



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

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES NOVEMBER 7, 2024 3:00PM EASTERN TEAMS MEETING

FACILITATOR	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>Dan Ruppert, Melissa Shurland, Curtis McDowell, Art Peterson, Michael Cameron for Ray Hessinger, Sarah Hernandez for Ryan Sharpe, Mike Jenkins, Curt Massie, Kevin Myles, Kristine Severson, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Anand Prabhakaran, Steve Hewitt</i> Industry Members: <i>John Graham, Dave Wilcock, Jack Madden, Allen Meek, Xixin Shan, Ed Golitko, Stephen Mark, Joe Kenas, Brian Ley, Paul Jamieson, Rich Stegner, Paul Arnone</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Ryan Sharpe, Marci Petterson, Maria Hobbs, Troy Hughes, Jennifer Bastian, Jodi Lehmkuhl, Blair Slaughter, Barley Fields</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.	<p>Technical subcommittee Chair Dan Ruppert, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.</p> <p>After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.</p> <p>As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com insufficient state representation.</p>
2.	<p>Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:</p> <p>2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:</p> <p>The 2024 NGEC two-pager is now available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.</p> <p>To date 488 copies have been distributed.</p> <p>Updating this document for 2025 began with the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee but is on hold at this point as the future of the NGEC is determined.</p> <p>Maintaining Industry Participation List:</p> <p>There are currently around 200 industry participants.</p> <p>Any updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.</p> <p>2025 NGEC Annual Meeting – new location:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Our meeting is scheduled for Noon to 5:00PM on 1-30-25.</p>

With Funding the NGEN 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 10-10-24:**

On a motion offered by Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, and a second by Art Peterson for IDOT, the minutes from 10-10-24 were approved as submitted.

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

Caltrans did not provide an update for this meeting. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

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

Ray Hessinger was unavailable, but Steve Hewitt provided the following update:

On 10-29-24, Ray Hessinger reported to the NGEN Executive Board that the first two units left testing at Pueblo the past week and are Croton on Hudson to Metro-North.

Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement –Steve Hewitt for Marci Petterson, CtDOT:

Marci Petterson was not available today but provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes:

We're working on reviewing and approving the last of the PDR documents. Planning for in person IDR meetings with the design team in Dec and Jan.

**7.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:**

On the new Acela:

All is moving along at a steady rate – they are working on final qualification testing and going forward with training.

On Airo:

This procurement is progressing well and is on schedule for spring 2025 for testing the first trainset on the corridor. There are 72 coach cars and 7 locomotives in production.

On the ALC 42:

Dan reported that this procurement continues at a steady state – averaging one or two a month. There are 64 in service out of a base order of 75. There will be a little slower rate going forward as they turn to the option order of 50.

On the Long-Distance Trainsets:

Continues as an active RFP. Amtrak is continuing to work with carbuilders with a goal of an award next year.

On the GP38 – 10 are in production, 5 are on site and 21 of 36 have been conditionally accepted. (Nothing new reported on this procurement on 11-7-24.)

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

Tammy Krause reported that she has not received updates from any of the working groups.

She continues to work with the technical writer on de-Amtraking the reference documents.

9.

Presentation: FRA Presentation: 'Overview of FRA's Glazing Retention Research':

Presenter: Anand Prabhakaran, President, Sharma and Associates:

Melissa Shurland introduced the topic and provided a brief background/context. Over the past few years investigation of accidents have determined that side windows have popped out and, in some cases, passengers have been ejected. Melissa's colleague Jeff Gordon, FRA (retired) and Anand Prabhakaran, Sharma and Associates, as well as others including Volpe began to research this issue.

Anand Prabhakaran provided a comprehensive overview of the research and its findings.

Several questions were asked following the presentation -relating to standardization and an elaboration on some of the results to date.

Anand agreed to make the presentation available through Melissa Shurland who will provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution.

The subcommittee extends its appreciation to Anand for the excellent presentation and to FRA as well for the series of presentations given over these past few months. We look forward to continuing this program and to learn more about FRA's technical research efforts.

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 are being explored.

On 10-29-24 the list of CRISI Grant awards was released and the Amtrak application for NGEC funding was not successful.

The NGEC Executive Board continues to hold bi-weekly meetings to discuss potential funding options – either long-term or additional gap funding. At present, internal Amtrak discussions are taking place to determine what potential sources it may have to fund the NGEC and what changes would need to be made to the By-Laws if the funding is to come from Amtrak. A white paper was prepared at the request of Amtrak Government Affairs, which provided a summary of what the NGEC is, what it has done, and what it is planning to do. The white paper was submitted the week of 0-28-24 and discussions are ongoing internally. The white paper will be sent on up the line to Amtrak leadership.

Possible By-law changes were also drafted by Amtrak and provided to the NGEC Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) for its review. The changes or edits would make some things optional by adding the word "may" in place of "shall" based on Amtrak's thinking that it is possible that some of the technical updates could be taken over by Amtrak internally.

While funding the NGEC and its future, overall, is being determined, the NGEC continues to conduct business as usual.

11.

Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:

With no other business forthcoming, Dan Ruppert adjourned today's meeting at approximately 3:35pm Eastern.

Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 11-21-24

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.

To date 488 copies have been distributed.

Updating this document for 2025 began with the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee but is on hold at this point as the future of the NGEN is determined.

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.

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.

he 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: 11-21-24

Document Control Activities as of 11-7-24:

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

Tammy did not have updates from the working groups - and nothing new on finalizing DCRs for the Single Level Rail Car specification.

Tammy did report that she continues to meet weekly with the Technical Writer to work on the de-Amtrakking the PRIIA specs.

Next Update: 11-21-24

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

On 10-29-24, Ray Hessinger reported to the NGEN Executive Board that the first two units left testing at Pueblo the past week and en route to Croton on Hudson to Metro-North. It is reasonable to assume they are there now.

Next Update: 11-21-24

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

CtDOT Rail car Procurement as of 11-7-24 – provided by CtDOT:

We're working on reviewing and approving the last of the PDR documents. Planning for in person IDR meetings with the design team in December 2024 and January 2025.

Next Update: 12-5-24

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 11-7-24:

On the new Acela:

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On Airo:

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Next Update: 12-5 -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 November presentation was given on 11-7-24 by Anand Prabhakaran, Sharma and Associates on:

“Overview of FRA's Glazing Retention Research”

Next presentation – TBD

NGEC Future Funding – Status: CRISI Grant Application:

On 11-7-24, 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 are being explored.

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ATTACHMENTS



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PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting
3:00PM Eastern

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Meeting ID: 256 701 089 236

Passcode: XorUzw

Agenda

11-7-25

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|---|---|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 10-10-24 meeting | Dan Ruppert |
| 4. Update: Multi-state – Venture car procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 5. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement | Marci Petterson |
| 6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 8. Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Working group updates | |
| - Timeline for Single Level Spec DCRs consideration of approval | |
| 9. FRA Presentation: 'Overview of FRA's Glazing Retention Research' | Anand Prabhakaran, President, Sharma and Associates |
| 10. NGEC Funding Issues | Steve |
| 11. Other | All |
| 12. Adjourn | Dan Ruppert |

Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting

11-21-24