

“FRA’s Requirements & Approval Procedures for New Technology Use in Rail Operations.”



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

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2024

3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

FACILITATOR	<i>Joe Paul, Vice Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>Core Team Members:</i> Joe Paul, Melissa Shurland, Matt Hensley, Ed Engle, Curt Massie, Curtis McDowell, Ryan Sharpe, Art Peterson, Jennifer Bastian, Larry Salci, Steve Hewitt, <i>Industry Members:</i> Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Ed Golitko, Kevin Sudano, James Michel, Rich Bowie, Jack Madden, Robert Ward, Kevin Carmody, Marcin Taraszewicz, Jim Tilley, Ray Ginnell, Stephen Mark, Jonathan Michel, Joanna Hallisy
ABSENTEES	<i>Dan Ruppert, Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Mike Jenkins, Ray Hessinger, Troy Hughes, Tarek Omar, Barley Fields, Blair Slaughter, Tammy Krause, Kevin Myles</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Technical subcommittee Vice Chair Joe Paul, 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.

Steve Hewitt noted that it had been suggested - and he agreed - that the subcommittee should pause at this point for a moment of silence to remember the D-Day occurrence and the sacrifices made by those individuals - the Greatest Generation. Steve also expressed thanks to all those who have served.

Joe Paul, echoed Steve’s comments and stated that this could well be the last time that this commemoration will take place as those who served on D-Day are aging with most being over 100 years old. He agreed a moment of silence for these incredible individuals is well deserved.

At this point, the subcommittee paused for a moment of silence.

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.

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.

Amtrack 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 – 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.

Next Update: 6-20-24

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 NGEN 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 presentation. Phani.raj@dot.gov.

First Presentation: 6-20-24

2025 NGEN 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 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 NGEN 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 5-9-24 and 5-23-24:

On a motion by Art Peterson, IDOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 5-9-24 were approved as presented. On a motion by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT and a second by Art Peterson for IDOT, the minutes from 5-23-24 were approved as presented.

4.

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 is currently completing type testing in preparation 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.

5.

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

Ray Hessinger was not available for this meeting and did not provide an update. This item is tabled until 6-20-24.

6.

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

Marci Petterson, CtDOT, was unavailable but sent the following update read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

Current status:

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 NGENC members if they have input that they can provide on their experience with King HVAC systems to please email me.

Larry Salci asked if she meant Thermal King? Steve Hewitt did not know – and suggested Larry contact Marci for clarification.

Following the meeting – Marci clarified that the vendor was not Thermal King – it is King Air from China – standard vendor that Alstom uses.

7.

Document Control Update - Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause was not available for today's meeting and did not provide an update. Steve Hewitt reported that during the 5-23-24 meeting Tammy had presented a revised work plan, but the dates she had in her plan did not match the NGENC Technical subcommittee calendar so Steve Hewitt asked her to revise it further to reflect the appropriate dates. She did send Steve a corrected version of the work plan and timeline. Steve will send it out to all subcommittee members.

8.

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

The CRISI Grant Application was filed on 5-28-24. The application packet includes 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 is 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.

Joe Paul asked Steve Hewitt how many letters had been received to date. Steve responded that he had only seen 5 or 6 – but there may have been some submitted without a cc to him. Steve noted that Tim Ziethen should be able to provide that information during the Executive Board meeting next week.

Joe asked Steve Hewitt to provide the letter info and template once more along with the minutes from today's meeting.

**9.
NGEC Website Recovery – Steve Hewitt:**

AASHTO continues its efforts to re-post all of the information that was lost when AASHTO had a cyber-attack which affected its website and the NGEC's as well. The task is labor intensive for AASHTO and will take some time. All more recent information – minutes etc. are being posted and kept up to date, while the rest of the information from past years is being uploaded. It will all take time. Steve Hewitt has been providing information for the uploads as needed.

Joe Paul asked if any documents were lost. Steve stated he did not think so, as he is the keeper of NGEC documents and has them at hand. Joe asked if Steve was the only one who had the full record of documents. Steve responded that FRA also keeps all documents – this had been assigned to Jeff Gordon in a quality assurance meeting with FRA several years ago. Melissa Shurland, FRA, confirmed that the documents are being held by the FRA Office of Safety since Jeff Gordon's retirement.

**10.
Other/Adjourn – Joe Paul, Amtrak:**

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

Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 6-20-24

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

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Maintaining Industry Participation List:

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

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Next Update: 6-20-24

Document Control as of 6-6-24:

A revised/corrected work plan and timeline was prepared by Tammy Krause and will be distributed to all subcommittee members

Next Update: 6-20-24

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

As of the March 2024r report 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: 6-20 -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 5-23-24:

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First Presentation – Topic 1 – 6-20-24

Presenter: Phani Raj, FRA, Office of Safety.

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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.

NGEC Website Recovery:

As of 6-6-24, AASHTO was continuing its efforts to re-post all of the information that was lost when AASHTO had a cyber-attack which affected its website and the NGEC’s as well. The task is labor intensive for AASHTO and will take some time. All more recent information – minutes etc. are being posted and kept up to date, while the rest of the information from past years is being uploaded. It will all take time. Steve Hewitt has been providing information for the uploads as needed.

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Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 6-20-24

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

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Meeting ID: 248 377 912 887

Passcode: tZDxGr

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Agenda

6-6-24

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 5-9-24 and 5-23-24 meetings | Joe Paul |
| 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. Document Control Update | Tammy Krause |
| 8. Status: NGEN CRISI Grant Application – support letters | Steve |
| 9. NGEN Website recovery | Steve |
| 10. Other | All |
| 11. Adjourn | Joe Paul |

Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting

6-20-24