



[www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org)

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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

6-11-24

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Ray Hessinger, Joe Paul for Dan Ruppert, Mike Murray, Amanda Martin, Brian Beeler II, Tim Ziethen, Melina Lopez, Melina Lopez also as proxy for Richard Kedzior, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Jason Orthner, Sarah Hernandez for Kyle Gradinger <b>Support Staff and Colleagues:</b> Jon Dees, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Strat Cavros, Barley Fields, Dave "Emeritus" Warner
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Dan Ruppert, Richard Kedzior, Kyle Gradinger, Jason Biggs, <b>Support/Colleagues:</b> Matt Hensley, Ryan Sharpe, Shayne Gill

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, Chair, NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting, and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

**2.**

**Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:**

Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**3.**

**Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt provided a brief review of action/ongoing tracking items not on today's agenda.

**Industry Participation:**

Industry involvement continues to remain steady. Currently there are around 200 industry participants.

**2024 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:**

The 2024 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available electronically or in hard copy by request from Steve Hewitt. It is also posted on the NGEC website [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org).

To date: 463 copies have been distributed. (each of the new members received an electronic copy.)

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2024 NGEC Annual Meeting and will be invited to do the same at the 2025 Meeting.

**Next Update 2025 – NGEC Annual Meeting**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 5-14-24 Meeting– Ray Hessinger:**

---

On a motion offered by Melina Lopez, IDOT, and seconded by Jason Orthner, NCDOT, the minutes from the 5-14-24 meeting were approved as submitted.

**5.  
Update: Multi-State Venture Car Procurement – Caltrans:**

Caltrans provided the following update to the technical subcommittee on 6-6-24 and they were read into the record of today's meeting by Steve Hewitt:

*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.*

**6.  
Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger provided information from Metro-North's April report:

Siemens is continuing type testing on a variety of components.

The big news is that Locomotives #301 and #302 have left Siemens (5-16-24) and were shipped to Pueblo for continued type testing. This is a "big milestone".

**7.  
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Joe Paul, Amtrak:**

Joe Paul provided a brief update:

On the new Acela:

High Speed testing completed on prototype #2.

On Airo:

There are 47 vehicles in production. 43 coach cars and 4 locomotives.

On the ALC 42:

There are 52 in service, 5 in for commissioning in Wilmington and 2 in Philadelphia. There are 19 more in production in Sacramento.

On the GP38:

14 are in production. 1 is in transit to Amtrak and 4 are in commissioning – 2 at Wilmington and 2 in Rensselaer.

On the Long-Distance Trainsets:

Nothing new reported – it is in the active RFP phase.

**8.  
Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for CtDOT:**

Steve Hewitt read into the record the most recent update report provided by Marci Petterson, CtDOT, to the Technical Subcommittee on 6-6-24:

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

Marci has clarified that the vendor is not Thermal King – it is **King Air from China** - a standard vendor that Alstom uses.

Larry Salci communicated with Marci to clarify who the vendor was. It turned out to not be Thermal King, with which he has a lot of experience – rather it is King Air from China and Marci is trying to ascertain information on that vendor's performance. It is a vendor that Alstom uses regularly. Larry has not had experience with King Air. Others who may have some experience with King Air please contact Marci.

**9. Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes:

*The proposed changes to the Single Level Specification have been submitted to the Working Groups that handle the proposed changes. I have asked that they be returned to me by 6/24/and I will submit them to the members of the TSC that day. I have submitted a revised timeline for the TSC tasks of updating the single level specification and the Dual Mode locomotive specification.*

Steve Hewitt asked if Tammy could resend him her updated work plan and schedule with correct corresponding dates. Tammy said she sent it this morning. Below is that updated plan and schedule:

Technical Sub Committee Proposed Work Plan for 2024 (Revised)

1. Updating the Single Level Car Specification (305-003)
  - Request DCRs by 2/1/23
  - Submit DCRs to the appropriate WGs by 6/6/24
  - WGs to review the DCRs and return by 6/24/24
  - Submit to the entire TSC 6/24/24 with comments due 7/12/24
  - Review with the TSC 7/18/24
  - Vote on the acceptance of the proposed changes 8/1/24
  - Submit to the EB 8/6/24
2. Updating the Dual Mode Locomotive Specification (305-11)
  - Request DCRs by 6/18/24
  - Submit DCRs to the Propulsion WG by 6/20/24
  - Propulsion Group review the DCRs and return by 7/31/24
  - Submit to the Entire TSC 8/15/24 with comments due 8/27/24
  - Review with the TSC 8/29/24
  - Vote on the acceptance of the proposed changes 8/29/24
  - Submit to the EB 9/3/24
3. Continue De-Amtraking the PRIIA Subspecifications
  - This will continue with the Technical Writer

---

**10.**

**Filling Vacancies on Review Panels: -Ray/Steve**

**NGEC Executive Board – Specification Review Panels/Members: 2024**

**Consultants/ Technical Support to the Review Panels:**

Review Panel Consultant – Larry Salci  
NGEC Support – Steve Hewitt  
Technical Support – Tammy Krause  
Amtrak Technical Support – Mike Kraft for all except the Locomotive Review Panel  
Amtrak Technical Support – Devon Parsons – Locomotive Review Panel

**Bi-Level Car Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair  
vacancy, Caltrans  
Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT  
Melissa Shurland, FRA

**Locomotive Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair  
vacancy, Caltrans  
Melina Lopez, IDOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Melissa Shurland, FRA

**Trainset Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair  
Ed Engle, Iowa DOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
vacancy, Caltrans  
Melissa Shurland, FRA

**Single Level Rail Car Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair  
Ed Engle, Iowa DOT  
Jason Biggs, WSDOT  
vacancy, Caltrans  
Melissa Shurland, FRA

**DMU Review Panel Members:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair  
Melissa Shurland, FRA  
Brian Beeler, for Maine DOT  
vacancy, Caltrans

Ray Hessinger explained that with Ed Engle, Iowa DOT retiring from Iowa DOT. (He served on the Trainset Review Panel and the Single Level Review Panel, we will have two vacancies on each of those panels (Caltrans and Iowa DOT). The Single Level Panel will be called upon in July or August to review DCRs approved by the Tech SC if Tammy's schedule holds. So, we do need to get - at least - that panel fully staffed.

On the other panels, we have previously agreed that it is critical to have a seat on each one for Caltrans. Kyle Gradinger was to provide the name(s) for filling those vacancies, but that has not happened as of yet. Ray suggested a call off line with him, Steve Hewitt and Kyle.

Sarah Hernandez, Caltrans, asked if Steve could send a note out reminding Kyle and that she may be able to help on getting the vacancies filled.

Steve Hewitt agreed to send a note to Kyle reminding him about the need to provide a rep for these vacancies. Sarah Hernandez asked Steve to copy her, Ryan Sharpe, and Olivia Orant as well.

Amanda Martin will look to see who could fill the vacancy created by Ed Engle's departure from Iowa DOT.

**NOTE:**

Following the meeting, Amanda Martin named Maria Hobbs, Iowa DOT to the Technical Subcommittee

and the Trainset Specification Review Panel and Single Level Rail Car Specification Review Panel to fill the vacancy left by Ed Egle's departure from Iowa state service. (Thank you, Amanda and Maria!)

Kyle Gradinger responded to an email from Steve Hewitt with details on the Review Panels and the specific issue of filling the Single Level Specification Review Panel due to the upcoming DCRs approval by the Technical Subcommittee. Kyle stated that he and his team will discuss who to name as representatives for each of the panels with an understanding that the first focus should be on the Single Level Review Panel. Caltrans will get a name to Steve Hewitt by next week. (week of 6-17-24)

**11.  
Technical Subcommittee/FRA research topic presentations – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt provided the background and context of the new effort to have regular presentations from FRA Rolling Stock on research topics during Technical Subcommittee meetings:

On 5-23-24, Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided a list of FRA Rolling Stock Research topics for discussion on future NGEC Technical subcommittee calls. The 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*

On the Technical subcommittee call on 5-23-24, 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.

The presenter will be Phani Raj, FRA Office of Safety. [Phani.raj@dot.gov](mailto:Phani.raj@dot.gov)

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

For Executive Board members not on the Technical subcommittee please feel free to attend whatever presentations you are interested in. Let Steve Hewitt know if you want to attend a particular meeting and he will send a meeting invite.

**12.  
Treasurer's Report and status update on NGEC Funding – Tim Ziethen:**

Tim Ziethen provided the following update:

**Balance/Spend Rate Through March 2024**

Total Invoiced/Incurred (Including Carryover) - \$88,927.06  
Forecast/Accrual Amount to Reflect Billing Lag 60 days - \$30,000.  
Invoiced + Accrual Expenses to date (through March) – 118,927.06  
Amtrak AOP Funding - \$260,000  
Remaining funds (total available less Invoiced + Accrual) - \$141,072.94.  
Estimated full year (YTD Incl. Carry Over + FC + Remaining Months @ Avg Spend TD) - \$173,191.33.  
Current Average Monthly Spend - \$13,566.07

**Status - CRISI Grant Application:**

The CRISI Grant Application for funding the NGEC 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 Hinstead, Amtrak Grants.

Tim commented that Steve Hewitt was instrumental in helping to update the metrics and provide additional information for the application. Tim worked with Amtrak Grants and it was finalized and submitted to the portal.

**Other potential funding opportunities:**

Tim commented that there is nothing to add on potential funding options and reiterated that there is no perfect other option. He reminded members that the current funding from the Amtrak AOP was never meant to be ongoing – there needs to be a more permanent solution. As of now, the best option seems to be to seek a CRISI Grant.

**Status – Completing Prior Grant Close Out documents:**

Tim reported that he has worked with Steve Hewitt in the preparation of these documents. Tim is working with Amtrak Grants as well. The due date for submittal to FRA is August 2024, but Tim anticipates finalizing and sending the documents to FRA earlier than that.

**13.  
2025 NGEC Annual Meeting – new location and date/time - Steve Hewitt:**

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) as well as the Metro for those who want to go into DC. AASHTO was unable to secure appropriate 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 Meetings Dates are January 28-30. The NGEC meeting will take place on Thursday 1-30-25 in the afternoon. The exact times and further info will follow over the next few months.

**14.  
Other/Adjourn – Ray Hessinger:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned the 6-11-24 meeting of the Executive Board at 12:02pm Eastern.

**Next Executive Board Meeting 7-9-24**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Treasurer's Report and status update on NGEC Funding:**

**Balance/Spend Rate Through March 2024**

Total Invoiced/Incurred (Including Carryover) - \$88,927.06  
Forecast/Accrual Amount to Reflect Billing Lag 60 days - \$30,000.  
Invoiced + Accrual Expenses to date (through March) – 118,927.06  
Amtrak AOP Funding - \$260,000  
Remaining funds (total available less Invoiced + Accrual) - \$141,072.94.  
Estimated full year (YTD Incl. Carry Over + FC + Remaining Months @ Avg Spend TD) - \$173,191.33.  
Current Average Monthly Spend - \$13,566.07

Strat Cavros reported that invoiced expenses for April came in at \$13,990. The invoice will be forthcoming soon to Amtrak.

**Status – Completing Prior Grant Close Out documents:**

The due date for submittal to FRA is August 2024, but Tim Ziethen anticipates finalizing and sending the documents to FRA earlier than that.

**New CRISI Grant Application:**

The CRISI Grant Application for funding the NGEC 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 Mehgan Histan, Amtrak Grants.

---

Tim commented that Steve Hewitt was instrumental in helping to update the metrics and provide additional information for the application. Tim worked with Amtrak Grants and it was finalized and submitted to the portal.

**Other potential funding opportunities:**

On 6-11-24, Tim Ziethen reported that there is nothing new to add on potential funding options and reiterated that there is no perfect other option. He reminded members that the current funding from the Amtrak AOP was never meant to be ongoing – there needs to be a more permanent solution. As of now, the best option seems to be to seek a CRISI Grant.

**2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2024 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available electronically or in hard copy by request from Steve Hewitt. It is also posted on the NGEC website [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org).

To date: 463 copies have been distributed (hard/soft).

**Industry Participation:**

As of 6-11-24, industry involvement continues to remain steady. Currently there are around 200 industry participants.

**Multi-state Venture Car Procurement as of 6-6-24:**

*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.*

**Next Update: 7-9-24**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 6-6-24:**

Current status provided by Marci Petterson, 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 HVAC systems to please email me.*

**Next Update – 7-9-24**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of April 2024 reported on 6-11-24:**

Siemens is continuing type testing on a variety of components.

The big news is that Locomotives #301 and #302 have left Siemens (5-16-24) and were shipped to Pueblo for continued type testing. This is a “big milestone”.

**Next Update – 7-9-24**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 6-11-24:**

On the new Acela:

High Speed testing completed on prototype #2.

On Airo:

There are 47 vehicles in production. 43 coach cars and 4 locomotives.

<p>On the ALC 42:</p> <p>There are 52 in service, 5 in for commissioning in Wilmington and 2 in Philadelphia. There are 19 more in production in Sacramento.</p> <p>On the GP38:</p> <p>14 are in production. 1 is in transit to Amtrak and 4 are in commissioning – 2 at Wilmington and 2 in Rensselaer.</p> <p>On the Long-Distance Trainsets:</p> <p>It continues to be an active RFP.</p> <p><b>Next Update: 7-9 -24</b></p>
<p><b>Status - Document Control Management as of 6-11-24:</b></p> <p><i>The proposed changes to the Single Level Specification have been submitted to the Working Groups that handle the proposed changes. I have asked that they be returned to me by 6/24/and I will submit them to the members of the TSC that day. I have submitted a revised timeline for the TSC tasks of updating the single level specification and the Dual Mode locomotive specification.</i></p> <p><b>Next Update – 7-9-24</b></p>
<p><b>VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:</b></p> <p>VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2024 NGEN Annual Meeting and will be invited to do the same at the 2025 Meeting.</p> <p><b>Next Update – 2025 NGEN Annual Meeting</b></p>
<p><b>Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive and Venture Cars Experience:</b></p> <p>Detailed updates were provided during the 2024 Annual Meeting.</p> <p><b>Next Update: As Appropriate</b></p>
<p><b>Filling Vacancies on the Review Panels as of 6-11-24:</b></p> <p>Kyle Gradinger is still working on determining who will be Caltrans representative on all Review Panels. He will have a name or names by the week of 6-17-24 with the priority being naming a rep to the Single Level Specification Review Panel which will be re-convened in July or August.</p> <p>Maria Hobbs, Iowa DOT will fill the vacancies on two of the Review Panels and the Technical Subcommittee left by Ed Engle’s retirement from state service .</p>
<p><b>Technical Subcommittee/FRA research topic presentations:</b></p> <p>On the Technical subcommittee call on 5-23-24, it was agreed that the first presentation will be on <i>FRA Safety Approach for Review and Issuance of Letter of Concurrence for Use of Advanced On-Board Energy Storage Systems.</i></p> <p>The presenter will be Phani Raj, FRA Office of Safety. <a href="mailto:Phani.raj@dot.gov">Phani.raj@dot.gov</a></p> <p>The order of the other items on the FRA list will be determined based on FRA staff availability. The intent is to have one topic covered each month.</p> <p>For Executive Board members not on the Technical subcommittee please feel free to attend whatever presentations you are interested in. Let Steve Hewitt know if you want to attend a particular meeting and he will send a meeting invite.</p>
<p><b>2025 NGEN Annual Meeting – new location and date/time - Steve Hewitt:</b></p> <p>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 <b>Crystal City, VA at the <a href="#">Renaissance Arlington Capital View</a></b>. This is not in our usual location, but the hotel does offer easy access to Reagan National Airport (DCA) as well as the Metro for those who want to go into DC. AASHTO was unable to secure appropriate meeting space at the Hyatt Regency as another group is booked in the large</p>



---

ballroom and thus, we wouldn't be able to continue to increase our meeting size.

The Rail Meetings Dates are January 28-30. The NGEC meeting will take place on Thursday 1-30-25 in the afternoon. The exact times and further info will follow over the next few months.

**Next Meeting -7-9-24**

**NGEC Executive Board Meeting**

**6-11-24**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern**

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 218 969 011 071

Passcode: r7bGDN

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

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

**Agenda**

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting  | Ray Hessinger  |
| 2. Roll call   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 3. Action Items Status Review  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 5-14-24 meeting  | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement   | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement                                  | Ray Hessinger  |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements   | Dan Ruppert    |
| 8. Update: CTDOT Rail Car Procurement  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 9. Update: Document Control – status and revised timeline                                | Tammy Krause   |
| 10. Filling Vacancies on Review Panels   | Ray Hessinger  |
| 11. Technical subcommittee/FRA research topic presentations – first presentation 6-20-24 | Dan Ruppert    |
| 12. Treasurer's Update   | Tim Ziethen    |
| - Balance/Spend Rate/Forecast  |                |
| - Status - CRISI Grant Application – support letters                                     |                |
| - Other potential funding opportunities  |                |
| - Status – Completing Prior Grant Close Out documents                                    |                |
| 13. NGEC 2025 Annual Meeting   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 14. Other:   | All            |
| 15. Adjourn  | Ray Hessinger  |

**Next Meeting: - 7-9-24**

---