



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

## NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

OCTOBER 10,  
2024

3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Joe Paul, Vice Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> <i>Joe Paul, Melissa Shurland, Curtis McDowell, Art Peterson, Ray Hessinger, Jodi Lehmkuhl for Ryan Sharpe, Mike Jenkins, Kevin Myles, Blair Slaughter, Kristine Severson, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Barley Fields, Steve Hewitt</i> <b>Industry Members:</b> <i>John Graham, Dave Wilcock, Ray Ginnell</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Curt Massie, Troy Hughes, 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) 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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

To date 488 copies have been distributed.

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:**

There are currently around 200 industry participants.

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

**2025 NGEC Annual Meeting – new location:**

The NGEC 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on 1-30-25 in the afternoon in **Crystal City, VA. at the [Renaissance Arlington Capital View](#).**

Our meeting is scheduled for Noon to 5:00PM on 1-30-25.

With Funding the NGEC still being determined – the plans for this meeting are on hold – with a final decision to be made by 11-15-24.

**3.  
Approval of the Minutes from 9-26-24:**

On a motion offered by Art Peterson, for IDOT, and a second by Curtis McDowell, for NCDOT, the minutes from 9-26-24 were approved as submitted.

**4.  
Multi-State Venture Car Procurement – Jodi Lehmkuhl, Caltrans:**

Jodi Lehmkuhl provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of this meeting:

*All coach type FDR and FAI stages are complete, including Cab Car and Café Car.*

*The Cab Car FAI and FRA sample car inspections are complete, and the first cars have been conditionally accepted. The Cab Car 238.111(b) testing is complete, and the test report is nearly complete. The IDOT café cars are being shipped to Chicago and placed into revenue service as available.*

*All 137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches and Caltrans trainsets are being added to revenue service as they are commissioned and accepted.*

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

Ray Hessinger provided the following update from Metro-North:

Locomotives 301 and 302 are in Pueblo for testing – progressing well – and almost ready to wrap up.

Locomotives 303 and 304 are in various stages of final assembly.

A milestone was reached with the production of Car Shell #10.

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

Marci Petterson was not available today and did not send an update – so this item was tabled until the next meeting.

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

On the new Acela:

Trainset 14 was shipped in late August. All in all, the procurement continues to progress well.

On Airo:

This procurement is progressing well and is on schedule. There are 71 cars in production - 67 coach cars and 4 locomotives.

On the ALC 42:

Joe Paul reported that this procurement continues to progress well. There are 62 in service, 4 being commissioned and 18 in production with 41 not yet started.

On the Long-Distance Trainsets:

Continues as an active RFP. It is moving along well with Amtrak working with carbuilders – with questions going back and forth with Amtrak “hoping to award the contract sometime next year”. (Nothing new reported on this item)

On the GP38 – 10 are in production, 5 are on site and 21 of 36 have been conditionally accepted.

**8.  
Update: Document Control Activities – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of this meeting:

*The Mechanical WG met on September 24<sup>th</sup> and they are down to their last DCR. They have reached out to the AAR to answer a question about it and will meet again to discuss after they received the information. I mentioned last month that they are forming a smaller task force for working on the door section in the single-level spec. If anybody has any interest in participating in this please reach out to Melissa Shurland, Steve Hewitt or myself.*

*The Communications WG is continuing their work on the DTL specs to be included in the various equipment specifications. There next meeting will be on November 12 at 2:00 central time.*

*I have continued to meet weekly with the Technical Writer to work on the de-Amtraking the PRIIA specs.*

**9. Presentation: "Overview of Planned Sled Testing with Autonomous Wheelchair Securement Systems & ATD Restraint"**

**Presenter: Kristine Severson, Volpe:**

Kristine Severson, Volpe provided an excellent and quite comprehensive presentation "Overview of Planned Sled Testing with Autonomous Wheelchair Securement Systems & ATD Restraint".

The presentation is rather large to distribute, but the plan is to provide Steve Hewitt, Dan Ruppert and Joe Paul access to it on the Volpe website and Steve will ask AASHTO to post it.

Once again, we thank Melissa Shurland for arranging this presentation - the fourth is a series - and we thank Kristine Severson for giving the presentation.

**10. NGEC Funding – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported that NGEC long-term funding has not yet been resolved. The Committee is currently being provided gap funding from Amtrak through 12-31-24 while more long-term options, absent the award of a CRISI grant, are being explored.

The Executive Board of the NGEC has increased its cadence of meetings to bi-weekly in order to discuss and review potential funding sources or options – either long-term or additional gap funding.

While the funding options are being determined, the NGEC continues to conduct business as usual.

CRISI grant awards are not expected to be announced until October or November 2024. As a reminder, letters in support of the Amtrak NGEC CRISI grant application are still welcome.

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

With no other business forthcoming, Joe Paul adjourned today's meeting at approximately 3:50pm Eastern.

**Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 10-29-24**

**Decisions and Ongoing Action Items**

**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 488 copies have been distributed.

The 2025 version is in process within the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC).

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:**

There are currently around 200 industry participants.

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

**2025 NGEN Annual Meeting:**

The NGEN 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on 1-30-25 in the afternoon in **Crystal City, VA at the [Renaissance Arlington Capital View](#).**

NGEN is scheduled for Noon to 5:00PM on 1-30-25.

Due to the NGEN funding issues being unresolved, this meeting is on hold with a decision deadline being 11-15-24.

**Multi-State Venture Car procurement as of 10-10-24:**

*All coach type FDR and FAI stages are complete, including Cab Car and Café Car.*

*The Cab Car FAI and FRA sample car inspections are complete, and the first cars have been conditionally accepted. The Cab Car 238.111(b) testing is complete, and the test report is nearly complete. The IDOT café cars are being shipped to Chicago and placed into revenue service as available.*

*All 137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches and Caltrans trainsets are being added to revenue service as they are commissioned and accepted.*

**Next Update: 10-24-24**

**Document Control Activities as of 10-10-24:**

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

*The Mechanical WG met on September 24<sup>th</sup> and they are down to their last DCR. They have reached out to the AAR to answer a question about it and will meet again to discuss after they received the information. I mentioned last month that they are forming a smaller task force for working on the door section in the single-level spec. If anybody has any interest in participating in this please reach out to Melissa Shurland, Steve Hewitt or myself.*

*The Communications WG is continuing their work on the DTL specs to be included in the various equipment specifications. Their next meeting will be on November 12 at 2:00 central time.*

*I have continued to meet weekly with the Technical Writer to work on the de-Amtraking the PRIIA specs.*

**Next Update: 10-24-24**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:**

Locomotives 301 and 302 are in Pueblo for testing – progressing well – and almost ready to wrap up.

Locomotives 303 and 304 are in various stages of final assembly.

A milestone was reached with the production of Car Shell #10.

**Next Update: 11-7-24**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

**CtDOT Rail car Procurement as of 9-26-24 – provided by CtDOT:**

*Still working system PDRs, progress being made*

No update was provided on 10-10-24. This will be added to the next meeting agenda.

**Next Update: 10-24-24**

**Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 10-10-24:**

On the new Acela:

Trainset 14 was shipped in late August. All in all, the procurement continues to progress well.

On Airo:

This procurement is progressing well and is on schedule. There are 71 cars in production - 67 coach cars and 4 locomotives.

On the ALC 42:

Joe Paul reported that this procurement continues to progress well. There are 62 in service, 4 being commissioned and 18 in production with 41 not yet started.

On the Long-Distance Trainsets:

Continues as an active RFP. It is moving along well with Amtrak working with carbuilders – with questions going back and forth with Amtrak “hoping to award the contract sometime next year”. (Nothing new reported on this item)

On the GP38 – 10 are in production, 5 are on site and 21 of 36 have been conditionally accepted.

**Next Update: 11-7 -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*

The October presentation was given by Kristine Severson, Volpe on:

“Overview of Planned Sled Testing with Autonomous Wheelchair Securement Systems & ATD Restraint”

**Next presentation – TBD**

**NGEC Future Funding – Status: CRISI Grant Application:**

Steve Hewitt reported that NGEC long-term funding has not yet been resolved. The Committee is currently being provided gap funding from Amtrak through 12-31-24 while more long-term options, absent the award of a CRISI grant, are being explored.

The Executive Board of the NGEC has increased its cadence of meetings to bi-weekly in order to discuss and review potential funding sources or options – either long-term or additional gap funding.

While the funding options are being determined, the NGEC continues to conduct business as usual.

CRISI grant awards are not expected to be announced until October or November 2024. As a reminder, letters in support of the Amtrak NGEC CRISI grant application are still welcome.

**Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 10-24-24**

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

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 256 701 089 236

Passcode: XorUzw

---

**Agenda**

**10-10-24**

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt      |
| 2. Review Action Items  | Steve Hewitt      |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 9-26-24 meeting   | Joe Paul          |
| 4. Update: Multi-state – Venture car procurement  | Jodi Lehmkuhl     |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement   | Ray Hessinger     |
| 6. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement   | Marci Petterson   |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements  | Joe Paul          |
| 8. Document Control   | Tammy Krause      |
| - Working group updates   |                   |
| - Timeline for Single Level Spec DCRs consideration of approval   |                   |
| 9. Presentation: Overview of Planned Sled Testing with Autonomous Wheelchair Securement Systems & ATD Restraint | Kristine Severson |
| 10. NGEC Funding  | Steve/Dan         |
| 11. Other   | All               |
| 12. Adjourn   | Joe Paul          |

**Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting**

**10-24-24**