



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: February 29, 2016

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, 2016, the Executive Board met twice –via conference call - on the 2nd, and on February 19, the Executive Board convened the 6th Annual Meeting of the NGEC in Washington, DC.

Key decisions and action items from the month of February, 2016 included:

- 514 Subcommittee update: The Policy Memo from the NGEC to SAIPRC (previously approved by the 514 subcommittee) was approved for Chairman Curtit's signature and its transmittal to the SAIPRC on 2-2-16.
- Bi-Level Car Procurement status as of February 19: Nippon Sharyo continues the process of revising the schedule; the car shell re-design continues.

- Diesel-electric Locomotive Procurement status as of February 19, 2016: The multi-state locomotive procurement continues to progress well and, although the timeline has showed some slippage, it currently remains on schedule.
- GAO Study: Members of the GAO project team have begun to write the DRAFT report. It is anticipated that it will be submitted to the agencies for review sometime in April, 2016.
- Adoption of the Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3rd Rail) specification – On 2-2-16, the Executive Board accepted the Locomotive Review Panel Report and its recommendations, and formally adopted the Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Locomotive specification. It is the 6th PRIIA Technical specification developed, and adopted by the NGEC.
- 2016 NGEC Annual Meeting: The NGEC's 2016 Annual Meeting took place on 2-19-16 at the Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill with over 70 members in attendance.

Highlights of decisions and actions taken at the Annual Meeting include:

- The Treasurer's report, presented by Darrell Smith, which showed that the NGEC continues to manage its limited funding resources efficiently, and effectively, and remains under budget. The Treasurer's Report was formally accepted by the Board, by acclamation at the Annual Meeting.
- The Board formally adopted revisions to the NGEC By-laws and Operating Procedures as proposed and presented to the Board on January 18, 2016, by the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee. The By-law revisions included the following:

The incorporation of changes to PRIIA Section 305 included in the FAST ACT by; adding labor as a member, and removing the sections in the By-laws that related to the NGEC's ability to incorporate or form another type of business structure.

The formal inclusion of the 514 subcommittee, and its responsibilities and procedures, in the By-laws as a third standing subcommittee (along with the Technical subcommittee and the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee).

Correction of typos and general spelling and/or punctuation found within the document.

- Shortly after the Annual meeting, Steve Hewitt will finalize the document, and insert the date of adoption on the cover page of the By-laws and Operating Procedures, as approved on 2-19-16. The document will then be distributed to the NGEC Executive Board members, and to AASHTO for posting to the website.
- The Executive Board State members re-elected all current State members to new two year terms on the Board. The two year terms are effective immediately and run through the Annual Meeting to be held in February, 2018.

With the re-election of the State members, and the continued service of the Amtrak and FRA members, as of 2-19-16 the NGEC Executive Board members are:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT
 Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT
 John Oimoen, IDOT
 Michael Jenkins, Oregon DOT
 Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT
 Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA, for Maine DOT
 Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT
 Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT
 Ron Pate, WSDOT
 Bruce Roberts, Caltrans
 Paul Worley, NCDOT
 John Jay Rosacker, Oklahoma DOT
 Mario Bergeron, Amtrak
 Darrell Smith, Amtrak

Michael Lestingi, FRA

- The newly elected Executive Board, subsequently, re-elected the current slate of officers to serve new two year terms of office effective immediately and to run through the Annual Meeting to be held in February, 2018.
- The NGEC Executive Board officers are:

Chair: Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT

Vice Chair: Mario Bergeron, Amtrak

Treasurer: Darrell Smith, Amtrak

Secretary: Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT

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, 2016, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call on the 11. Key decisions and action items for the month of February, 2016, included:

- RVAAC: RVAAC presented its recommendations for improved access on rail vehicles to the Access Board on July 29, 2015. Melissa will keep the Tech SC apprised as deliberations conclude. There is a backlog in rulemaking projects, and so it was not decided how and when to proceed with those recommendations. Anyone who would like the link to the RVAAC report should contact Melissa Shurland, at Melissa.shurland@dot.gov. On February 19, 2016, at the NGEC Annual Meeting, Melissa provided an update presentation to NGEC members. The presentation can be found on the NGEC website.
- Accessibility Working Group Update: Progress continues on the restroom drawings. On 12-17-15, Melissa Shurland reported that the Accessibility Working Group had a meeting during the week with participants from Amtrak, FRA, manufacturers and the Access Board, to review Oregon State University's (OSU) preliminary work on accessibility restrooms. Good feedback was received and OSU will go back and incorporate the comments received accordingly. Melissa Shurland provided a full status report at the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-19-16. The presentation is available on the NGEC website.
- The PRIIA Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Passenger Locomotive Technical Specification adoption: On January 28, 2016, Larry Salci reported that he had completed his review of the specification and the Review Panel met earlier on the 28th and approved the report and its recommendations. It was submitted (1-29-16) to the Executive Board for its consideration on 2-2-16. On that date, the Executive Board adopted the specification as the 6th PRIIA vehicle specification. On 2-19-16, at the Annual Meeting, the signature page was signed by Board Chairman Eric Curtit and Technical subcommittee chair Mario Bergeron. It is now being formatted by the NGEC technical writer for posting to the website (restricted access).
- Backgrounder educational document: The 2015 version of the "Backgrounder" remains available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com if you want to receive "Backgrounders". A new educational "two pager" has been developed by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee and should be approved in the near future by the NGEC executive Board. Once approved it will be available for NGEC members use.
- DEF Working Group: Progress continues to made, with ongoing updates provided to the Technical subcommittee bi-weekly. A formal status presentation was given by IDOT during the NGEC Annual Meeting on February 19, 2016. The presentation is available on the NGEC website.
- Diesel- Electric Locomotive procurement update as of 2-11-16 (provided by IDOT):

- All open invoices for project milestones have been paid by IDOT.
- Midwest states reached an agreement on a way to move forward with Amtrak on the operator agreement. John Oimoen and Mario Bergeron need to talk and then if Amtrak is in agreement with our path forward I can start meeting with Amtrak- lot to accomplish in the next 6-9 months.
- JPEs are reviewing Siemens' revised schedule Rev I, which now indicates approx. 13 calendar day slip for the first 11 locomotives. The overall schedule for delivery of the last locomotive is still within the ARRA funding window. IDOT is monitoring schedule closely and a comprehensive schedule review meeting is planned at Siemens Factory by IDOT/Caltrans & WSDOT next week.
- All of the vendor factory FAIs are complete. The remaining FAIs will take place at Siemens' factory in Sacramento.
- The first monthly QA review was held on February 10th at Siemens factory in Sacramento.
- The carbody compression and other structural tests will take place February 16, 17, & 25th.
- DCR work with Camren Cordell will begin today and the first of the 15 DCRs will be sent to Tammy Krause as they are completed.
- Follow up Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) continue working on an on-going basis for the action items from the AAR Standard vehicle qualification testing and acceptance. AAR's David Cacovic is the facilitator.
- The locomotive weight was reported in January 2016, at 271,671 lbs (+/-), due to actual component weights coming in, the trend continues to be a bit better than expected. The calculated P2 force is within specified limits. Weight is being closely monitored, each month.

A presentation on the status of the Diesel-electric locomotive was provided by IDOT and Siemens industry during the NGEN Annual Meeting. The presentation can be found on the NGEN website.

- Bi-Level Car Procurement Update provided by Caltrans, as of 2-11-16:
 - The most recent FAIs – windows – were fully approved.
 - Work on refinement of the car shell model continues.
 - The next car shell meeting has not yet been scheduled.
 - With regard to the revised project schedule, Caltrans and IDOT have asked the manufacturer to provide more detail.
 - The next project schedule revision is anticipated to be presented in March.
 - A Quality Assurance readiness meeting is scheduled for March 3rd.

On 2-19-16, at the NGEN Annual Meeting, Bruce Roberts, Caltrans, provided a status update presentation. The presentation can be found on the NGEN website.

- GAO/NGEN project: Swati Deo, GAO, provided an update on the GAO study to the Technical subcommittee on 2-11-16. She reported that the GAO team has begun writing its draft report and it is anticipated that the draft will be sent to the agency for comment in an April, 2016 timeframe.

Excerpts relating to the NGEN will be sent to Steve Hewitt for his review.

Next GAO update to the Technical subcommittee: 3-10-16.

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, 2016, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) held its monthly meeting on the 10th:

- Membership Fee recommendation/outreach to SAIPRC Darrell Smith will reach out again to David Kutrosky, Chair of SAIPRC, to schedule a call to discuss the FASC proposed 209 like membership fee for NGEN States. Participating on the call will be Darrell, David K and Eric Curtit.
- Website review: Agreed upon updates will be incorporated into the website by Bryan Hong, AASHTO. The goal is to have consistency in format throughout the site. Members are welcome to provide additional suggestions to improve the site. Many of the recommended changes have now been made to the site and it will continue to evolve over time.
- NGEN Bylaws review: The FASC review of the By-laws was completed, and approved on January 18, 2016. They were submitted on January 19, 2016 to the NGEN Executive Board, and, on February 19, 2016, during the NGEN Annual Meeting, the Executive Board formally adopted the revisions as presented by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee. Steve Hewitt has finalized the document and included the "as revised" date and submitted it to AASHTO for posting to the website. The document was also distributed to all NGEN executive Board members.
- Specification User Fee Task Force: On 2-10-16 the task force reported to the full subcommittee, that it has reviewed and discussed the market, and has determined that it is not sufficient enough, right now, to bear the administrative burden of charging a fee as described in Part B. There may be further opportunities to explore the potential, in the future, for individual funding of specification updates.

The FASC members generally agreed with the task force's findings, and determined that other options should be explored. Tim Hoeffner and Eric Curtit agreed to talk to their policy and/or strategic planning staff most involved with the AASHTO Board of Directors activities to see if there would be plausibility of including a fee for the NGEN as a part of member dues, or if there was potential interest in establishing a pooled technical service fund. They will report back on their discussions on the next FASC call – March 9, 2016.

- Legislative Outreach Task Force – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEN: It was agreed that the two-page "message" will be included in the FASC presentation to the Executive Board, with the intent being to get the Board's approval on the concept and the directive to finalize it and publish it.
- Interpreting NGEN related provisions contained in the FAST Act: Jeff Gordon has asked FRA staff to review the NGEN related FAST Act provisions and provide its interpretation of its impacts and implementation.
- Developing a report to the Executive Board on the FASC findings with regard to Recommendations 1, 2 and 3: A report to the Board is due by March 31, 2016. On the March 9th call of the FASC, the report will be discussed with the intent being to finalize it in time to make the March 31st deadline.
- On February 19, 2016, Darrell Smith presented the annual Treasurer's report to members of the NGEN. The Executive Board formally accepted the report and it can be found on the NGEN website.

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Ron Pate, Washington State DOT

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

On February 2, 2016, the following subcommittee progress report was provided to the Executive Board:

The first quarter reconciliation for FFY16 is due on 2-10-16.

The Amtrak CIP minor update is due on 3-31-16.

The policy memo was approved by the NGEN Executive Board on 2-2-16 and transmitted by Executive Board Chair Eric Curtit to SAIPRC Chair David Kutrosky.

A status update on the activities of the 514 subcommittee was presented by Ron Pate, WSDOT, during the NGEN Annual Meeting. A summary report has been included in the NGEN Annual Meeting Minutes, which are posted on the website.

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

On January 28, 2016, the Executive Board's Locomotive Review Panel approved the Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Locomotive Specification Review Panel Report with recommendations prepared by consultant Larry Salci. The report recommends adoption of the specification as approved previously by the NGEN Technical subcommittee. The formal adoption of the specification, by the NGEN Executive Board took place on 2-2-16, making the Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Locomotive specification the 6th PRIIA Vehicle Specification developed and adopted by the NGEN.