT:**

We are working with Alstom to close out open items from PDR. The proposed truck design needed modification, due to some tight clearances. We believe that we now have sufficient clearance info to proceed on the truck design.

Please ask the NGEC members if they have input that they can provide on their experience with King Air from China HVAC systems to please email me.

Next Update: 7-18-24**Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 6-20-24:**

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Next presentation – 7-18-24

NGEC Future Funding – Status: CRISI Grant Application:

The CRISI Grant Application for funding the NGEN was submitted on time to the portal. It included many letters of support. Tim did not have the exact number, but it was a good representation. It is not too late to send in support letters. They should be sent to Tim Ziethen and Meghan Hestand, Amtrak Grants.

Letters of Support:

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2025 NGEN 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.

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Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 7-18-24

ATTACHMENTS



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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

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Agenda

FINAL

6-20-24

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 6-6-24 meetings | Dan Ruppert |
| 4. "FRA's Requirements & Approval Procedures for New Technology Use in Rail Operations" | Dr. Phani Raj |
| 5. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 8. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement | Marci Petterson |
| 9. Document Control Update | Tammy Krause |
| 10. Status: NGECC CRISI Grant Application – support letters | Steve |
| 11. NGECC Website recovery | Steve |
| 12. Other | All |
| 13. Adjourn | Dan Ruppert |

Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting
7-18-24