

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2022 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Joe Paul, Vice Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Joe Paul for George Hull, Melissa Shurland for Jeffrey Gordon, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Jennifer Bastian also as proxy for Gurleen Boparai, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Ed Engle, Jason Biggs, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Marci Petterson, Tarek Omar, Steve Hewitt, Tammy Krause, Art Peterson, Rebecca Anger Industry Members: Rich Bowie, Ed Golitko, Paul Arnone, Jack Madden, James Michel, Paul Jamieson, Dick Bruss, Donald Sandala, Rich Stegner, Richard Curtis, Stephen Mark, Bill Saddler, Kevin Sudano, Jeff Schultz, Dave Warner
ABSENTEES	<i>George Hull, Jeff Gordon, Gurleen Boparai, Matthew Simmons, Mike Kraft, Charlie King, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Blair Slaughter</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Technical subcommittee Vice Chair Joe Paul, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

2021 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGENC two-page backgrounder/educational document was released last year and is available electronically or in hard copy by request. Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

About 615 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

2022 NGENC two-pager educational flyer:

MODOT has completed the new 2022 NGENC two-pager following Executive Board approval. The new version will be available in hard copy in the next week or two. Steve Hewitt will bring some with him to the Annual meeting in DC on 2-25-22 and will have additional copies available by request. Send an email with the number of copies you want and where to send them.

Electronic copies will be sent out to all NGENC members over the next week or two.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are just over 200 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

This procurement remains in the “cone of silence” period.

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

On 1-6-22, Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT reported that Metro-North and Siemens have completed Initial Design Review and have started Preliminary Design Review.

Next Update: 2-3-22

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On 1-6-22, George Hull, Amtrak, reported:

On the Acela: qualification and testing continues.

On the Long Distance (Charger) Locomotives: two have been conditionally accepted and are in Chicago for testing. Two are in Wilmington and two are shipping to Wilmington today (1-6-22).

On the Intercity Trainset: Initial Design Review is underway.

Next Update: 2-3-22

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

This task has been assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group:

On 7-22-21, George Hull talked about the need to address issues related to cellular capabilities on trains. Previously, it was thought the Electronics on Trains working group would be a home for this effort. George asked if that was the right place or should a separate working group be established to address these issues.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that Tammy Krause had talked to David Brabb, team leader of the Electronics on Trains working group and the thought is that it is a fit and they will add it to their list of activities.

Action: George asked Tammy to provide a list of issues that the Electronics on Trains is addressing and its priorities to better understand the volume of work. Tammy will include this action in her Document Control Update.

On 10-7-21, David Brabb, Team Leader for the Electronics on Trains Technical Working Group provided the following response:

As far as the Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues), we had discussed this in the group and with Tammy. We think it would be more appropriately handled by folks that design the mechanical/materials specified in the car design signal attenuation due to glass and metals specified in the designs, are the issues. However, we would be open to taking a shot at it if needed.

Based on this response – the Chair will take this up at a later date to determine if this should be assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group or another more appropriate group.

On 12-9-21, George Hull decided to ask that the Electronics on Trains add this item to its activities.

This Electronics on Trains working group is reorganizing – with team leader David Brabb having stepped down. The next call is scheduled for 1-25-22. The group will be asked to provide an update of activities with Tammy Krause being asked to participate and ensure a leader is in place and the tasks follow NGEN procedures.

3.

Approval of the Minutes from 1-6-22:

On a motion by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 1-6-22 were approved as submitted.

4.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-20-22 – Jennifer Bastian, IDOT:

On 1-20-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, and Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

The Cab Car shell final design has been approved and the cab structures are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the test report is to be submitted in February. The cab car compression test report review is complete, and Siemens is reviewing comments. FAIs will continue for café and cab car subsystems.

102 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT and Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items and relevant FMIs are being addressed.

4 cars are in test this month in the Midwest and are attached to current consists. Testing includes IT related items and the passenger information system.

**5.
Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:**

On 1-20-22, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

Last week at the Executive Board meeting, the DMU specification Revision A was approved. I have given the Technical Writer all the approved changes and she is starting to work on compiling the new version. The Trainset specification revision was finished, and Steve Hewitt now has the most recent version available.

**6.
Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group – Steve Hewitt:**

Former Team Leader, David Brabb provided the following update which was read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

Due to the holidays, there was no December meeting.

Suffice it to say that we are not getting much if any support from the group lately. We issued 305-920 for comments back in September, so that we could begin on the software spec., and have not received any feedback. We have also asked Tammy to let us know if there are any prevailing specifications for "other than DTL" equipment that might affect our DTL connector and jumper placements and geometry. I am sure she will get back with us on that soon. We have additionally asked Siemens to clarify a few things that they had brought up mostly related to jumpers and connectors; we have not yet heard back from them.

I am no longer going to lead this subcommittee as I am no longer employed by SA. Ken Martin might take this over....he'd be able to answer that question.

The next meeting of the Electronics subgroup will be on January 25th at 3pm eastern unless it is changed for some reason.

I will send the notes and agenda from my other email address as this one will probably not be used here shortly. It has been nice working with you all on this project. Stay safe and have a wonderful 2022.

David sent Steve Hewitt the notes from the last meeting and the agenda for the 1-25-22 meeting.

Steve Hewitt asked Tammy Krause to attend the 1-25-22 meeting and try to determine who will take the lead for the working group and to make sure that NGEN procedures are being followed regarding 305-919 and 305-920. Tammy agreed. Steve will forward to Tammy the meeting material and the email from David Brabb. Steve Hewitt asked that Tammy treat this working group the same as the other technical working groups.

If anyone would like to join this working group – please contact Tammy Krause at tkrauser@gmail.com

Joe Paul asked that Steve Hewitt add this topic to the agenda for the next call and Steve agreed and will ask that Tammy Krause provide the update.

**7.
Update: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – Hamid-Sharif Kashani:**

Hamid-Sharif Kashani was unavailable for this call, so this item was tabled.

**8.
Preparing for the NGEN Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

On 1-20-22, Steve Hewitt reported, once again, that the meeting will take place in-person and virtually on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC.

A DRAFT agenda has been developed with consent of the Board members. Speakers are being confirmed.

Steve gave a brief overview of the DRAFT agenda which was included in the meeting materials.

A meeting with AASHTO to discuss/coordinate the various meetings the week of 2-21-22 was held on 12-13-21. A second meeting is scheduled for 1-25-22.

Steve reminded members to register with him via email if they plan to attend and to let him know if it will be in-person or virtually. As of today 1-20-22, there are 36 registered in-person and 20 registered to participate virtually.

Steve Hewitt reminded members that the Hotel Room Block closes on 1-31-22.

Members should book their rooms as soon as possible.

NGEC members should register with Steve Hewitt (via an email) and let him know if they will attend, and, if so, in-person or virtually.

It is important that we have an accurate head count. Please send your registration email to Steve Hewitt by 1-31-22

The Hotel Room Block link is:

Be sure to review [AASHTO's Health and Safety Protocols](#) and the updated protocols sent out last week.

You may reserve a room in AASHTO's room block here, <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RTLM>. The last day to reserve a room at the group rate of \$159 per night plus 14.95% tax is Monday, January 31, 2022. If you encounter any problems securing a room at the hotel, please contact Kamasha Hendrickson at 202.624.5403.

10.

Other:

Jeff Schultz commented that he will be chairing TRB AR030 this year and that all of the TRB committees involved with rail are developing research needs statements. Jeff asked the NGEC what it sees as research needs to facilitate passenger rail equipment. He asked, "should we have a conversation that would provide input on the next generation of equipment?"

Joe Paul acknowledged that a conversation would make sense and asked what the best way forward would be. Dave Warner noted that the presentation on "then and now" zero emissions propulsion that he will be giving at the Annual Meeting refers to this issue and will lead to further discussion.

Steve Hewitt agreed with Dave that his presentation should come first and that following discussions would reside with the Executive Board as they establish the work plan for the NGEC.

NGEC executive Board Chair Ray Hessinger agreed that if a discussion is to occur it belongs with the Executive Board.

10. Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, Joe Paul adjourned the meeting at about 3:30pm Eastern.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 2-3-22– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

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Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are about 200 industry participants.

There have been several updates/changes to the list that have been provided to Steve Hewitt and those changes were made. Any further updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-20-22:

On 1-20-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, and Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

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Document Control Update -1-20-22:

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Working Group on Weight Issues as of 1-6-22:

The next call is scheduled for 1-24-22 at 1:00pm Eastern.

If interested in participating on this working group, contact Jeff Gordon at Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov or Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

Next Update – 2-3-21

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

On 7-22-21, George Hull talked about the addressing issues related to cellular capabilities on trains. Previously, it was thought the Electronics on Trains working group would be a home for this effort. George asked if that was the right place or should a separate working group be established to address these issues.

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Based on this response – the Chair will take this up at a later date to determine if this should be assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group or another more appropriate group.

On 12-9-22, Chairman Hull asked that this effort be assigned to the Electronics on Trains Working Group as he believes it is the best suited working group to address this topic.

See report on the Electronics on Trains working group activities.

Electronics on Trains Working Group:

David Brabb, former Team Leader provided the following update for 1-20-22:

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Suffice it to say that we are not getting much if any support from the group lately. We issued 305-920 for comments back in September, so that we could begin on the software spec., and have not received any feedback. We have also asked Tammy to let us know if there are any prevailing specifications for "other than DTL" equipment that might affect our DTL connector and jumper placements and geometry. I am sure she will get back with us on that soon. We have additionally asked Siemens to clarify a few things that they had brought up mostly related to jumpers and connectors; we have not yet heard back from them.

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Joe Paul asked that Steve Hewitt add this topic to the agenda for the next call and Steve agreed and will ask that Tammy Krause provide the update.

Next Update – 1-20-22

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 10-14-21:

Hamid reported that work is continuing with the results of propagation modeling on the 160Mega Hertz channel and performance modeling on different channels including propagation and velocity in different rail environments (such as going through tunnels). Two abstracts have been produced and will be presented.

For any questions or more information, please contact Hamid Sharif-Kashani at hamidSharif@UNL.edu.

Steve Hewitt reached out to Hamid to request an update for 1-20-22 but did not receive a response. Steve will try again for an update on 2-3-22.

Next Update: 2-3-22

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –1-6-22

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TRB research on developing needs statement for future/next generation equipment:

This discussion will be referred to the NGENC executive Board and will likely follow the Zero Emissions presentation to be given by Dave Warner at the Annual meeting.

NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:

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Reserve Sleeping Room

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Next call: 2-3-22

ATTACHMENTS



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

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

1-20-22

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 1-6-22 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| 6. Update: Ele3ctronics on Trains Working Group | Steve Hewitt |
| 7. Update: University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study | Hamid-Sharif Kashani |
| 8. Preparing for the NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting – 2-25-22 | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Other | |
| 10. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next call – 2-3-22