



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: February 28, 2015

Submitted by: Steven J Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGEC Support Services

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: Mario Bergeron, Amtrak

Secretary: Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT

Treasurer: Darrell Smith, Amtrak

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

During the month of February, 2015, the Executive Board met twice – once via conference call on February 3rd and once in-person at the 5th Annual NGEC Meeting held on February 20, 2015. Key decisions and action items from the month of February, 2015 include:

- On February 20, 2015, the NGEC Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Treasurer Darrell Smith.
- The revised Statement of Work and Budget for a no-cost grant agreement extension through 9-30-17 was approved.
- Resulting action: Darrell Smith will submit it to the Amtrak Grants office. They will work with FRA grants people to get it finalized and executed. Darrell will keep the Board apprised as this effort progresses.

- It was agreed that members of the Board will submit suggestions for naming the bi-level cars and including the name on the safety seat card. Suggestions are to be sent to Steve Hewitt by COB on March 11, 2015 for Board discussion on March 17, 2015. Steve Hewitt will also reach out to Stan Hunter to better clarify/frame the request.
- A letter from the states to FRA, and the House and Senate, requesting funding for the NGEC similar to that provided to other USDOT modes for establishing equipment standards, was approved by the NGEC state members and signed by Chairman Curtit. It will now be sent by the Chair on behalf of the state members of the NGEC.
- The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee was tasked with looking into the question of the NGEC's ability to accept money and participate in the receipt of costs.
- The March 3rd bi-weekly conference call was canceled – the next call will be March 17th.
- On February 3, 2015 – the Executive Board adopted the NGEC Bylaws as updated by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee.
- An updated “backgrounder” educational document was prepared by Steve Hewitt, finalized and printed by AASHTO, and distributed to all those present at the NGEC Annual Meeting. Copies remain available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at shwitt109@aol.com with the number of copies requested and a mailing address.

Technical Subcommittee:

Chair: Mario Bergeron, Amtrak

Vice Chair: Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak

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

During the month of February, 2015, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 12th. Key decisions and action items for the month of February included:

- RVAAC: The RVAAC was to meet as a full committee on February 26-27 at the Access Board Head Quarters to review the 4 subcommittee guidance documents. Melissa Shurland gave an update at the NGEC Annual Meeting on February 20, 2015, and will provide a more in depth presentation to the Technical subcommittee following the RVACC meeting. Steve Hewitt will keep it as a future action item. A copy of the RVAAC presentation has been distributed to all Technical subcommittee members and is posted on the website.
- Backgrounder educational document: With changes to the NGEC organizational structure at the October 24th Fall Meeting, the Backgrounder has been updated. It was distributed at the NGEC Annual Meeting on February 20, 2015, and is now available upon request.
- DEF Working Group: On February 12, 2015, Chairman Bergeron formally established the DEF Working Group on today's call and named Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, as its chair. Steve Hewitt provided Jennifer with the list of members and Jennifer will set a schedule and timeline for Working Group activities. Updates on the DEF Working Group activities will be a Technical subcommittee bi-weekly call standing agenda item.
- Progress Report : Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3rd Rail) Specification development:

On February 12, 2015, Jack Madden, NYSDOT provided the following progress report to the Technical subcommittee:

“The Locomotive Working Group had its last conference call on Thursday 5 February. The next Working Group call will be on Thursday 19 February.

The Environmental, Mechanical/Carbody and VTI Teams have all met via conference call since the last TSC call on 29 January. The Teams continue to work on the Chapters for which they are responsible and the members are exchanging comments via email. The General and the Cab & Customer Amenities Teams have not met in the intervening time, but their next calls are on Tuesday 17 February.

We have had additional people volunteer to join the Locomotive Working Group, so our membership now is about 30.”

- On February 12, 2015, Art Peterson, for IDOT, provided the following update on the progress of the diesel-electric locomotive procurement:
 - “a) Invoice Milestone ‘F’ (major purchase orders) is being processed for payment and the invoice for Milestone ‘G’ is anticipated next.
 - b) Follow-up action items to close IDR are nearing closure.
 - c) Week #1 for Final Design review (FDR), in Seattle, is underway this week. Week #1 is covering electrical systems, control systems, Head End Power (HEP), safety systems (PTC, XITCS, event recorder and others) and overall specification and regulatory compliance. Week #2 (week of March 1) will cover carbody structural design, trucks and diesel engine. Week #3 (week of March 16) will cover the rest of locomotive systems, Safety and hazards analysis, reliability and maintainability.
 - d) The FDR process is projected to generate about 25 more RFCs (request for clarification). From these, possibly a few more document change requests (DCRs) may be generated.
 - e) At present, six draft DCRs are being processed (including DCR for the 340 wheel profile). Rich Stegner will contact Tammy Krause, next week, to coordinate.
 - f) Amtrak has reconfirmed that the APTA 340 profile, per APTA document PR-M-S-015-06 (figure B.8) is to be used for the wheel profile for simulations and vehicle qualification.
 - g) The locomotive weight is holding steady at 270,000 lbs (+/-) and the calculated P2 force is within specified limits.”

The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee

Chair: Darrell Smith, Amtrak CFO

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.

Key decisions and action items from the February, 2015 (11th) conference call meeting of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee included:

- Developing a DRAFT SOW for a no-cost Grant Extension through 9-30-17:
 The FASC approved the revised SOW on 1-14-15.
 The Board reviewed and discussed the SOW, as approved by the FASC and a final DRAFT was distributed and was approved by the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting – February 20, 2015.
- Revision/updating NGEC By-Laws: On February 3, 2015, the Executive Board adopted the revised/updated Bylaws as presented.
- Developing Funding Option recommendations for continuing the NGEC:
 Darrell Smith put together a one page summary of items/concepts discussed to date, to help form the basis for the Board discussion at the Annual Meeting. The Board was presented with this one pager and a discussion took place at the Annual meeting.

- Treasurer's report and FASC update presentation for the Annual Meeting:

It was agreed that FASC members will have until COB on Thursday 2-12-15 to submit any comments they may have on the DRAFT presentation prepared by Darrell Smith. At that point, Darrell will finalize the presentation and send it to Steve Hewitt for the Annual Meeting. The presentation was given at the Annual meeting, and the Board accepted the Treasurer's report as submitted.

At the October 24th, 2014 NGEC Executive Board Fall Meeting, the Section 209/305 Working Group was formally established as a Subcommittee of the NGEC – known as the 514 Subcommittee. The group is chaired by Ron Pate, Washington State DOT and meets on a bi-weekly basis. Status updates are provided to the Board on its bi-weekly calls.

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Ron Pate, Washington State DOT

The 514 Subcommittee holds bi-weekly conference calls on Mondays at 4:00PM Eastern.

During the NGEC Annual Meeting, 514 Chairman Ron Pate provided the following update:

- Capital equipment is a significant piece – and the 305-209 was established to capitalize on the expertise of the equipment specialists involved with both groups. Utilizing the collaborative structure and procedures of the 305 NGEC Committee, the 305/209 effort was combined into the 514 Subcommittee under the oversight of the NGEC.

The Subcommittee has made some significant progress – overcoming a number of hurdles and developing good working relationships.

In the fall, the CIP was approved by the Subcommittee – a big step forward.

The Subcommittee developed a reconciliation process spearheaded by the efforts of New York State, and the process was agreed to among the states. The process is primarily one which mirrors what states have in their STIPS.

The 514 Subcommittee has been prioritizing its next steps. Having a priority list will provide a better opportunity to get it done more quickly.

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 particular specification is re-convened by the Executive Board chair.

In February, 2015, the Review Panels were inactive.