



www.ngec.org

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

VIA Email

February 21, 2023

Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Administrator Bose:

On behalf of the Next Generation Equipment Committee (NGEC), I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to join us once again at our 13th Annual Meeting on February 3rd in Washington, DC. The 115 participants – 65 in-person and 50 virtually - represented states, Amtrak, FRA and representatives from the passenger rail manufacturing and supply industry. Our members greatly appreciate your continued support for the work that the Committee is doing and has done for nearly 13 years.

As we begin our 14th year, the NGEC continues to add new industry representatives from across the country representing rail manufacturers, suppliers, consultants, and more and we sustain the membership level at over 200. This is an incredible number for a volunteer “workforce” that has formed a coalition with the 11 State DOTs, Amtrak, and FRA that comprise the Committee. This collaboration among competing companies and Amtrak, FRA, and the states, is like none other we have seen. It is truly a model of what can be done at a minimal cost.

The NGEC has created six vehicle specifications each valued at approximately \$2 million and has created a document management process to review, maintain, and update those specifications to keep them current, and to improve them as new technologies are developed. The NGEC has also memorialized equipment procurement best practices with the publishing of its Recommended Practices document, and a Guidance for Long-term Vehicle Service Agreement. In 2022, we refreshed our website and acquired our own domain name www.ngec.org to improve awareness of the NGEC and its activities.

As I noted in my letter to you last year, since the NGEC specifications were first published, we are unaware of any intercity passenger rail vehicle procurements within the United States that have not used an NGEC specification as its base. Use of the NGEC specifications is sparking domestic production, invigorating the supply chain, lower operating, and maintenance costs, and extending vehicle life expectancy, while also improving the customer experience.

With the enactment of the IJA and its unprecedented funding for passenger rail, the NGEC is well positioned to explore new technologies, maintain our current specifications and other documents while also developing new specifications that will continue standardization and modernization of passenger rail in the US, meet Buy America requirements, and create high paying jobs across the industry.

Again, thank you for participating at our 13th Annual meeting. We look forward to working collaboratively to improve passenger rail travel, reach under-served markets, and encourage the traveling public to consider passenger rail a primary transportation option.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Hessinger, P.E.
Chair, Next Generation Equipment Committee
Director, Freight & Passenger Rail Bureau, NYSDOT

cc Paul Nissenbaum
Charlie King
Jeffrey Gordon
Michael Murray
NGEC Executive Board