



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: April 30, 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 April 2018, the Executive Board met twice via conference call, on the 10th and on the 24th.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of March 2018 include:

- Procurement Updates:

Status Update – Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State) - as of 4-24-18:

- Caltrans, IDOT, and Amtrak's Public Health Team met on 4/6 to go over the Galley Updates. Discussions were productive, and information offered by Amtrak was very helpful. The follow up meeting will take place in summer 2018.

- Caltrans, IDOT, Amtrak and the FRA team visited the Brightline's West Palm Beach facility in the week of April 9. We reviewed some of the components in the cars, such as toilet rooms, gangway, HVAC, communication system, etc.
- Caltrans, IDOT, SCOA, and Siemens met in Sacramento, CA on 4/16 for the executive board meeting. We discussed the status of design review, high-level schedule overview, as well as areas of concerns.
- The production of the first Carshell has begun on 4/6.
- The design review meeting is taking place in Sacramento, CA this week. The discussion topics included exterior doors, double sliding steps, communication system – Analog, trap doors, electrical system. The meetings have been productive, and a lot of action items are being closed.
- Caltrans has been developing and submitting Document Change Requests (DCR) to NGEN. All DCRs have been sent to the appropriate working group(s) and discussion and votes are pending.

Status Update: The Charger - Diesel-Electric Locomotive Update as of 4-24-18:

1. Of the 33 units IDOT locomotive order, all 33 have been conditionally and finally accepted with Siemens.
2. 238.111a testing still needs to be completed on two Michigan corridors pending resolution of equipment and testing issues. The locomotives for the MI corridors are still being held in Pueblo until this testing is completed.
3. Twenty-Three Chargers are currently in the Midwest.
4. 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 P42 locomotives by Amtrak.
5. WSDOT units are operating in revenue service
6. Caltrans locomotives are operating revenue service
7. The Failure Review Board is established and running, with all JPE's, Amtrak, Siemens and the new addition of Brightline as participants.
8. A recurring bi-weekly warranty meeting is being held by Siemens and includes all JPE's, Amtrak, Siemens, MARC and Brightline.

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 4-24-18:

Metro North held an information meeting in NYC on 3-28-18 for entities interested in the Dual Mode Locomotive procurement. The meeting was well attended with all major locomotive builders well represented. NYSDOT, Connecticut DOT, and Amtrak were also present at the meeting. Metro North will be working with the MTA Board on the information gathered from the meeting and hopes to be releasing an RFP (which will be a 2 step RFP process) by late May or early June 2018.

The specification is to be based on the PRIIA Dual Mode locomotive specification with modifications. Metro North will bring those modifications to the NGEN, but not until after the release of the RFP. Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, will continue to keep the NGEN apprised as the process moves forward.

- Mid-West States Section 6 Activities – as of 4-24-18:

The FRA and the states continue to go back and forth on the plan, but it is thought to be close to finalizing it. IDOT has reported that it is expected to be finalized sometime next month (May).

- Finance and Administrative status updates – as of 4-24-18:

- a. Status of the FRA Grants Office review of the grant agreement SOW changes:

On 4-24-18, Michael Lestingi, FRA, reported that NNEPRA (for SAIPRC) has not yet submitted a revised SOW for the SAIPRC grant agreement to include the move of the 514 responsibilities from the NGEN to SAIPRC. Michael will follow up.

- b. Status – Document Control Management (DCM) contract:

On 4-24-18, Strat Cavros, AASHTO, reported that they have not yet received the formal contract proposal from Tammy Krause on her letterhead addressed to AASHTO. All information provided from Amtrak/NGEN is complete – but that info needs to be on TLK Associates letterhead and addressed to AASHTO to be executed. Tammy was informed on 4-18-18 of this request but has yet to submit it.

Steve Hewitt agreed to follow up with Tammy and ask her to act on this asap so that the contract can be signed/executed.

c. Resolution of unpaid AASHTO invoice:

On 4-24-18, Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, reported that Amtrak has processed the invoice for payment but is still waiting for FRA to provide them "with a path forward". Until then, Amtrak is at risk.

Michael Lestingi will follow up with FRA staff to get this resolved. Eric Curtit will call Michael on this as well.

- Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – as of 4-24-18:

A progress report was provided at the NGEC Annual Meeting – the Presentation can be found at www.ngec305.org. The previously scheduled 3-8-18 working group conference call was canceled due to several conflicts. The next call of the group will be scheduled in April with the expectation that the topics list will be finalized, and tasks will be assigned.

- Document Control Update – as of 4-24-18:

On 4-24-18, Michael Burshtin, Amtrak, provided a status update on the pending DCRs for the single level car specification:

Michael has prepared the summary of changes spreadsheet with all of those that have been dispositioned out of the Technical working groups with recommendations of accepted, accepted as amended or rejected. The spreadsheet has been sent by Steve Hewitt to the Technical subcommittee members and will be considered for approval on 5-3-18.

Michael noted that there are several DCRs being considered by the Interiors working group, as amended, including the Seat Track DCR. It is anticipated that the working group will come to a determination on these DCRs and send their recommendations to Michael for inclusion on the summary of changes spreadsheet to be considered on 5-3-18.

Michael also noted that there is an additional DCR under review by the VTI working group, and it too, may be dispositioned for inclusion on the spreadsheet and considered for approval by the Technical subcommittee on 5-3-18.

If all these actions take place – it will mean that all the DCRS submitted for this specification will have been brought forth for consideration by the Technical subcommittee.

- Action taken – 4-24-18 - re-convene the Single Level Car/Trainset Review Panels and confirm members:

On 4-24-18, in anticipation of the DCRS for the Single Level Procurement being approved on 5-3-18 by the Technical subcommittee, and in accordance with NGEC procedures, Chairman Curtit, on 4-24-18, reconvened the appropriate Review Panels and confirmed membership:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT - Chair
 Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT
 Allan Paul, North Carolina DOT
 Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT
 Jeff Gordon, FRA
 Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel
 Michael Burshtin, Amtrak – technical support
 Tammy Krause, TLK – DCC technical support
 Steve Hewitt – NGEC support

Once the Technical subcommittee has voted on the DCRs submitted for consideration, those approved will be sent to Chairman Curtit who will direct the Review Panel and its consultant (Larry Salci) to develop its report and recommendations for Executive Board consideration.

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 April 2018, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 19th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of April 2018, included:

- Status of the activities to update ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking. Status as of 4-19-18:

For the reporting period ending in January 2018, the ECP revenue service demonstration mileage is 557,546 ECP miles, 1,822,848 emulation (brake pipe operation) miles and total 2,390,394 miles. Currently, Amtrak is performing preventive maintenance and interior upgrades to the four coaches and cab car. This preventive maintenance and interior upgrades have resulted in a reduction of the ECP monthly mileage, but the other coaches remain in emulation revenue service demonstration.

The PRESS Mechanical ECP working group is working on completing the standards for voting by mid-2018. The NYAB and Wabtec annual equipment inspection reports are being prepared for FRA submittal. The CFR draft language is still under FRA review. The project completion is scheduled for the end of 2018.

- Backgrounder educational document:

The new two-pager has been published and was released during the NGEC Annual Meeting (2-23-18). As of 4-30-18, 65 additional copies have been requested and sent out by Steve Hewitt to industry members. Copies remain 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 NGEC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on line on the NGEC website at www.ngec305.org.

- Document Control Update as of 4-19-18:

The DCR summary spreadsheets for the single level car specification sent out to all Technical subcommittee members prior to the 4-19-18 conference call will be updated to combine the two spreadsheets into one and to add the rejected DCRs.

Due to an impasse on DCR -003-160 – the recommendation was to reject it as submitted. It will be added to the spreadsheet.

On 5-3-18 – the Technical subcommittee will consider approval of the summary of changes as recommended by the technical working groups.

Procurement Updates:

- Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement: Progress reports from the lead state on the PRIIA multi-state locomotive procurement is provided on each Executive Board call.
- 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.

Please see the report provided on 4-24-18 and included in this report under the Executive Board section.

- Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

Metro-North is beginning its procurement process for the Dual-Mode Locomotives and held a pre-bid meeting for interested builders in NYC on 3-28-18.

Please see the report provided on 4-24-18 and included in this report under the Executive Board section.

- AAR Updates:

TAG committee on LED Headlights as of 4-24-18:

The AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights is in the final stages of the project with the initial analysis and conclusions. The final report will be out May 11th and that will be the end of the project.

- DEF-UREA Implementation Update as of 4-24-18:

DEF supply and usage are reported to be working well in all areas of the country where the Chargers are in use. No issues reported. The one item that is being worked on is the information needed from Amtrak on usage amounts, for invoicing in the Midwest in relation to the multi-state split.

- University of Nebraska study on High Speed wireless technology as of 4-24-18:

Hamid Sharif, from the University of Nebraska gave an overview of the project on 3-22-18 and is available to members off line as well. This item will remain "on the docket" with periodic updates.

On 4-19-18, it was agreed that Hamid provide a brief update on every other call of the Technical subcommittee – staggering this report with the TAG Committee report so both are on a once a month basis. The next report from the University of Nebraska will be scheduled for 5-3-18.

Contact Information:

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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 April 2018, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee did not meet due to several schedule conflicts. The next meeting will take place on 5-2-18.

See a status update of Finance and Administrative activities as of 4-24-18, under the Executive Board section of this report

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Brian Beeler II – NNEPRA (Maine DOT)

Vice Chair: Jonathan Dees - NCDOT

As of 4-30-18, the move of 514 to SAIPRC is underway with the NGEC Executive Board and Amtrak have taken the required action. The final step remains for the Grants office at FRA to finalize and execute the SOW revisions which effectuate the move. As noted in the Executive Board section of this report, the FRA has requested that SAIPRC revise its mission statement/charter to reflect the inclusion of the responsibilities of the former NGEC 514 subcommittee. Once received, both the NGEC SOW and the SAIPRC SOW will be revised/approved simultaneously.

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 April 2018, the Review Panels of the NGEC did not meet, but, due to the anticipated Technical subcommittee approval of 20+ DCRs for the Single Level Car Specification (5-3-18), on 4-24-18, Chairman Eric Curtit re-convened the Single Level car and trainset specification review panels and asked members to be at the ready to conduct the review as soon as the DCRs have been processed through the Technical subcommittee.