



## Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

**Monthly Activities Report: April 30, 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 April, 2015, the Executive Board met twice –via conference call - on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Key decisions and action items from the month of March, 2015 included:

- Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item for the Executive Board calls. On March 31<sup>st</sup> it was reported that the RFP for a Fleet Manager is close to being approved. It is currently being reviewed by the Illinois Governor's office.

The Mid-West group continues to work on developing a governance and ownership model. They have a concept document and are in the process of developing a draft MOU.

The RFI for a Fleet Maintainer was successful with a number of responses. Michigan is now in the process of drafting an RFP.

- As of April 28th, the revised Statement of Work and Budget for a no-cost grant agreement extension through 9-30-17 was still with the FRA Grants Office. Amtrak is awaiting a response from FRA to execute the agreement.
- Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment: AAR has created a committee to address potential issues related to the introduction into service of NGEC equipment from the AAR side, and Jeff will augment the member list with state representatives from Caltrans, IDOT, WSDOT and any other states that are interested in participating. FRA Office of Safety representatives, and Jeff Gordon will also participate.

A meeting has been set for June 4th in Washington, DC. Jeff Gordon has asked for interested states representatives from the Technical subcommittee to contact him at [Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov) if they would like to participate. This announcement was made on the 4-23-15 Technical subcommittee call and subsequently sent via email.

- The Finance and Administrative subcommittee has begun developing a proposal for potential funding options to present to the Board for its consideration by October, 2015:

The FASC has established a Funding Options Task Force and charged it with looking at the possibility and viability of assessing specification use fees, and the mechanisms and potential organizational structure required for accepting such fees.

FASC Chair Darrell Smith will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress being made.

- The updated “backgrounder” educational document remains available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at [shwitt109@aol.com](mailto:shwitt109@aol.com) with the number of copies requested and a mailing address.
- Developing a policy for public access to NGEC Specs and/or reference documents and drawings: Vincent has completed his research on whether or not there is a legislative history that would indicate that the NGEC would be prohibited from restricting access to reference specifications and drawings. He has concluded that there does not appear to be a legislative history prohibiting such restrictions and has provided the Board with proposed language revisions for the website.

Proposed revised language:

*The documents and drawings below are available upon request to contracted vehicle builders and associated suppliers only. To request one of the following documents, click on the document name. A pre-addressed email-box will open. Then please provide your name, phone number, email address, company affiliation and reason for requesting the document. The Chairman of the NGEC 305 Next Generation Equipment Committee reserves the right to reject a request.*

The Board supports the language change, but wants documentation of the concerns and rationale for restricting access. Eric Curtit will draft a proposed “memo to file” for consideration on the next call – 5-12-15. No action will be taken to revise the website until the memo is approved.

- Industry requests for the CIP: Several requests have come in from members of the industry for copies of the CIP. Before considering releasing this document Steve Hewitt has asked the Board to determine if this is an internal document or if it is something that can be released and posted to the web site. The general view of the Board members is that Amtrak needs to make this determination.

The Board will wait until Amtrak has weighed in to and make a determination (hopefully) by the next call – 5-12-15.

#### **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 April, 2015, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference call, on the 4-9 and 4-23. Key decisions and action items for the month of April, 2015 included:

- RVAAC: The RVAAC is meeting as a full committee on today and tomorrow (4-23 and 24) at the Access Board Head Quarters to review the RVAAC report and hold a public comments session. The RVAAC report was distributed to the Technical subcommittee prior to today's call.
- Accessibility Working Group Update: The drawings/contract with Oregon State University (OSU) is close to being awarded – possibly during the week of April 27-15.
- Backgrounder educational document: The updated Backgrounder is available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) if you want to receive Backgrounders. Provide the quantity requested and an address for sending them to.
- DEF Working Group: The working group will hold its third call next month (date yet to be determined) and will have a guest speaker from Amtrak who will discuss the current options and potential options to be put in place in the future. A project schedule is being developed and is expected to be presented to the subcommittee next month.
- Document Control update: As of April 23rd the process of finalizing one approved DCR for the California Bi-levels is underway. Tammy Krause is also working with Dave Warner and the Dual Mode Locomotive Specification group to incorporate the environmental specification into the existing environmental specification.”
- Progress Report : Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) Specification development:

The following update was provided by Jack Madden on April 23, 2015:

*“Since the last TSC call on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Teams have continued to work on their chapters. The Locomotive Working Group met by conference call on Thursday April 16, 2015.*

*Dave Warner and Tammy Krause have re-worked the Northeast US Environmental Conditions Supplement from a separate document into an Appendix to the existing PRIIA specification 305-912 “Operational & Environmental Conditions for PRIIA Rolling Stock, Rev A” and provided it to the Environmental Conditions Team for their review. That Team will meet next Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*On the last TSC call on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Chairman asked the Loco WG to provide a revised schedule for the completion of the Dual Mode specification, including a revised date for the face-to-face meeting, as our schedule has slipped a few week. Steve sent this draft revised schedule out to all TSC members prior to the call. The Loco WG plans to turn over the completed chapters to Tammy Krause at AMTK by May 7<sup>th</sup>, for consolidation into one document for review by the Technical Subcommittee members. The face-to-face meeting has been pushed back 5 weeks from July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup>.*

*Also, Metro North Railroad has advised that they intend to issue an RFP for an initial buy of Dual Mode locomotives as soon as feasible after the completion of the PRIIA Dual mode (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) specification, using the PRIIA specification.*

*I am planning to retire in early November and we have begun the internal NYSDOT process to identify a replacement locomotive representative for me on the Technical Subcommittee.”*

- Diesel-Electric procurement – progress report:

The following update report was provided by IDOT on April 23, 2015:

- a) *The invoice for milestone ‘C’ for IDR and milestone “D” for mock-up review is being processed by IDOT.*
- b) *All FDR reviews are complete and follow-up action items are being processed for closure.*
- c) *The preliminary list of First Article Inspections (FAI) is being coordinated with Siemens and the JPEs.*

- d) *The first FAI will be for the PTC system and is scheduled for the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>.*
- e) *We expect two more RFCs (we believe will be the last), for a total of 62 RFCs (request for clarification). From these, twelve draft (DCRs) will be submitted, including the DCR for the 340 wheel profile). Rich Stegner is compiling the DCRs and has contacted Tammy Krause, to coordinate.*
- f) *Jennifer Bastian is facilitating a diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) review and application team. The last meeting was held on 4/20/2015.*
- g) *The locomotive weight is holding steady at 270,000 lbs (+/-) and is within the calculated P2 Force specified limits.”*

Bi-Level Car Procurement Update:

On April 23, 2015, the following update report was provided by Caltrans:

10 First Article Inspections (FAIs) are completed – 1 left from April, 2015.

8 FAIs are scheduled for May, 2015.

21 Requests for Change (RFCs) remain open.

Of 2007 FDR items only 114 remain open.

Of 1879 Drawings – 1342 have been approved.

Issues remain with the graphics for the pilot car for Caltrans – IDOT's is progressing.

A workshop is scheduled for next week with Caltrans, IDOT, FRA, and the carbuilder present.

- AAR Meeting to discuss introduction of new passenger equipment and coordination with host Railroads:

Jeff Gordon has been coordinating this effort on behalf of the NGEC Executive Board. A kickoff meeting is planned for June 4, 2015 in Washington, DC. If any **State NGEC Technical Subcommittee** members (or their representatives) are interested in participating in this activity please contact Jeff Gordon for further information at ([Jeffrey.Gordon@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Gordon@dot.gov)).

**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 April, 2015, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met on April 8<sup>th</sup>:

- Adopting a SOW for a no-cost Grant Extension through 9-30-17:  
  
The NGEC Executive Board approved the revised SOW at the Annual Meeting, February 20, 2015 and on March 31, 2015, Darrell Smith reported to the Board that the SOW had been submitted to the Amtrak Grants Office. On April 8, 2015, Darrell Smith reported that the SOW was submitted to FRA on Monday (4-6-15). Michael Lestingi, FRA, added, that there are no apparent issues with it, and he expects it to be signed soon.
- Michael Lestingi and Jeff Gordon will look into the possible availability of R&D funds for the NGEC – with the safety/research aspect. They will ask the question of John Tunna.
- Darrell Smith established a Funding Options Task Force to take a look at assessing specification use fees and to look into the NGEC's ability to accept receipt of costs. The Task Force will report back to the FASC with recommendations on the June 10, 2015 conference call of the full subcommittee. The Task Force chair is Brent Thompson, WSDOT – co-vice chair of the FASC.

- The Funding Options Task Force met on April 22 and 29 and established a bi-weekly call schedule and timeline for completion.

FRA was asked, on April, 22 to respond to a series of questions:

If the NGEC determines that it will charge a fee for specification use, would it need to be incorporated and to do so would a statutory change be needed?

If the NGEC was to create a corporate entity would it harm its ability to get a federal grant?

If a grant goes to Amtrak – is it eligible only to Amtrak - or to a subsidiary as well?

- Review/revise NGEC Specification Utilization Form: As a way to track/monitor and potentially assess fees, the members of the task force were asked to review and provide comments/edits/changes to the current NGEC Specification Utilization Form to Steve Hewitt with a CC to Brent Thompson by COB May 8, 2015.
- Outreach to AAR: On April 29, it was agreed that AAR should be asked/encouraged to re-join the Technical subcommittee as a member of the industry participation group. Jeff Gordon, FRA, agreed to reach out to his contact at AAR to invite/encourage participation.

#### **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 month of April, 2015, following updates were provided to the Executive Board:

- On April 14<sup>th</sup> the he 514 subcommittee reported that it had met the previous week with a focus on the minor updates provided by Amtrak and discussed the implications of discrepancies and adjustments.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup> the subcommittee reported that after hearing states concerns upon seeing the updated forecasts – Amtrak has gone back to “sharpen its pencils” and another proposal is expected to be forthcoming for the next 514 subcommittee call which is scheduled for next week (5-4-15).

#### **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 April, 2015, the Review Panels were inactive.