

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

OCTOBER 13,
2022

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Joe Paul, Vice Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Joe Paul for George Hull, Jeff Gordon, Art Peterson for Jennifer Bastian, Gurleen Boparai, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Marci Petterson, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Larry Salci, Blair Slaughter, Melissa Shurland, Tarek Omar, Tammy Krause, Camren Cordell, Steve Hewitt Industry Members: Ed Golitko, Richard Stegner, Richard Curtis, Kevin Sudano, Steve Ojalvo, Paul Arnone, Rich Bowie, Paul Jamieson, Jack Madden, Frank Pascazio, Joanna Hallisy, Gary Wagner, Martin Bloedt, Joe Kenas
ABSENTEES	<i>George Hull, Ray Hessinger, Ed Engle, Matthew Simmons, Jennifer Bastian, Jason Biggs, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger</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, NGEC Program Manager:

2022 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2022 NGEC two-pager is available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

To date 625 copies have been distributed.

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:

Update: On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Working Group on Weight Issues:

The document is nearly complete. Jeff has some work to do on it before sending back out to the working group members.

The document is turning out a bit differently than expected. Jeff said he is not sure exactly how the Technical subcommittee will use it.

He noted that the group has uncovered things that need to be changed in the spec. None of these are controversial. Some are simply updates to the references and some are corrections to equations that have changed. Jeff will handle these through the DCR process that is ongoing now on the Bi-Level specification update.

Jeff expects the work to be complete by November with working group meetings to be held in September and October.

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: 11-10-22

**3.
Approval of the Minutes from 9-15-22 – George Hull, Amtrak:**

On a motion by Art Peterson for IDOT, and a second by Curtis McDowell, for NCDOT, the minutes from 9-15-22 were approved as submitted.

**4.
Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:**

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (10-13-22):

The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly approved, and the Complete Car FAI is scheduled for October 26th.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the Rev B test report has been approved and the emergency egress demonstration is scheduled for October 25. The Cab Car Sample Car Inspection for cab car is tentative for early 2023.

117 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once necessary agreements are in place.

**5.
Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Ray Hessinger:**

In the absence of Ray Hessinger, Steve Hewitt provided the update that Ray had given to the Executive Board on 10-4-22:

All Final Design Review (FDR) documents have been submitted by Siemens to Metro-North. The documents are now in the review, comment, and comment resolution stages.

**6.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Joe Paul, Amtrak:**

On 10-13-22, Joe Paul reported:

On the Acela:

Prototype Set #2 is in testing – Amtrak will be conducting a "mini" test beginning on 10-21-22 and running for 10 consecutive days.

Sets 3, 4 and 5 are in Penn now and Set 6 will arrive in November. They need FRA authorization for acceptance.

On the Charger Locomotives:

14 units have been accepted into service and are running on the Empire Builder and the City of New Orleans.

There are 5 more units in Wilmington, Delaware for commissioning.

29 units are in production and 77 are planned – for a total of 125.

On the GP38 yard locomotives:

1 has been delivered to Wilmington and is 90% commissioned.

Another one will be delivered tomorrow (10-14-22) and two more are expected in October.

Intercity Trainsets (ICT):

There was no update on this procurement provided today.

5.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause, NGEC Document Control Manager:

Tammy Krause reported that all Bi-Level Specification document change requests (DCRs) are with the appropriate technical working group team leaders. The October 15th deadline for completing the working group review has been extended until October 31, 2022.

Tammy Krause and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are now in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.

8.

Update: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif:

Hamid Sharif was not available for today's call, but provided the following report for inclusion in the minutes – read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

Hamid Sharif Report 10/13/2022:

During the previous phase of this project, which was completed in August, our team systematically explored the reusability of underutilized RF resources such as the 160MHz RF band. In this work, we studied the distinct capabilities - and limitations - of the 160 MHz RF frequency bands through our theoretical and computer models to design an RF communications solution to maximize achievable performance, reliability, and security for rail applications.

In the new phase, which started in September, we aim to research the transition from the developed model to a full prototype and conduct extensive field testing utilizing the rail facility to demonstrate our model capabilities. This phase also includes collections of a variety of performance metrics. We also aim to leverage these to accelerate research into a universal and modular cognitive radio solution for the rail industry that intelligently adapts to any usable RF band, for any rail wireless application.

I hope in the next report, provide more details about our plan for field testing. Please contact me (hsharif@UNL.edu) for any questions. Thank you.

9.

NGEC Website Refresh – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Manager:

The website refresh vendor (iEngineering) has completed Tasks I and II and is now working on Task III.

They have acquired a domain for the NGEC rather than have it as a part of the AASHTO website as it is now. The domain is ngec.org

Earlier this week (10-11-22) iEngineering provided the NGEC/AASHTO subgroup with a website Design Mock-Up The Mock-up is under review by the subgroup now and will be previewed by the NGEC Executive Board on its call next week 10-18-22.

The vendor is making great progress and anticipates completing its work well within the performance period which runs through December 31, 2022.

10.

CRISI Application for NGEC Funding – Steve Hewitt:

The Amtrak/NGEC CRISI Grant Application is being prepared by the Amtrak Grants Office. Once it is ready to be submitted industry members and individual states will be asked to write letter in support.

11.

NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – date and location:

The 2023 NGEN Annual Meeting will be held a bit earlier than in past years. This year it will be held on **February 3rd**. **The location is, once again, the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Capitol Room B.** The time for the meeting will likely be the same as last year (**8:00am Registration – Meeting 8:30am – Noon Eastern**).

Update:

Attendees can begin booking sleeping rooms here - <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RA1L>. Rooms must be booked by Monday, January 9th. Room Rate is \$188 per night plus 14.95% tax.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

Kamasha

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

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Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: khendrickson@aaashto.org

12.

Other:

Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call Joe Paul adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm Eastern.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 10-27-22– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

2022 NGEN Backgrounder educational document:

The 2022 NGEN two-pager is available in hard copy by request. Send requests to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

To date 625 copies have been distributed.

The NGEN Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) is in the process of reviewing and updating the document for 2023. It is expected to be released by the 2023 NGEN Annual Meeting 2-3-23.

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 10-13-22:

The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly approved, and the Complete Car FAI is scheduled for October 26th.

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Next Update – 11-10-22

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study:

On 10-13-22 Hamid Sharif provided the following report for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Hamid Sharif Report 10/13/2022:

During the previous phase of this project, which was completed in August, our team systematically explored the reusability of underutilized RF resources such as the 160MHz RF band. In this work, we studied the distinct capabilities - and limitations - of the 160 MHz RF frequency bands through our theoretical and computer models to design an RF communications solution to maximize achievable performance, reliability, and security for rail applications.

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Next Update: 11-10-22

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –10-13-22:

All Final Design Review (FDR) documents have been submitted by Siemens to Metro-North. The documents are now in the review, comment, and comment resolution stages.

Next Update: 11-10-22

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

Conn DOT has just completed answering Round 2 questions and are going into Round 3. The RFP deadline has been extended until January 2023.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 10-13-22:

On the Acela:

Prototype Set #2 is in testing – Amtrak will be conducting a “mini” test beginning on 10-21-22 and running for 10 consecutive days.

Sets 3, 4 and 5 are in Penn now and Set 6 will arrive in Nvember. They need FRA authorization for acceptance.

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On the GP38 yard locomotives:

1 has been delivered to Wimington and is 90% commissioned.

Another one will be delivered tomorrow (10-14-22) and two more are expected in October.

On the Intercity Trainset (ICT):

As of 9-15-22, it was reported that they are close to done with Intermediate Design Review and are moving on to FDR.

Nothing new reported on 10-13-22.

Next Update: 11-10-22

NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting:

The 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting will be held a bit earlier than in past years. This year it will be held on **February 3rd. The location is, once again, the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Capitol Room B.** The time for the meeting will likely be the same as last year (**8:00am Registration – Meeting 8:30am – Noon Eastern**).

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Next call 10-27-22

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

Agenda

10-13-2022

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 9-15-22 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 8. University of Nebraska high speed wireless study – update | Hamid Sharif |
| 9. NGEC Website Refresh - update | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. CRISI Application for NGEC funding - update | Steve Hewitt |
| 11. NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – Registration and Hotel reservation information | Steve Hewitt |
| 12. Other | All |
| 13. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next Meeting 10-27-22