



## Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: January 31, 2018

Submitted by: Steven J Hewitt, Program Manager, S305 NGEC

### Public law 110-432 required Amtrak to:

*...establish a Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee, comprised of representatives of Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, host freight railroad companies, passenger railroad equipment manufacturers, interested States, and, as appropriate, other passenger railroad operators.*

*"The purpose of the Committee shall be to design, develop specifications for, and procure standardized next-generation corridor equipment.*

*(b) Functions – the Committee may –*

*1) Determine the number of different types of equipment required, taking into account variations in operational needs and corridor infrastructure.*

*2) Establish a pool of equipment to be used on corridor routes funded by participating states; and*

*3) Subject agreements between Amtrak and States, utilize services provided by Amtrak to design, maintain and remanufacture equipment."*

### Executive Board

**Chair: Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT**

**Vice Chair: Charles King, Amtrak**

**Secretary: Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT**

**Treasurer: Tim Ziethen, Amtrak**

**The Executive Board holds bi-weekly conference calls – Tuesday's at 11:30am Eastern**

During the month of January 2018, the Executive Board met on the 16th and the 30th.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of January 2018 include:

- Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

As of 1-30-18, the FRA has reviewed the DRAFT report and submitted some revisions which are currently under review by the states. A meeting to discuss the report and revisions is expected to take place soon. The Equipment Board met last week to reflect on the FRA comments and to ensure consistency with Section 6 requirements.

- Finance and Administrative Subcommittee Monthly Progress Report – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee last met on 1-10-18.

Action items from 1-10-18:

Review of the Grant Agreement SOW and Budget as suggested by Amtrak Grants:

Status: 1-30-18:

Tim Ziethen reported that he has been working with Emily Chan and others from Amtrak Grants to complete the amendment to the SOW as reflected in the NGECE Executive Board's approved changes. Tim anticipates that today (1-30-18) or tomorrow (1-31-18) they will finish the amendment and send on through Amtrak legal for its review. Shortly thereafter, it will be submitted to FRA.

Updating the two-page NGECE Educational document:

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee agreed on several revisions in language and in changing the pictures to use more current photos of the Charger and an artist's rendering of the single level car being built for Caltrans and the Mid-West states under the current multi-state procurement. Once these changes were made, the document was to be submitted to the Executive Board for discussion on its 1-30-18 call.

Status 1-30-18:

The updated DRAFT was submitted to the Executive Board on 1-29-18 and will be discussed on the call today (1-30-18).

Preparing for the NGECE Annual Meeting:

Tim Ziethen, is completing the DRAFT NGECE Treasurer's Report and a FASC yearly progress report for review by the subcommittee on its next call 2-7-18 to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the NGECE on 2-23-18. He expects to complete the DRAFT this week and have it distributed to all FASC members for review and consideration on the 2-7-18 call.

Preparing the NGECE Grant Quarterly Report to the FRA:

Status 1-30-18:

The Final DRAFT of the quarterly report for the period ending on 12-31-17 has been completed and will be submitted today (1-30-18).

- 514 Subcommittee CIP Update:

The 2018-2022 CIP Update was approved, as presented, on 12-19-17 by the NGECE Executive Board.

A final version was distributed to all NGECE Executive Board members and was sent to AASHTO for posting on the NGECE website.

- Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group:

The working group last met on 1-11-18 and reviewed a list of "bucket" items developed by Caltrans that the group should be focusing on.

The discussion on 1-11-18 primarily revolved around what items needed to be added to the list, or be better defined:

Training – especially as related to project management and quality control. Issues related to training include "train the trainer", and scheduling classes. Training appeared to be a topic that runs across several of the "bucket" items.

Preferences – "needs vs. wants" as compared to requirements. This topic is critical especially when the owner is not the operator. Interoperability and Safety are also key elements.

When looking at the topic of revenue service - "beef up" the issue of host railroads over which the equipment will operate.

Additionally, product liability insurance; agreements with the manufacturer on items such as service maintenance and support and overhaul planning; and material availability were cited as critical items to be covered.

A revised/refined list of topics will be prepared by Eric Curtit based on the 1-11-18 discussion and distributed to the members of the working group for review and comment.

The working group will meet again on 2-8-18 to finalize the list of topics and begin assigning members to take sections of the list and develop them further. The group agreed that, although the intent was to complete its work by the NGEN Annual Meeting, it is better to get it right than rush it. A status update will be presented at the meeting and a better sense of the timeline for completion will be identified.

- Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State):

As of 1-30-18, the status of activities related to the Multi-state car procurement:

- SCOA/Siemens have been submitting contract deliverables on time. Caltrans/IDOT have been reviewing them and providing our comments back to them to finalize. Caltrans and IDOT are now working on the configuration management plan review and approval.
- Detailed Master Schedule was submitted by SCOA/Siemens on Jan 5. Caltrans/IDOT had a meeting with SCOA/Siemens to go over the schedule in detail on Jan 18. Caltrans/IDOT schedulers are working closely with SCOA/Siemens and are satisfied with the schedule and we'll approve as noted. We are still on schedule to begin production in summer 2018.
- The next design review meetings are scheduled for the week of Feb 5 at Siemens Sacramento Facility. The discussion topics will include end doors, wheelchair lift, diagnostics, lighting, electrical systems. and interior.
- Caltrans is meeting with three joint powers authorities on Feb 5 to review all the samples for railcar interior.
- Based on the discussions we are having at the design review meeting, Caltrans has been developing and submitting Document Change Requests (DCR) to NGEN. Caltrans has submitted three DCRs in December and awaiting approval from NGEN. And two more (air brake valve control & Seat spacing/mounting locations) DCRs will be submitted by the end of January.
- Caltrans will be meeting with Amtrak Clearance and Inspection Director, Mr. Mike Trosino to review some of the truck and clearance related questions that came up during the truck design review meeting. The meeting is scheduled in Philadelphia on Feb 22.
- Momo Tamaoki will be attending the NGEN annual meeting on Feb 23 to provide updates on the railcar procurement at NGEN.

- Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement:

As of 1-30-18, the status of activities related to the "Charger" Locomotive procurement as provided by Illinois DOT:

- a). Of the 33-unit IDOT locomotive order, all 33 have been conditionally and finally accepted with Siemens.
- b) 110 mph hour testing in MI and the Chicago/St. Louis line completed and the reports were submitted to the FRA by Amtrak on Mon 1/29.
- c) 238.111a testing still needs to be completed on two Michigan corridors pending resolution of equipment and testing issues

- d) Twenty-One Chargers are currently in the Midwest.
- e) The locomotives stored at TTCI will ship to Chicago, as soon as storage space becomes available. Storage space in Chicago is being freed-up with the re-deployment of P-42 locomotives by Amtrak.
- f) WSDOT Units are operating in revenue service.
- g) Caltrans Locomotives are operating in revenue service.
- h) The Failure Review Board is established, with all JPE's included and Siemens. Amtrak representatives are participating in the meetings.
- i) Recurring bi-weekly warranty *meetings with the JPEs are also being held by Siemens.*

- Appointing a nominating committee – Eric Curtit:

Per the NGEC By-Laws:

*The Chair shall appoint, not less than two months prior to the Annual Meeting, a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) voting members of the Committee, which shall be responsible for presenting a list of the state representatives selected to serve as members of the Executive Board to be elected at the Annual Meeting. Following election of the Executive Board, the members of the Executive Board will elect the Officers of the Executive Board.*

*Newly elected Officers shall assume office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.*

On 12-19-17, Chairman Curtit announced that he has appointed Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, and Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT, to serve, along with Eric, (who will chair), on the nominating committee.

The committee will conclude its work and make a recommendation during the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-23-18.

- Revising the NGEC Educational two-pager:

As of 1-30-18, the NGEC two-pager educational document has been revised to reflect input received from the Finance and Administrative subcommittee and has been submitted to the NGEC Executive Board. The Board is reviewing the latest DRAFT and has until COB 2-8-18 to submit comments or suggested changes. Once approved by the Board, Missouri DOT graphics arts will finalize and do an initial printing for distribution at the NGEC Annual Meeting. Additional copies will be printed by AASHTO.

- 2018 NGEC's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting -2-23-18 – Steve Hewitt:

On 1-30-18, Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of the latest DRAFT agenda for the 2018 NGEC Annual Meeting. The agenda is close to final with most topics and speakers having been confirmed. Current registration for the meeting stands at 58.

#### **Technical Subcommittee:**

**Chair: Charles King, Amtrak**

**Vice Chair: George Hull, Amtrak**

### **The Technical subcommittee holds bi-weekly conference calls on Thursday's at 3:00pm Eastern**

During the month of January 2018, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference call, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of January 2018, included:

- Updating ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking.

The last update was provided on 11-2-17, by Paul Jamieson, SMC-Lavalin:

"The revenue service demonstration test train has accumulated 407.976 operating miles in ECP mode and 1,731,883 operating miles in Emulation mode. Total train mileage to date is 2,139,859 miles since the project started in June 2014. The train did not operate in ECP due to a damaged display screen which is not an ECP fault.

The test committee met on October 31, 2017. The test committee approved the FRA interim report and continuation of the revenue service demonstration at least until June of 2018. The FRA interim report will be submitted under the waiver.

The updated CFR draft language was presented to the RSAC ETF meeting on October 12, 2017. The draft language is currently under review by FRA counsel to incorporate into NPRM2. The RASC ETF will review the NPRM2 language prior to publication."

- Backgrounder educational document:

Copies remain available, and subcommittee members (core team and industry) who would like a hard copy (copies) should contact Steve at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) with the number requested and an address to send them to.

The NGENC Executive Board is in the process of finalizing an updated two-page educational document to better accentuate the Results produced by the efforts of the Committee.

The intent is to have the document printed and ready for distribution at the NGENC Annual Meeting in Washington, DC on 2-23-18.

- AWG Update:

The last update was provided by Melissa Shurland, FRA, on 11-2-17:

The FRA is working with Volpe and Oregon State University (OSU) on a white paper using prior research as the basis, and using knowledge of determinations on wide seating and wheelchair accessibility. Using existing research is saving funding for potential new research after completion of the white paper.

RVACC update as of 1-25-18:

Melissa Shurland informed the subcommittee that a NPRM for the "Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles; Rail Vehicles" will be published sometime in May 2018. Melissa Shurland forwarded a link to the US Access Board agenda. [unified agenda](#).

- Document Control Update as of 1-25-18:

On 1-25-18, Michael Burshtin, who is the interim Revision Control Coordinator replacing Tammy Krause, who left Amtrak in December 2017, provided the following update:

Three single-level Document Change Requests have been submitted since the end of January and have been sent to the appropriate technical workgroups. One has been approved with revisions by its workgroup, and the other two are expected to complete the review process by the end of next week (committee member overseas travel has slowed the process). Michael has been advised that approximately three more single-level DCRs are expected to be submitted next week.

Please send your DCR forms to [burshtm@amtrak.com](mailto:burshtm@amtrak.com) for processing. I can also be reached at 215-349-1776.

Procurement Updates:

- Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement: Progress reports from the lead state on the PRIIA multi-state locomotive procurement is provided on each technical subcommittee call.

Please see the report provided on 1-30-18 and included in this report under the Executive Board section.

- Multi-State Car Procurement - Caltrans (Lead State):

Please see the report provided on 1-30-18 and included in this report under the Executive Board section.

- Progress Report: The Future of Electronics on Trains Working Group:

On 12-14-17, Working Group Chair, Tom Sisler, provided the following update:

1. OSG made a presentation on their Screenex product line.
  - a. Sandwich screen between layers of glass to make use of glass structures such as windows and windscreens. 8 mm air gap needed. Can be viewable on both sides and can have touchscreen capability.
  - b. Protected from vandalism and easy to clean.
  - c. Mounting is simplified – window or windscreen requires a connector. Adds 2.5 kg per screen.
  - d. Can be integrated with Passenger Information systems provided by others via the car network.
  - e. Can be mounted in side windows and are working on a US installation which will meet FRA requirements. Service proven overseas.
2. Working with Melissa Shurland to get Sharma and/or University of Nebraska to assist committee with technical issues.
3. Other actions still being worked on.

The next update report to the Technical subcommittee is scheduled for 2-8-18.

- AAR Updates:

TAG committee on LED Headlights:

*On 1-11-18, Tarek Omar, FRA, provided the following update on the LED Headlights Testing as received from the vendor:*

- *All samples have been received at the lab.*
- *Those that require a resistor or some special treatment to achieve the “dim” setting have been worked out with the supplier.*
- *Tests have been completed on several samples.*
- *The next update report should contain some testing photos and testing results.*

DEF-UREA Update:

The last update on DEF-UREA was provided on 11-2-17:

- a) Locomotives have been in operation in five different states and DEF supply contracts are in place
- b) Amtrak has established processes for DEF procurement and handling.
- c) Midwest fill points are currently Chicago and Milwaukee. Truck based delivery is in place. Contracts are in place. Supply is going well, no problems reported.
- d) WSDOT supply chain is set up and ready to run.

- e) Fill point is set up in Oakland for Caltrans. The contracts are in place to add another fill point in LA. Caltrans has placed a storage container at the site in Oakland and is doing some initial research into a more permanent storage container/building.
- f) Plan is to gather usage data from the Chargers for next year and re-evaluate supply once we have more data.

#### **The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee**

**Chair: Tim Ziethen, Amtrak**

**Vice Chair: Brent Thompson, Washington State DOT**

**Vice Chair: Ray Hessinger, New York State DOT**

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee holds a conference call every four weeks on Wednesdays at 3:00pm Eastern.**

During the Month of January 2018, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met on 1-10-18. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of January include:

- Review of the Grant Agreement SOW and Budget as suggested by Amtrak Grants:

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- Preparing the NGEN Grant Quarterly Report to the FRA:

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#### **The 514 Subcommittee:**

**Chair: Brian Beeler II – NNEPRA (Maine DOT)**

**Vice Chair: Jonathan Dees - NCDOT**

As of 1-30-18, the move of 514 to SAIPRC is underway with the NGEC Executive Board having taken its required action. The final step is for the Grants offices of Amtrak and FRA to approve the SOW revisions which effectuate the move.

**NGEC Specification Review Panel(s):**

**For each PRIIA NGEC specification a Review Panel has been established to compare the specification (as developed by the Technical subcommittee) against a requirements document previously adopted by the Executive Board. As the Review Panel completes its work, it prepares a report with recommendations. This report is submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration. Once accepted by the Board, the specification is subsequently formally adopted by the Executive Board. As part of the Document Control process, any proposed revisions to a PRIIA NGEC specification must go through the Review Panel process as well. At such times, the Review Panel, previously established for a specification, is re-convened by the Executive Board chair.**

In November 2017, the NGEC Single Level Car Specification Review Panel met on the 7<sup>th</sup> and finalized and approved the Review Panel Report (prepared by consultant Larry Salci) and its recommendations to accept the Weight Change DCR as approved previously by the NGEC Technical subcommittee (11-2-17). The Report was subsequently submitted to the NGEC Executive Board for its review and consideration. On 11-21-17, the NGEC Executive Board accepted the Review Panel Report and its recommendations and adopted the Weight Change DCR as previously approved by the NGEC Technical subcommittee.

In January 2018, the Review Panels of the NGEC did not meet.