



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: February 28, 2017

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 2017, the Executive Board met once – in person -at the NGEC's 7th Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on February 24th at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the Annual Meeting included:

- Over 70 NGEC members attended and participated in the Annual Meeting.
- Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair of the NGEC Executive Board presented the annual Chairman's report. In the report, Mr. Curtit provided an overview on the first 7 years of the Committee which was organized in January 2010, highlighted the results produced throughout the years, discussed the NGEC of today, and provided a look ahead to the future.

- Progress Reports were provided by the three NGEC Standing subcommittees: the Technical subcommittee, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee, and the 514 Capital Equipment Committee
- The Treasurer's Report was provided by Darrell Smith, Amtrak – NGEC Treasurer, who detailed the current financial status of the NGEC as well as an overview of the new federal funding Grant Agreement executed in October with an effective date of 10-1-17 through 9-30-19.
- The Executive Board unanimously accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented.
- The Technical subcommittee update was provided by NGEC Vice Chair Mario Bergeron, Amtrak (also Chair of the Technical subcommittee). Mario provide a detailed overview of the activities of the subcommittee including specification review, document management; and the processes and procedures that are in place to advance technology and continuously update and maintain the NGEC specifications to keep them current.
- Attendees received progress reports on many NGEC activities taking place within the Technical subcommittee including reports from the Accessibility Working Group; the AAR Equipment Committee on Passenger Equipment Performance Specification: a report on Passenger ECP Brake Equipment, and a presentation by Technical subcommittee Vice Chair Dale Engelhardt, on the future of electronics on trains.
- Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA, for Maine DOT, and Chair of the 514 Capital Equipment subcommittee provided an overview of its accomplishments including the development of Amtrak's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2017-2021 and a look ahead to next steps which will include a "major" update to the CIP.
- An update on the status of the Mid-West States Section 6 efforts was provided by Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT, who reported that the states are working well together in a collaborative way. A fleet manager has been hired by lead state Illinois DOT; and an oversight board has been established. The fleet manager will report to this board. Negotiations are ongoing with Amtrak on the lease program for equipment; and strategies are being developed for getting the new equipment into service.
- A Status Update presentation on the multi-state Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement was also provided with John Oimoen, IDOT, and Dave Ward, Siemens, presenting. Tremendous progress has been made. To date, thirteen of the Chargers have been delivered with more waiting in Sacramento to be delivered. Ten of the Chargers have already achieved the burn test and are waiting and ready to go into service.
- Attendees also heard from Michael Lestingi and Beth Nachreiner, FRA, who provided a brief overview of planning requirements that were included in the FAST Act which identify the new accounting structure within Amtrak, and how it is now required to report and plan revenue in its service lines. Michael and Beth also reported on the positive accomplishments of the NGEC as it approaches the end of its first decade and extended FRA's thanks to the NGEC and those involved in the current procurement, adding that the FRA looks forward to the NGEC continuing towards fulfilling the goals that were set out in PRIIA and continued in the FAST Act.
- Robert Ripperger, Amtrak Government Affairs, also briefed the attendees on the state of Amtrak and provided an overview of its new organizational structure.
- Chairman Curtit provided some closing remarks and next steps. He talked about the challenges faced by the states through the development of specifications, through the procurement process, and on to getting the equipment into revenue service. He noted that this is not something that states normally encounter since most states do not, historically, own equipment.

Eric stressed the need for an effort to develop lessons learned, and expertise gained. He called for the creation of a standalone document that is a record of what went on or what we need, as a sort of guidebook for the future...we need to tackle issues that can level the playing field and define what goes into a procurement and getting equipment into revenue service."

Ultimately, it was agreed that a task force will be established to take on the tasks described by the Chair. Several states (IDOT and WSDOT) offered to serve as did Amtrak and FRA. On the next NGEC Executive Board conference call, 3-14-17, the task force will be formally established and given its charge. The anticipated timeline for completion of the standalone document is by the next NGEC Annual Meeting (February 2018).

Note: All formal presentations from the Annual Meeting are available on the NGEN website at:
www.ngec305.org

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 2017, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 9th and participated in the NGEN 7th Annual Meeting on February 24th in Washington, DC. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February, 2017, included:

- **Updating ECP Standards:** This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking – it is anticipated that status updates will take place on every other call.

Update provided on 2-9-17:

The ECP Train entered the revenue service demonstration phase on Monday, February 6, 2017. The ECP Train is operating from Philadelphia to Harrisburg to New York to Philadelphia daily.

The interoperability test, static test and dynamic test reports were formally submitted to the FRA and the safety board took no exceptions to the train entering the revenue service demonstration phase. The FRA test monitors were supportive of the request to the safety board.

The revenue service demonstration phase is a major milestone for the project.

- Backgrounder educational document: The new educational document has been printed remains available, by request, through Steve Hewitt. It was also distributed to all attendees at the NGEN Annual Meeting on 2-24-17.
- AWG Update: Melissa Shurland, FRA, made a presentation of the FRA/Oregon State University report: Inclusive Universal Design Guidelines for HSR Passenger Cars: Safety and Feasibility Review of Accessibility. The full report and the PowerPoint presentation were distributed prior to today's call. Comments on the report were due to Melissa Shurland by 1-12-17.

On 2-9-17, Melissa Shurland reported that she had received one set of comments and they were being reviewed and considered for possible inclusion in the report. After some discussion, it was agreed that, once the review is complete, and a decision on whether to include the comments in the report is made, Melissa will inform Steve Hewitt and Chairman Bergeron, and a decision will be made to either provide a summary of the changes on a subcommittee call, or wait until the Annual Meeting and include this as a part of the overall presentation of the Accessibility report.

Melissa Shurland reported that the comments received had to do with maneuverability of the 64-inch scooter. The comments include diagrams and a request that there be a 3D mock up for clarity. Once these comments are incorporated into the report, Melissa will send a revised report to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the subcommittee members.

Melissa was unavailable for the NGEN Annual Meeting, but her presentation is available on the website at www.ngec305.org.

- Document Control Update as of 2-9 -17:

Tammy Krause provided Rich Stegner with the directions for him to close out the locomotive DCRs and send them to her. Once received, Tammy will distribute them to the entire technical subcommittee for comment.

Tammy has received the member lists for the Electrical, Digital train Line and Interior Working Groups. She is waiting on the remaining groups to provide their members list.

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. As of 2-9-17, the status update provided from IDOT included:
 - JPEs continue to work with Siemens on schedule and conduct weekly conference calls.
 - Locomotive 4604 that was s tested on the North-East Corridor and now is in Chicago. Training of employees has started taking place on the unit.
 - As of now, successful 500-mile conditional acceptance tests have been completed on IDOT units: 4601, 4602, 4603, 4604, 4605, 4606, 4607 4608, 4609 & 4610.
 - All locomotives will next ship to Chicago, pending IDOT and Amtrak schedule agreement.
 - Maintenance demonstrations are going well at Siemens and are about 80% complete and will conclude next week.
 - IDOT and Amtrak now have signed agreements for storage, testing and commissioning the locomotives. Test insurance premiums have been paid.
 - IDOT locomotive 4611 has been sent to WSDOT for 238.111(b) and WSDOT required 213.345 testing on the Cascades route. WSDOT will conduct the 238.111(b) test. Other JPEs are working with Amtrak for 238.111(a) test plans. Testing on the NW corridor should be starting in the next week or so.
 - JPEs are working with Siemens for Wi-Tronix application, as required by Amtrak. The first unit has been installed. The FMI is being written and reviewed. Siemens progress looks good so far.
 - All Document Change Requests (DCR) have been reviewed and approved with no issues. Rich Stegner is in contact with Tammy Krause for next steps for revising the specification.
 - As-Built weights have been reported at a bit less than 267, 000 lbs (+/-). This is a little bit better than previously estimated. The calculated P2 force is within specified limits.
 - IDOT and its' Fleet Manager Contractor now have a signed agreement in place for on-going support.

- Bi-Level Car Procurement: As Caltrans and IDOT are working out some contract issues with the contractor there will be nothing to report for now. As this is expected to be the status for a while, on the last call (1-12-17) Chairman Bergeron asked that this item be removed from the bi-weekly agenda until such time that Caltrans feels that it has an update to provide to the subcommittee. Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, will contact Steve Hewitt and the Chair when there will be something to report and an agenda item will be added to the subsequent conference call.

- AAR Committee Update - Jeff Gordon provided a complete overview and update during the NGEC Annual Meeting – 2-24-17 – the presentation can be found at www.ngec305.org.

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.

During the Month of February 2017, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) met on 2-8-17, vis conference call, and participated in the NGEC 7th Annual Meeting held on 2-24-17 in Washington, DC. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February, 2017, included:

- Legislative Outreach Task Force – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEN: Each state member and Amtrak is to work with its Government Affairs office and ask that the two-pager (currently being finalized) be included in its package during Hill visits to keep the NGEN on Congress' radar even though we are not yet ready to ask for more money.

A "regular update/report card/dash board" will be developed through the NGEN Legislative Task Force with the intent that it be provided to Congress through the states and Amtrak Government Affairs Offices as a means of continuing the outreach and education on the activities of the NGEN.

The first such update was the "two-page" educational document being finalized for Executive Board approval.

Status: The education and outreach document has been printed and is available upon request through Steve Hewitt. Board members have each received 2 copies. Additional copies were provided to all attendees at the NGEN Annual Meeting on 2-24-17 in Washington, DC. Distribution has been proceeding well with over 300 copies having been distributed. Additional printed copies have been ordered through AASHTO.

- Preparing the Treasurer's Report and the FASC update presentation for the NGEN Annual Meeting: On 2-8-17, Darrell Smith presented the DRAFT Treasurer's Report and the FASC update presentation for review by FASC members. On 2-8-17 it was approved by the FASC, and on 2-24-17 Chairman Smith presented the both reports at the Annual Meeting. The NGEN Executive Board unanimously accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented.

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Brian Beeler II – NNEPRA (Maine DOT)
Vice Chair: Jonathan Dees - NCDOT

The 514 Subcommittee holds a monthly conference call on Mondays at 4:00PM Eastern.

In February, the subcommittee met on 2-13-17 and Chairman Brian Beeler II, provided a detailed update during the NGEN Annual Meeting on 2-24-17.

Please see the presentation by accessing it online at www.ngec305.org or go to the NGEN Executive Board Minutes of the meeting also posted on line.

Some highlights included an overview of the subcommittee's accomplishments since its establishment, including the development of Amtrak's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2017-2021, and a look ahead to next steps which will include a "major" update to the CIP.

NGEN Specification Review Panel(s):

For each PRIIA NGEN 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 NGEN 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 February, 2017, the Review Panels did not meet.