



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: March 31, 2019

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 March 2019, the Executive Board met twice, via conference call, on the 12th and on the 26th.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of March 2019 include:

- Equipment Procurement Updates:

Status Update - Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 3-26-19 - provided by Caltrans to the NGEC Executive Board:

System-level FDR approvals of the Carbody & Clearance, Water & Waste, HVAC, Gap Filler, Digital Communications, Diagnostic System, Double Sliding Step, Accessible Toilet Room, Safety Appliances, Lighting Systems, Semi-Permanent and H-type couplers, Trucks, Exterior Doors, Interior Doors, Gangway, Brakes, Analog Communications, Diaphragm, Electrical System and Trap Door have been provided to SCOA/Siemens. A new revision of FDR Wheelchair Lift has been submitted for review. FDR related CDRLs and other submittals continue through the review and approval process. FDR Approval is targeted for end of March.

The first 14 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Carshells #1 and #2 are in the final assembly phase. Interior wiring is being installed in carshell #1. Insulation and interior cable duct to be installed in Carshell #2. Carshell #3 and Carshell #4 have completed the finishing coating process. Carshells 5-7 are in storage pending passivation scheduling. Carshell #8 s in the passivation stage and #9 is in inspection. The remaining carshells are in various stages of integration and welding.

CALTRANS met with the California ADA community last week in Sacramento to discuss project status and updates to coach ADA features.

The FAI process is underway and FAIs have occurred for the Carshell Complete, Digital Communication System, Lighting System, Couplers, Sanitary System, Sidewall Lining, FRP Panels, Brake System, Interior Doors, Truck Frame, Flooring and heated panel and Battery Charger. Open items are being addressed and the FAIs are revisited for closure by the customer team as needed. The HVAC, Full Truck, Sliding Step, Seats, Electrical Cabinet, Windows, Analog Communications, Electrical Switch Cabinet and Fully Assembled Bogie occurred in February. Passenger Seats, Table, IDOT Passenger Information System, and Wheelset are scheduled for March. FAI for Double Sliding Steps is scheduled for April.

Status Update: Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 3-26-19:

The Phase 2 proposal due date continues to be April 12, 2019.

Status Update: Amtrak Locomotive Procurement as of 3-12-19:

On the Locomotives (Chargers):

There was not much new on the Locomotive procurement – they are just waiting to get started.

On the car/trainset procurement:

Bids are coming in. An extension has been requested by several companies and has been accepted by Amtrak, but the overall process continues to be expeditious.

On May 1, 2019, vendor proposals are due to Amtrak.

METRA Equipment Procurement status:

On 3-26-19, at the request of Caltrans, it was agreed that Illinois DOT will obtain information and provide an update on the METRA Equipment Procurement on the 4-9-19 NGEC Executive Board call.

- Document Control Update – 2-12-19:

The Revision B2 version of the single level specification (305-003 Revision B.2) is currently being compiled and will be provided to Steve Hewitt when it is complete, and the website will be updated at that time.

The single level train set specification revision is still ongoing (making its way through the various technical working groups). The interiors technical working group requested the original DCRs that were submitted, and they have been provided.

- Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group update as of 3-26-19:

The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group will be meeting next week – 4-4-19. Thus far three of four DRAFT sections (Planning, Revenue Service and Sustainability) have been received and distributed among working group members. The DRAFT section on Implementation has not yet been provided.

FRA (Jeff Gordon) has submitted initial comments on the three DRAFT sections received to date, and those comments have been distributed to working group members.

On the call next week, the section drafts will be discussed and a plan for next steps will be determined. Eric noted, “we are still in the subject matter phase” and once all input has been gathered, we will “see where we are and discuss next steps”.

- The Charger Experience States and Amtrak:

Background:

In October 2018, NGEN Chairman Eric Curtit requested summary updates on the Chargers since they had been placed in service. At the NGEN Annual Meeting (2-22-19) states and Amtrak provided updates to their Charger experience. The full presentations can be found in the Minutes from the Annual Meeting and on line at on the NGEN website.

In summary, the experience has been very positive among all entities, and collaboration and cooperation among the states, Amtrak, FRA and the OEM has been a key factor in the successful implementation of the Charger into service.

- 2019 NGEN two-pager educational document:

The 2019 NGEN two-page educational document was formally released on 2-22-19 at the NGEN Annual Meeting (distributed to all attendees).

200 hard copies were produced by MoDOT – As of 3-26-19, 157 hard copies have been distributed and approximately 350 have been distributed electronically.

In March 2019, NGEN Program Manager sent 50 copies each to AASHTO and OneRail for distribution on the Hill and/or wherever appropriate.

Additional copies can be obtained by contacting Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

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 March 2019, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference call, on the 7th and the 21st.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of March 2019, included:

- Status of the activities to update ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking. Status as of 3-31-19:

The last update was provided on 1-10-19, Paul Jamieson and was included in the minutes of the Technical subcommittee. Additional updates will be provided as warranted:

“The eight APTA PRESS ECP standards have completed the public comment period without any comments being received. The standards will now be subject to the PRESS Policy and Planning Committee review to assure that all the requirements for publication have been satisfied. The standards will be released after the review is completed. Notification will be provided when the standards are available on the APTA website.”

- Backgrounder educational document:

On 2-22-19, at the NGEN Annual Meeting, the updated two-page educational document was officially released. Hard copies were provided to all meeting attendees and are available by request through Steve Hewitt – shewitt109@aol.com

As of 3-31-19, 157 hard copies have been distributed along with 350 electronic versions.

- AWG/RVACC:

Background:

At the 2018 annual meeting, Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided an update on the activities of the Accessibility Working Group and on the RVACC effort. The presentation is available on line on the NGEN website at www.ngec305.org.

The last update provided to the Technical subcommittee was on 10-4-18 when Melissa Shurland reported that there still has been no word from the RVACC on the possible release of a rule for accessibility on Rail Vehicles.

No further updates have been provided. This item will be reported on whenever an update is forthcoming.

- Document Control Update:

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

Procurement Updates:

- Multi-State Car Procurement - Caltrans (Lead State): Progress reports from the lead state on the PRIIA multi-state car procurement is provided on each Technical subcommittee call and each Executive Board call.

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

- Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

- Amtrak Equipment Procurement Updates: Progress reports are provided by AMTRAK CMO and NGEN Vice Chair, Charlie King on a regular basis.

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

- METRA Equipment Procurement:

On 3-26-19, at the request of Caltrans, The Executive Board Chair requested that IDOT provide information/updates on the status of this procurement on the 4-9-19 Executive Board call.

- AAR Updates as of 3-31-19:

On 1-24-19, Eric Sherrock, ENSCO, provided the following update on the LED light testing Phase II. ENSCO is supporting the FRA Office Research, Development and Technology and AAR on this effort.

“Phase 2 focused on subjective static field testing of LED lights that were deemed eligible for consideration following Phase 1 laboratory-based testing. Phase 2 field testing was successfully completed in October at the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello, IL. Test personnel are in the process of analyzing and documenting the test results. These should be available in Q1 of 2019. FRA is working with AAR to arrange for Phase 3 testing of the locomotive LED lights in early 2019.”

Tarek Omar, FRA, reported on 3-21-19, that they are waiting for Ensco to wrap up its report and then they will begin Phase 3.

- University of Nebraska study on High Speed wireless technology as of 3-21-19:

Hamid Sharif-Kashani reported: We are in the process of finalizing the project from FRA, after the January Government shutdown, to perform field testing in verification of our computer simulation models for high-speed wireless networks for the next generation of train systems.

Contact Information:

Hamid Sharif Kashani
Phone: 402-554-3628
Email: hsharif@unl.edu

- Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group as of 3-21-19:

On 2-7-19, Team Leader Tom Sisler, reported that the DRAFT requirements document had been completed and is under review by the working group members for discussion on the next call around the end of this month (February).

Tom referenced the working group's discussion about proceeding with a 305-920 DTL software specification in light of the fact that the FRA/University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study.

Hamid Sharif-Kashani, University of Nebraska, commented that the high-speed wireless study has a basis for the DTL and in some areas it is covered, but it is not clear how "we can have a direct interface" with what the NGEC is doing.

Tom Sisler determined that, at this point his working group will not do any work on the DTL software specification 305-920 on how to use high-speed wireless.

Hamid added that he "would be happy provide model testing in our simulations".

On 3-21-19 Steve Hewitt reported that Tom Sisler, the working group team leader, has resigned from the working group due to going on family medical leave. He has asked that a new leader be appointed in his place. Tom intends to provide Steve Hewitt with a list of working group members.

Steve has asked Tammy Krause to work with the group to name a leader and provide the name of that person, along with a list of working group members, to Steve Hewitt for the NGEC records.

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 2019, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met once, on the 6th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February 2019, included:

- Legislative Outreach – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEC

The first order of business is to make sure that the NGEC is reauthorized in the successor to the FAST Act. The committee was reauthorized in the FAST act without any additional funds being included and would need to be authorized again – and potentially with funding attached.

The NGEC cannot lobby but can educate – which is the purpose of the two-page educational document. Beyond that, it is most important that other organizations support the reauthorization of the NGEC.

Shayne Gill, AASHTO, reported that AASHTO has called for the NGEC to be reauthorized in its Authorization Principles, and the States for Passenger Rail have included it in its DRAFT principles. Shayne noted that Amtrak should likely also call for it.

Tim Ziethen will follow up with Amtrak's Government affairs office to make that point.

Steve Hewitt noted that, being authorized is one key step, but another important step, one which the FASC should take on, is looking at whether or not it is eligible for another extension of the current grant agreement (no-cost). If the answer is yet, the process should begin soon. If the answer is no, then the effort to get an appropriation for a new grant is crucial.

Tim Ziethen agreed to talk to the grants office at Amtrak to see if it is possible to get another no-cost extension of the grant.

- Overview: Quarterly Grant Progress Report to FRA – submitted 1-31-19:

The Quarterly report was distributed to all FASC members and Board members following the last 2-6-19 FASC call.

The next report is due to FRA April 30, 2019 and will be based on the information attached to this NGEC Monthly Activities report.

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.

The Single Level Car Specification Review Panel met on February 7, 2019 to consider the Review Panel Report and Recommendations for Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2 as prepared by consultant Larry Salci. The report was approved on 2-17-19 and submitted to the NGEC executive Board. On 2-12-19, the Executive Board accepted the report and its recommendations and formally adopted the Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2.

The Specification Review Panel(s) did not meet in March 2019.

Milestones – Quarterly update (January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019)

Bi weekly meetings:

Throughout the quarter, the NGEC Executive Board and the Technical subcommittee held bi-weekly conference call meetings. Exceptions – in February, the NGEC Annual Meeting held on 2-22-19 in Washington DC replaced the second February bi-weekly calls for both the Executive Board and the Technical subcommittee. Along with meeting during the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board met once, via conference call on 2-12-19. The Technical subcommittee, also due to the Annual Meeting, also met once, via conference call, on 2-7-19.

Monthly meetings:

During the quarter, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) met every four weeks on Wednesdays as well as participating in the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19.

Dissemination of educational/informational pieces:

During this quarter, the NGEC two-page educational document was, once again, updated for 2019 and was formally released on 2-22-19. It continues to be available in hard copy and electronically by request through NGEC Program Manager Steve Hewitt. The document is also posted on the opening page of the NGEC website at www.ngec305.org. As of 3-31-19, 157 hard copies and 350 electronic copies have been distributed to NGEC members, Congressional staff, stakeholders, and transportation organizations.

NGEC Annual Meeting:

The NGEC's 9th Annual Meeting took place on 2-22-19 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill with 70 NGEC members present.

The next Annual Meeting will take place in Washington, DC in February 2020. Final date and hotel location as yet to be determined.

Annual Review of NGEC By-Laws and Operating Procedures:

In October 2018 (10-17-18) the Finance and Administrative subcommittee approved changes to the NGEC By-Laws after having conducted its Annual By-Laws Review. The changes were primarily minor in nature – grammatical/punctuation type changes. In November (11-20-18) the NGEC Executive Board adopted the recommended changes to the By-Laws as approved by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee. The updated By-Laws have been posted to the NGEC website and distributed to the NGEC Executive Board in final form. They were also distributed in hard copy during the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting on 2-22-19.

The next annual review (2019) will begin at the direction of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee in Fall, 2019.

Grant reporting:

As required by the Grant Agreement, Amtrak will submit a quarterly report to the FRA. Information provided in the monthly NGEC Activities reports for the quarter, prepared by the NGEC Manager, will be utilized as a basis for the Quarterly Reports to the FRA.

The first such quarterly report included the period from October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, was submitted by Amtrak by January 31, 2017.

The second quarterly report included the period from January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017 and was submitted by April 30, 2017.

The third such quarterly report included the period from April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 and was submitted by Amtrak to FRA by July 31, 2017.

The fourth such quarterly report included the period from July 31, 2017 through September 30, 2017 and was submitted by Amtrak to FRA by October 31, 2017.

This first quarterly report for 2018 included the period from January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018 and was submitted by Amtrak to FRA by April 30, 2018.

The second quarterly report for 2018 includes the period from April 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 and will be submitted by Amtrak to FRA by July 31, 2018.

The third quarterly report for 2018 includes the period from July 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018 and will be submitted by Amtrak to FRA by October 31, 2018.

The fourth quarterly report for 2018 includes the period from October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and will be submitted by Amtrak to the FRA by January 31, 2019.

The first quarterly report for 2019 includes the period beginning January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 and will be submitted by Amtrak to FRA by April 30, 2019.

Fiscal and contractual actions:

During the April 1 to June 30, 2017 quarter, the Finance and Administrative subcommittee, and, subsequently, the Executive Board, adopted a motion that expressed the intent to extend the contracts of AASHTO and the subcontracts in synch with the Grant Agreement and consistent with the budget and SOW. Currently, Amtrak and AASHTO are in the process of developing their contract extension and, following its execution, AASHTO has been directed to do the same with the sub-contracts identified in the SOW and noted in the adopted motion inserted below.

“As was intended in past NGEC budget approvals and to ensure compliance with the Audit of Grant Agreement of March 27, 2013, and the NGEC’s updated Procedure of Establishing Contract Support adopted August 6, 2013, the NGEC authorizes Amtrak to contract with AASHTO for administrative support services as well as subsequent sub-contracts per the statement of work for entities such as; with Hewitt Consulting for Manager of Support Services, and with SalciConsult for Specification Consultant services. In addition, with the Federal Railroad Administration’s June 8th, 2015, approval of the NGEC’s Supplemental Statement of Work and related budget extension through September 30, 2017, and its subsequent approval of the Statement of Work and Budget included in the Grant Agreement executed on October 26, 2016 for the period beginning October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019, Amtrak is authorized to extend its agreement with AASHTO and AASHTO’s sub-consultants in accordance with the Statement of Work.”

Adopted by the NGEC Executive Board on 6-6-17.

On 9-26-17, AASHTO and Amtrak executed a contract extension for NGEC Support services to continue from 10-1-17 through 9-30-19. On 9-27-17 AASHTO executed a contract modification with Hewitt Consulting – (Steve Hewitt) extending the NGEC Manager’s contract for the period 10-1-17 through 9-30-19.

In the fourth quarter, 2017 – AASHTO and Amtrak executed a contract extension for technical support (spec writing) with Casamar – extending the contract through 9-30-19.

During the fourth quarter, NGEC Revision Control Coordinator (RCC), Tammy Krause, Amtrak, accepted the separation agreement and announced her departure to the NGEC Executive Board – effective 12-31-17. To fill the void created by this change, Amtrak has temporarily assigned these responsibilities to Michael Burshtin, Amtrak, and has begun taking steps needed to potentially subcontract this work similarly to how the other NGEC support services are provided. The SOW was revised by the NGEC Executive Board during this quarter to provide the flexibility to have the duties of the RCC conducted in house – Amtrak – or be subcontracted to a consultant. The Amtrak and FRA grants offices are reviewing the proposed change and, if approved, a sole source contract will be executed per NGEC Contract Management procedures.

As of 3-31-18, and as noted previously in this quarterly report, the NGEC Grant Agreement SOW revisions have been submitted to FRA and are under review. It is anticipated that the revisions will be approved and executed in April 2018. Simultaneously, the actions necessary to execute a contract for the Document Control Manager (DCM) have progressed with a revised SOW and budget having been submitted by the prospective sole source contractor for review and approval of the NGEC Treasurer and the Technical Subcommittee Chair who will be responsible for managing the work of the DCM.

During the quarter ending June 30, 2018, per the NGEC process, AASHTO executed a contract with TLK Associates, LLC (Tammy Krause) to perform the Document Control Management responsibilities, as identified in the SOW and budget, and as previously approved by the NGEC Executive Board.

During the quarter ending September 30, 2018, the FRA and Amtrak executed a no-cost 12-month extension (as approved by the NGEC Executive Board and formally requested by Amtrak) of the NGEC Grant Agreement. This extends the grant performance period to 9-30-2020.

As of this quarter, (ending 3-31-19) all NGEC subcontractor/consultant contracts are current.

Review/Update of NGEC Specifications (Document Control):

This activity is ongoing and on track:

During the quarter ending September 30, 2018, the Document Control Manager provided a “mid-year” progress report on activities related to Document Control – In part, the report provides the following status updates:

- Support Multi-State Car Procurement – This has been an on-going task. The Technical Subcommittee working groups have approved 18 DCRs this year for the Single Level Specification to support the procurement. Currently an additional 3 DCRs are being reviewed.
- Reissue revised Bi-Level PRIIA Spec – No progress to date.
- Support Current Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement and update the PRIIA Spec – Metro North RR is currently in the process of procuring Dual Mode locomotives. The PRIIA specification was used as the base document to create their specification. I am currently working with MNRR to incorporate the changes that they made to the specification. I will be creating DCRs for the changes which will be reviewed by the Technical Subcommittee working groups. After the complete review and approval process, the PRIIA specification will be updated.
- Revise the Single Level PRIIA Spec - Version B.1 was approved 6/5/18. This version has been compiled and is available through the website request. Since there is an active procurement, 4 DCRs have been approved by the Technical Subcommittee to create a version B1a, and an additional 3 DCRs are under review that will create version B1b. Eventually these versions will be consolidated and approved, then they will be submitted to the Executive Board as Revision B.2.
- Speed of the DCR process – No progress to date.
- Reach Out to APTA/AAR – APTA is aware of the specifications that we have written, and AAR is involved (Paul Jamieson) as a part of the Technical subcommittee industry group.
- Four DCRs for specification 305-005, Diesel-Electric Locomotive, were completed to support the locomotive procurement.
- The Technical documentation list was updated 6/20/18.

Throughout the quarter ending 12-31-18, The Document Control Manager has provided regular status updates to the Technical subcommittee and the executive Board on a bi-weekly basis. A complete progress report will be provided at the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-22-19.

In the quarter ending 12-31-18, Document Change Requests – DCRs for the active multi-state single level car procurement were submitted and processed through NGEC procedures. Several DCRs have been submitted to and were approved by the NGEC Technical subcommittee and were sent to the

Executive Board. The Board reconvened the NGEC Single Level Car Specification Review Panel and provided it with the approved DCRs. The Board also tasked Review Panel Consultant, Larry Salci to begin developing a Review Panel Report with recommendations for Panel consideration and ultimately adoption by the NGEC Executive Board. Final action is expected to occur on the pending DCRs in January 2019 with more to follow during the quarter ending March 31, 2018.

In November 2018, the Document Control Manager, Tammy Krause, reported that she was putting together DCRs required to update the NGEC Trainset specification to reflect approved changes to other car specs. The Trainset spec was last updated to Revision A on August 2, 2011. She expected to distribute the DCRs to the appropriate technical working groups in December, with the intent being to get the update to the Board for consideration by the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting. Following that she will begin review of the DMU specification which is in its initial release version.

For the quarter ending March 31, 2019, the specification review efforts continued with the completion and adoption of Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2; and a review of over 92 DCRs for consideration of inclusion in the update of the Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007.

During the quarter – on 2-22-19 – Document Control Manager, Tammy Krause, provided the following year end (2018) progress report during at the NGEC Annual Meeting:

Document Control Update/Progress Report 2018:

Single Level Passenger Car 305-003

- Revision B.1 6/5/18
- Revision B.2 2/7/19
- DCRs 003-145 to 003-180

Trainset Passenger Car 305-007

- Revision A 8/2/11
- Revision B In process
- DCRs 007-076 to 007-167 currently with the Working Groups

Dual Mode Locomotive 003-011

- Initial Release 2/2/16
- Metro North Railroad used as base for their spec
- Will use to update the PRIIA spec