



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

## NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 21,  
2024

3:00PM EASTERN

TEAMS MEETING

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> <i>Dan Ruppert, Melissa Shurland, Curtis McDowell, Art Peterson, Ray Hessinger, Sarah Hernandez for Ryan Sharpe, Mike Jenkins, Curt Massie, Kevin Myles, Patricia Liana, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Blair Slaughter, Steve Hewitt</i> <b>Industry Members:</b> <i>Dave Wilcock, Jack Madden, Allen Meek, Ed Golitko, Brian Ley, Paul Jamieson, Stu Trout, Josh Coran, Tom LaMano, James Michel, Ken Martin, Joanna Hallisy, Marcin Taraszkiwicz, Darrell Smith</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Joe Paul, Matthew Simmons, Ryan Sharpe, Marci Petterson, Maria Hobbs, Troy Hughes, Jennifer Bastian, Jodi Lehmkuhl, Barley Fields</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.

**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.**

**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).**

**CtDOT Rail Car Procurement as of 11-7-24:**

Reviewing and approving the last of the PDR documents. Planning for in person IDR meetings with the design team in Dec and January 2025.

**Next Update: 12-5-24**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as reported on 11-7-24:**

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.)

**Next Update: 12-5-24**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from 11-7-24:**

On a motion offered by Art Peterson for IDOT and a second by Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, the minutes from 11-7-24 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. Sarah Hernandez, Caltrans, was on the call and reached out to her colleagues at Caltrans and asked them for an update. If or when she gets it she will send it to Steve Hewitt and Dan Ruppert and it will either be included in the minutes of today’s meeting (if received today) or it will be provided as an update on the next call.

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

Ray Hessinger reported that the first two Locomotives had been delivered to Metro-North at Croton Harmon, NY in late October 2024 and were starting the process of inspection for acceptance.

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

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

*Due to the current unknown future of PRIIA, I am working on determining what can be completed in the TSC and approved by the EB by the end of March.*

*The Technical Writer and I are working on finalizing a list of the PRIIA specs that we can finish de-Amtraking before March.*

*The Single-Level specification will be completed as soon as the Mechanical WG can finish their last DCR. They are waiting on some information from AAR. This should be completed by March.*

*The Vehicle Weight WG is working to expedite their recommendations before March.*

*I still need to determine the timelines for the Communications and Materials WGs.*

**7.  
Scheduling the next FRA Presentation – Melissa Shurland, FRA:**

Due to the holidays and various contractors being on leave beginning with the end of November and into December, Melissa Shurland stated that they would like to push the next FRA presentation into the New Year.

Dan Ruppert suggested we schedule the next presentation for the second Tech Subcommittee meeting in January 2025. Melissa agreed and she will let Steve Hewitt know what the topic is going to be in advance.

**8.  
NGEC Funding – Steve Hewitt/Dan Ruppert:**

Steve Hewitt reported that NGEC long-term funding has not yet been resolved. The Committee is currently being provided gap funding from Amtrak. Initially the funding was to go through 12-31-24 while more long-term options are being explored. As of 10-29-24, Amtrak had approved a total of \$100,000 for the NGEC beginning on 10-1-24 and running through 3-31-24. Amtrak will provide AASHTO with a note extending the Amtrak/AASHTO agreement through 3-31-24 and AASHTO will do the same with the sub-contractors. This provides the NGEC with additional time to explore potential long-term and short-term funding.

The FASC met on 11-20-24 and discussed some next steps – first step will be to continue to follow-up with Amtrak Government Affairs to determine if there is an internal solution outside of Amtrak Mechanical which has expended all that it can.

The second step, if internal Amtrak solution cannot be found is to go back to FRA to discuss if there are any additional short-term and/or long-term solutions.

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

Dan Ruppert said that Steve's update was in "perfect alignment" with conversations he, Tim Ziethen and George Hull have had this week. As it stands now, the NGEC does not have funding beyond March 31, 2025.

**9.  
NGEC Annual Meeting 1-30-25 – CANCELED - Steve Hewitt:**

The in-person Annual Meeting scheduled for Crystal City Va on 1-30-25 has been canceled due to the lack of funding. If/when some of the questions around the NGEC's future have been resolved, a virtual Annual Meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Steve Hewitt will send an email to the full NGEC list and will send an Outlook cancellation notice for the previously scheduled (1-30-25) Annual Meeting.

**10.  
Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:**

With no other business forthcoming, Dan Ruppert adjourned today's meeting at approximately 3:25pm Eastern.

**Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 12-5-24**

**Decisions and Ongoing Action Items**

**2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:**

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**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: 12-5-24**

**Document Control Activities as of 11-21-24:**

*Due to the current unknown future of PRIIA, I am working on determining what can be completed in the TSC and approved by the EB by the end of March.*

*The Technical Writer and I are working on finalizing a list of the PRIIA specs that we can finish de-Amtraking before March.*

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**Next Update: 12-5-24**

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

Ray Hessinger reported that the first two Locomotives had been delivered to Metro-North at Croton Harmon, NY in late October 2024 and were starting the process of inspection for acceptance.

**Next Update: 12-5-24**

**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:**

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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 – second meeting in January 2025****NGEC Future Funding Status 11-21-24:**

Steve Hewitt reported that NGEC long-term funding has not yet been resolved. The Committee is currently being provided gap funding from Amtrak. Initially the funding was to go through 12-31-24 while more long-term options are being explored. As of 10-29-24, Amtrak had approved a total of \$100,000 for the NGEC beginning on 10-1-24 and running through 3-31-24. Amtrak will provide AASHTO with a note extending the Amtrak/AASHTO agreement through 3-31-24 and AASHTO will do the same with the sub-contractors. This provides the NGEC with additional time to explore potential long-term and short-term funding.

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**Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 12-5-24**

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 256 701 089 236

Passcode: XorUzw

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**Agenda**

**11-21-25**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt     |
| 2. Review Action Items  | Steve Hewitt     |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 11-7-24 meeting   | Dan Ruppert      |
| 4. Update: Multi-state – Venture car procurement                                    | Ryan Sharpe      |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement                             | Ray Hessinger    |
| 6. Document Control   | Tammy Krause     |
| - Working group updates   |                  |
| - Status/Timeline for Single Level Spec DCRs consideration of approval              |                  |
| - Status/Timeline for completing De-Amtraking of the sreies 305-900 reference specs |                  |
| 7. Scheduling the next FRA presentation   | Melissa Shurland |
| 8. Status: NGEC Funding   | Steve/Dan        |
| 9. NGEC Annual Meeting 2025 <b>cancelation</b>                                      | Steve Hewitt     |
| 10. Other   | All              |

11. Adjourn

Dan Ruppert

**Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting  
12-5 -24**