



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: February 28, 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 February 2018, the Executive Board met on the 13th, via conference call and held the 8th NGEC Annual meeting in Washington, DC on 2-23-18.

The 8th NGEC Annual Meeting took place in Washington, DC at the Washington Court Hotel on 2-23-18 with 66 members of the states, Amtrak, FRA and industry present. Updates from FRA and Amtrak were provided, as were updates from the Chairman; the Treasurer and Finance and Administrative subcommittee; the Technical subcommittee; the Accessibility Working Group and the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group. Additionally, those in attendance were given update presentations on the two multi-state passenger rail equipment procurements and on the status of the Mid-West Section 6 planning effort. Full DRAFT minutes of the meeting are available on the NGEC website www.ngec305.org as are all the presentations.

Some highlights, decisions and actions from the Annual meeting and throughout the month of February 2018:

- **Executive Board:**

On 2-23-18, the NGEN states re-elected all current state representatives to serve new two-year terms on the NGEN Executive Board effective 2-23-18 through the NGEN Annual Meeting to be held in February 2020.

On 2-23-18, the newly formed NGEN Executive Board voted unanimously to re-elect its officers to new two-year terms of office effective 2-23-18 through the 2020 NGEN Annual Meeting to be held in February of that year.

NGEN Executive Board and Officers through February 2020:

Officers:

Chairman - Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT

Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov – 573 751 7476 cell - 573 291 5394

Vice Chair - Charles King, Amtrak

Charles.king@amtrak.com – 302 429-6386 - 904 378-6095 (cell)

Secretary – Ray Hessinger

raymond.hessinger@dot.ny.gov – 518 457-8075

Treasurer: Tim Ziethen, Amtrak

Ziethet@amtrak.com - 302 661-6988 (W) 312 636-0539 (M)

Members:

Federal Railroad Administration:

Representative: **Michael Lestingi**

Michael.Lestingi@dot.gov

Iowa Department of Transportation

Representative: **Amanda Martin**

amanda.martin@iowadot.us

Illinois Department of Transportation

Representative: **John Oimoen**

John.oimoen@illinois.gov

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Representative: **Allan Paul**

hapaul@ncdot.gov – 919 707-4712

Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Representative: **John Jay Rosacker** - 405 521-4164

jrosacker@odot.org

Washington Department of Transportation

Representative: **Ron Pate**

pater@wsdot.wa.gov – 360 705-7950 cell- 360 878-7706

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Representative: **Arun Rao**

Arun.rao@dot.wi.gov

Michigan Department of Transportation

Representative: **Tim Hoeffner**

Hoeffnert@michigan.gov -517 373-6672

California Department of Transportation

Representative: **Momoko Tamaoki**

Momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov

Oregon Department of Transportation

Representative: **Michael Jenkins**

Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us

Maine Department of Transportation

Representative: **NNEPRA - Brian Beeler II**

brian@nnepra.com – c. 207 899-6089 p.207-780-1000 ext. 102

- **Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) Progress Report/Treasurer's Report as of 2-23-18:**

The Two-page educational outreach document was approved by the FASC and sent to the NGEC executive Board. The Board made some additional revisions, and on 2-23-18 at the NGEC Annual Meeting the new two-pager was released and is available in hard copy upon request and/or electronically – contact Steve Hewitt for copies.

In 2017, the NGEC By-Laws annual review was conducted by the FASC and approved on 12-19-18 by the NGEC Executive Board. Changes made included minor edits and corrections and reflected revisions to accommodate the move of the responsibilities of the 514 subcommittee to SAIPRC.

The FASC conducted a review of the NGEC Grant Agreement SOW and budget and recommended change that would be consistent with the 514-subcommittee's move to SAIPRC and would allow for the NGEC to have the flexibility to contract with an outside consultant to serve as Document Control Manager or, as is currently the case, have those responsibilities handled in-house by Amtrak. The NGEC Executive Board has approved these changes, and the Amtrak Grants office submitted on 2-7-18 an amended form with the changes, to FRA Grants for its review and action.

The NGEC Treasurer's Report was presented to the Executive Board and NGEC members during the Annual Meeting on 2-23-18.

The report is available on line at the NGEC website – www.ngec305.org and has been distributed via email.

On 2-23-18, the Treasurer's Report was formally accepted as presented, by a vote of the NGEC Executive Board.

- **Technical subcommittee progress report as of 2-23-18:**

Functions of the Technical subcommittee:

- Will develop specifications as requested by the Executive Board.
- Each specification is assigned a Lead to coordinate the process.
- Majority of spec writing done by members of the 6 permanent working groups with support from a technical writer.

2017 Highlights:

- Passenger Car Weight Change Approval
- ECP Brake Test Train reached over 400k miles
- Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification Rev B Approved
- Chargers in Service in Chicago, Seattle & Oakland
- Future Electronics on Trains Working Group Created and Merged with the DTL Working Group

2018 Projects:

- Support Multi-State Car Procurement
- Reissue revised Bi-Level PRIIA Spec
- Support Current Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement and update the PRIAA Spec
- Revise the Single Level PRIAA Spec

How to Improve:

- Speed of the DCR process
- Reach Out to APTA/AAR etc.

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

As of 2-13-18, 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 were 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 NGEC. Caltrans has submitted three DCRs in December and awaiting approval from NGEC. 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.

On 2-23-18, Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, and Armin Kick, Siemens industry provided a full update on the procurement as well as details on the equipment. The presentation has been distributed and can be found on the NGEC website at www.ngec305.org.

- Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement:

As of 2-13-18, 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.

On 2-23-18, John Oimoen, IDOT and Ray Ginnell, Siemens industry, provided a full update on the Chargers as they have entered into service and provided details on the equipment. The presentation has been distributed and can be found on the NGEC website at www.ngec305.org.

Mid-West Section 6 Planning Effort:

- On-going process – focused efforts by the states, the Fleet Manager and the FRA are essential
- Mechanism for receiving funds was critical

- Section 6 Plan will continue to evolve

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 February 2018, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 8th and participated in the NGEN Annual meeting on 2-23-18 with a full year's progress report presented.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February 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:

The new two-pager has been published and released during the NGEN Annual Meeting (2-23-18). Copies are available by request by contacting Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

- AWG Update:

Melissa Shurland, FRA provided an update on the activities of the Accessibility Working Group and on the RVACC effort during the NGEN Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on line on the NGEN website at www.ngec305.org

- Document Control Update as of 2-8-18:

On 2-8-18, Michael Burshtin, Amtrak, provided the following Document Control Update:

I have received three single-level Document Change Requests since the end of December, which I have sent to the appropriate workgroups. DCR-003-0158 has been approved with revisions by its workgroup. The other two (DCR-003-0156 and 0157) have now completed the review process by the Structural workgroup (committee member overseas travel has slowed the process). However, as these two DCRs, while found generally acceptable, concerned material substitutions across the specifications, or a carbody component structural testing item, at this workgroup's request I have sent the appropriate DCR(s) to the other workgroups for their agreement, before I complete the processing of these two DCRs.

Please send your DCR forms to 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 2-13-18 and included in this report under the Executive Board section, and see the complete presentation from the 2-23-18 NGEN Annual Meeting at www.ngec305.org

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

Please see the report provided on 2-13-18 and included in this report under the Executive Board section, and see the complete presentation from the 2-23-18 NGEN Annual Meeting at www.ngec305.org

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

Working Group Chair, Tom Sisler, provided the following update on 2-8-18:

The last meeting was a working session where we spent an hour expanding the outline of the requirements specification. Will continue next week.

- AAR Updates:

TAG committee on LED Headlights:

On 2-8-18, Tarek Omar, FRA, provided an update that he received from the TAG committee as of 1-31-18. The team has almost finished going through the data. They are a bit away from finishing the report. The data are not complete relative to all current measures.

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 (FASC) holds a conference call every four weeks on Wednesdays at 3:00pm Eastern.

During the Month of February 2018, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met on 2-7-18 and participated in the NGEN Annual meeting on 2-23-18 with a full year's progress report and the Treasurer's Report being presented.

The presentation is available on the website at www.ngec305.org

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February include:

The Grant Agreement SOW revisions as approved by the Executive Board were submitted by Amtrak Grants to FRA Grants on 2-7-18. A response is anticipated soon.

The FASC approved the Annual Meeting presentation prepared by FASC Chair and NGEC Treasurer Tim Ziethen which included a progress report on the FASC activities over the past year, and the Treasurer's Report on the NGEC Budget and Finances.

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Brian Beeler II – NNEPRA (Maine DOT)

Vice Chair: Jonathan Dees - NCDOT

As of 2-28-18, 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 finalize and execute 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 7th 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 February 2018, the Review Panels of the NGEC did not meet.