



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Railroad  
Administration**



**OFFICE OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

# **Update on AWG Accessibility Accommodations and Activities**

**KEVIN KESLER**

**MELISSA SHURLAND**

Office of Research and Development  
Office of Railroad Policy and Development

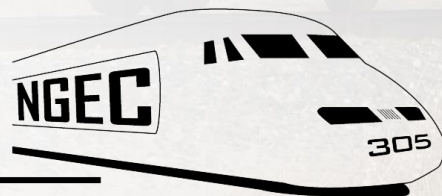
# Overview

- Update on Review of Single-level Equipment Accessibility Recommendations
- Review of ADAAG
- Interaction with the Accessibility Policy Group
- Interaction with US Access Board Rail Vehicle Access Advisory Committee (RVAAC)
- RVAAC Priority List for Accessibility
- Summary

# Update on Review of Single-level Equipment Accessibility Recommendation

- FRA continues to work with Oregon State University (OSU) to develop 2-D and 3-D drawings of the accessibility recommendations
  - Non-disclosure agreement was signed between Amtrak and OSU to provide drawings of passenger equipment to OSU
  - Drawings will be presented to AWG for review of impact of recommendations on interior space and feasibility of recommendations for inside restroom

Next Generation  
Equipment Committee



# Review of Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

- Following the USDOT December 2012 guidance on “what standards apply for accessibility when the regulations are silent,” the AWG formed a small team that review the ADAAG for other areas of applicability at the request of the TSC
  - Team comprised of representatives from Amtrak, FRA Offices of Chief Counsel, Civil Rights, R&D (OSU) and US Access Board Staff
- Reviewed Part 38 for specifics on accessibility requirements
- Where Part 38 was silent, ADAAG was reviewed for possible recommendations
  - Feasibility of the accessibility standards taken from ADAAG were not taken into consideration
- Review document as provided to TSC as a reference document

# Interaction with the Accessibility Policy Group

- The Accessibility Policy Group (APG) was provided a copy of the ADAAG review document
  - Requested that the document be color coded to indicate level of feasibility for rail car adoption: “likely”, “unlikely” and “needs further study”
  - TSC reviewed categorized document and provided input
- Final ADAAG Review document was provided to RVAAC

# Interaction with the Rail Vehicle Access Advisory Committee (RVAAC)

- The US Access Board RVAAC was established in November 2013 with the purpose of reviewing the current regulations and providing recommendation for updating the accessibility requirements
- The FRA gave an overview of the NGEC accomplishments on enhanced accessibility requirements and recommendations at the January 2014 meeting
- The RVAAC will take the NGEC accessibility accomplishments under consideration
- RVAAC has established a priority list for accessibility features
- All interested NGEC members are encouraged to engage with the RVAAC Working Groups

# RVAAC Priority List

- Established by the Committee during first set of meetings
  - Applicable for all rail vehicle types: light rail, heavy rail, commuter and intercity
  - Communications: signage, variable message displays, audio, emergency
  - Boarding and Interior Circulation: lifts, ADA space, access to upper level, etc.
  - Special Areas: restrooms, sleeping compartment

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/transportation/vehicles/rail-vehicles-access-advisory-committee>

# Summary

- FRA will continue to work with OSU and Amtrak to develop the drawings of the accessibility recommendations so that they can be finalized by the AWG
- FRA will continue to engage with the RVAAC and provide feedback to the NGEC
- RVAAC has established list of priorities for updating accessibility requirement
- NGEC members should engage the RVAAC as the recommendations are being developed to provide expert knowledge about passenger rail operations and design



# Thank You

Melissa Shurland  
Federal Railroad Administration  
Railroad Policy and Development  
Office of Research and Development

[Melissa.shurland@dot.gov](mailto:Melissa.shurland@dot.gov)

202-493-1316