

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> George Hull, Joe Paul, Jeffrey Gordon, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Momo Tamaoki, Momo Tamaoki also as proxy for Jason Biggs, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Marci Petterson, Mike Jenkins, Steve Hewitt, Michael Kraft, Art Peterson, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Hamid Sharif-Kashani, Dave "Emeritus" Warner <b>Industry Members:</b> Josh Coran, Paul Jamieson, Richard Curtis, Kevin Sudano, Jeff Schultz, Paul Arnone, Jack Madden, Kevin Myles, Anthony Lucas, Matt Sibul, Joe Kenas, Ed Golitko, Rich Stegner, Donald Sandala, Kirk Klug, Ronald Kurta, John Graham, William Saddler, Darrell Smith, Dick Bruss, Tom LaMano
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	Jason Biggs, Mathew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Joe Paul, Blair Slaughter, Melissa Shurland, Tarek Omar, Oscar Bermudez

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

### 1.

George Hull, 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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).**

### 2.

#### **Review Agenda – Steve Hewitt – NGENC Program Manager:**

Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of today's meeting agenda.

### 3.

#### **Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:**

##### **Requesting Backgrounder educational document:**

As reported previously, the two-pager is being updated and is now with MODOT graphic arts for final formatting. This 2021 version will be available for distribution by the Virtual Annual Meeting to be held on 2-23-21.

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:** There are approximately 200 industry participants.

On the last call, Steve Hewitt asked industry members to review the list of NGENC industry participants and to let Steve know if there are any changes. Thus far, several updates/changes have been provided to Steve and those changes were made to the list. Any further updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

##### **Status Update: The Passenger ECP Final Test Report:**

Update: On 11-12-20, Paul Jamieson provided the following update on the ECP Final Test Report – Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

*"The Passenger ECP Final Test Report has been submitted to the FRA observer and docket. The docket reference is FRA-2015-0078 for all information that was formally submitted to the FRA. Draft ECP regulatory language was submitted to the FRA observer and the text will appear in a future NPRM.*

*NGEC technical specification's recommended changes will be submitted separately for inclusion in future revisions. These changes will include the two performance standards APTA PR-M-S-20-17 Emulation Performance Requirements and APTA PR-M-S-21-17 ECP Passenger Performance Requirements are issued and available of the APTA website <https://www.apta.com/research-technical-resources/standards/passenger-rail-equipment-safety-standards/>. An APTA PRESS standard to address ECP Ready requirements, as addressed in the NGENC technical specification, will be issued as APTA PR-M-030-21, and is in final publication preparation.*

*APTA will be issuing a standard to address passenger vehicle piping requirements. This standard will be APTA PR-M-S-029-21 and is in final publication preparation."*

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Paul at:

Paul E Jamieson, PE Retired  
Mobile: 18643236956  
jamiespe@outlook.com

Paul also recommended that the NGEC, as one of the project sponsors, may want to post this report on the website.

**Establish process and timeline for Tech SC review of Access Board NPRM Accessibility Guidelines and compare with current NGEC Specifications**

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

In January 2021, Melissa Shurland informed Steve Hewitt that there still was no update from the Access Board on this activity, and she would not be providing a presentation at the Annual Meeting.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from 1-21-21– George Hull, Amtrak:**

On a motion offered by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and seconded by Curtis McDowell, for NCDOT, the minutes from 1-21-21 were approved as presented.

**4. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 2-4-21 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:**

On 2-4-21, Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update:

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens and FRA with compression testing planned for March or April. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and open items are being addressed. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Clearance, Lighting and Electrical FDR meetings occurred in January with additional reviews tentative for March.*

*The Maintainability Demonstration was performed on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Stockton and open items are in work. IDOT Business Class table testing is tentative for February 9 in Spain. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report has been submitted to Amtrak and FRA. The IDOT 238.111 test runs were completed in January and the report is in work.*

*70 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago. Four Caltrans cars are scheduled to ship in late February.*

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

Ray Hessinger reported that MTA approved the award of the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive contract to Siemens. Metro-North is in the process of finalizing the contract documents to formalize the agreement.

**6. Update: Connecticut Rail Car Procurement – Marci Petterson, CtDOT:**

Marci Petterson reported that CtDOT has completed reviewing and rating the proposals received and will begin negotiations with the highest proposer next week.

**7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:**

CAF: Progress continues – with 2 more due to be out next week.

Charger Locomotive – Also continues to progress well with 12 units “in-line”.

AmFleet replacement – reviewing the “last and final” – working with the vendors.

Acela Express 21 – working with Alstom on testing and forging ahead.

## **8.**

### **Update: TSSSA Primer – George Hull:**

George Hull reported that he is reviewing a 6-page draft TSSSA primer and will shortly be prepared to send it out for further review and comment.

He asked what the next steps should be – procedurally. Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger suggested that it be provided as part of the Technical subcommittee progress report to the Executive Board (as a DRAFT) at the Annual meeting. It would then be sent back out in DRAFT form to the NGEN Technical subcommittee for an initial review (possibly also by appropriate working groups) and ultimately to the Executive Board. It is not meant to be treated as a specification subject to those adoption procedures, but more in line with the Recommended Practice Document 305-200 which passed from a working group to the Executive Board and will be adopted (presumably) by that body at the Annual meeting. The TSSSA Primer will be treated similarly and will be included in the PRIIA family of “living” documents to be used as guidance and revised/updated as needed.

## **9.**

### **Update: Document Control Management as of 2-4-21 – Tammy Krause:**

On 2-4-21, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

- 1. The final draft of the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document was approved by the WG and has been sent to the EB for review.*
- 2. Stadler Rail had requested a delay in the DMU to allow them to submit comments. I have received the first group of comments and the second group are due 2/10/2021. So far, they have submitted several comments which require DCRs to be created.*
- 3. The PRIIA specifications all reference the APTA PRESS Standards. For the past, several years APTA has been working on reviewing and updating all the specifications. They have also created many new ones. I am working with Paul Jamieson on changes to the PRIIA specs based on these. This will include making changes to Chapter 2 and 18 (References and Materials & Workmanship). In addition, ECP brakes now has standards which will require some changes to the Brakes chapters.*

## **10.**

### **Update: Working Group on Specification Wright Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that the working group – established in December 2020 has met twice and now has a membership of 20 volunteers. The members include representatives from Amtrak, FRA, car builders, consultants – “the whole gamut”.

The first meeting was organizational in nature determining what to do and how to go forward. A review of the weight requirements in each specification are being reviewed with specific car builders volunteering to review them.

On the last call – Alstom gave a great presentation and made several suggestions on what could have or would work for the Bi-Level specification. Other presentations on other specs will be forthcoming. The intent is to develop some kind of sub-specification that will address weight issues as they pertain to the various vehicle types. It is a more comprehensive approach rather than using a one-size fits all approach for all of the vehicle specs.

The next meeting of the working group will take place on 2-24-21 at 3:00pm Eastern.

Additional volunteers are welcome – contact Jeff Gordon – [Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov) or Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) if you wish to join the effort.

## **11.**

### **Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group – Steve Hewitt for David Brabb:**

David Brabb provided the following update – read into the record by Steve Hewitt – on the activities of the Electronics on Trains working group as of 1-26-21:

*On 1-26-21, we had a call with a fairly good-sized group today (for us) at 3pm eastern. We are looking at finishing up the first*

revision to 305-919 hardware spec., by moving appropriate firmware info to that spec from 305-920. We will reach out to you when we are ready to follow the appropriate procedure for issuing a revision.

We do have a couple of new team members that are eager to share lessons learned and what/how they are doing with some of their designs/ builds. The two new gentlemen are Kevin Sudano (Transit Consultant) and Fabio Cussigh of VDS Rail in Italy. Ken Martin (Sharma) and I plan to meet with them in a separate call, in early February 2021 to gather whatever information that they want to share. Of course, all information gathered will be shared/vetted with our group.

Our next NGEN Electronics call is scheduled for March 2nd at 3pm eastern.

**12.**

**Update: University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif-Kashani:**

Hamid Sharif-Kashani provided a brief update on the status of the current phase of the University of Nebraska/FRA High-Speed Wireless Study. The current focus is on computer modeling and performance measures for rail application. They are focusing this effort on 160 Mega Hertz – they will build a model for that frequency and look later at other frequency bands.

**13.**

**Update: AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights – Tarek Omar, FRA:**

In the absence of Tarek Omar, FRA, this item was tabled.

**14.**

**NGEC 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting 2-23-21– Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of the upcoming NGEN Virtual Annual Meeting and reported that, to date, 83 NGEN members have registered to attend – 43 of which are members of the industry.

The meeting agenda is in final DRAFT – all speakers have been confirmed. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the NGEN – the first held virtually – and should be an interesting and productive meeting for all who wish to participate.

**All PowerPoint presentations for the Annual meeting are due to Steve Hewitt by COB on 2-16-21.**

Anyone who would like to attend should send an email to that effect to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

**15.**

**Other Issues:**

With no other issues forthcoming, Technical subcommittee Chair, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:28pm Eastern.

**Next Tech subcommittee Call: 3-18-21– 3:00pm Eastern**

**NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting – 2-23-21 11:30am-2:00pm Eastern**

**Decisions and Action Items**

**Updating Backgrounder educational document:**

As reported previously, the two-pager is being updated and is now with MODOT graphic arts for final formatting. This 2021 version should be available for distribution by the Annual Meeting 2-23-21.

**Maintaining Industry Participation List:** There are around 200 industry participants.

**Update/action:** On 1-7-21, Steve Hewitt noted that he will be sending the full list out for a review by members.

As of 2-4-21, several members have provided updates. (Thank you!)

Please let Steve know if there are more changes that are needed so it can be updated -especially in advance of the Annual meeting so that a complete roster can be included in the meeting packet.

#### **AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights Update:**

On 6-25-20, Tarek Omar reported that Phase 3 and 4 are complete and they are working on the final report. Tarek hopes to be able to share the report with this group soon.

On 8-20-20, Tarek Omar noted that the LED testing is complete except for ice melting – which will need to wait a few months on. Steve Hewitt asked if he should remove this item as a regular update. It was agreed that he would take it off as a monthly standing agenda item and will make a note to check in with Tarek in December 2020.

Next Update: As appropriate

#### **PRIIA Multi-State Procurement Update 2-4-2:**

**Multi-State Car Procurement - Caltrans (Lead State):** Progress reports from the lead state will be provided on each subcommittee call.

On 2-4-21, Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update:

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens and FRA with compression testing planned for March or April. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and open items are being addressed. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Clearance, Lighting and Electrical FDR meetings occurred in January with additional reviews tentative for March.*

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*70 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago. Four Caltrans cars are scheduled to ship in late February.*

#### **Document Control Update and action taken – 2-4-21:**

On 2-4-21, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

- 1. The final draft of the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document was approved by the WG and has been sent to the EB for review.*
- 2. Stadler Rail had requested a delay in the DMU to allow them to submit comments. I have received the first group of comments and the second group are due 2/10/2021. So far, they have submitted several comments which require DCRs to be created.*
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#### **Working Group on Weight Issues as of 2-4-21:**

Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that the working group – established in December 2020 has met twice and now has a membership of 20 volunteers. The members include representatives from Amtrak, FRA, car builders, consultants – “the whole gamut”.

The first meeting was organizational in nature determining what to do and how to go forward. A review of the weight requirements in each specification are being reviewed with specific car builders volunteering to review them.

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The next meeting of the working group will take place on 2-24-21 at 3:00pm Eastern.

Additional volunteers are welcome – contact Jeff Gordon – [Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov) or Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) if you wish to join the effort.

Jeff Gordon will be providing a status update presentation on the activities of this working group during the NGEN Annual meeting on 2-23-21.

Next Update – NGEN Annual Meeting 2-23-21

#### **Electronics on Trains Working Group activities as of 2-4-21:**

The following update was provided by David Brabb on 1-26-21 – Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

*On 1-26-21, we had a call with a fairly good-sized group today (for us) at 3pm eastern. We are looking at finishing up the first revision to 305-919 hardware spec., by moving appropriate firmware info to that spec from 305-920. We will reach out to you when we are ready to follow the appropriate procedure for issuing a revision.*

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*Our next NGEN Electronics call is scheduled for March 2nd at 3pm eastern.*

Next Update 3-18-21

#### **University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 2-4-21:**

Hamid Sharif-Kashani provided a brief update on the status of the current phase of the University of Nebraska/FRA High-Speed Wireless Study. The current focus is on computer modeling and performance measures for rail application. They are focusing this effort on 160 Mega Hertz – they will build a model for that frequency and look later at other frequency bands.

For more information, please contact Hamid Sharif ([hamidsharif@uni.edu](mailto:hamidsharif@uni.edu))

Next Update: 3-18- 21

#### **Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – 2-4-21:**

Ray Hessinger reported that MTA approved the award of the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive contract to Siemens. Metro-North is in the process of finalizing the contract documents to formalize the agreement.

Metro-North (Dwight Sowden) will be providing a presentation on the Dual Mode Locomotive procurement during the NGEN Annual Meeting.

Update: 2-23-21

#### **Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

As of 2-4-21, Marci Petterson reported that CtDOT has completed reviewing and rating the proposals received and will begin negotiations with the highest proposer next week.

Next Update: 3-18-21

#### **Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 1-7-21:**

CAF - Progress continues – with 2 more due to be out next week.

Charger Locomotive – Also continues to progress well with 12 units "in-line".

AmFleet replacement – reviewing the "last and final" – working with the vendors.

Acela Express 21 – working with Alstom on testing and forging ahead.

Next Update: 2-23-21 BGEN Annual Meeting

**Establish process and timeline for Tech SC review of Access Board NPRM Accessibility Guidelines and compare with current NGEC Specifications**

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

In January 2021 Melissa Shurland informed Steve Hewitt that there still was no update from the Access Board on this activity – it remains in a holding pattern.

Next Update: As appropriate

**Developing a TSSSA spec/menu/template as of 2-4-21:**

George Hull reported that he is reviewing a 6-page draft TSSSA primer and will shortly be prepared to send it out for further review and comment.

He asked what the next steps should be – procedurally. Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger suggested that it be provided as part of the Technical subcommittee progress report to the Executive Board (as a DRAFT) at the Annual meeting. It would then be sent back out in DRAFT form to the NGEC Technical subcommittee for an initial review (possibly also by appropriate working groups) and ultimately to the Executive Board. It is not meant to be treated as a specification subject to those adoption procedures, but more in line with the Recommended Practice Document 305-200 which passed from a working group to the Executive Board and will be adopted (presumably) by that body at the Annual meeting. The TSSSA Primer will be treated similarly and will be included in the PRIIA family of "living" documents to be used as guidance and revised/updated as needed.

Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting

**NGEC 2021 Annual Meeting:**

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Next call: 2-4-21

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

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

**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

**2-4-21**

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt         |
| 2. Review Action Items  | Steve Hewitt         |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 1-21`-21  | George Hull          |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement   | Momo Tamaoki         |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual mode Locomotive Procurement   | Ray Hessinger        |
| 6. Update: Connecticut Rail Car Procurement   | Marci Petterson      |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements  | George Hull          |
| 8. Overview DRAFT TSSSA Primer  | George Hull          |
| 9. Update: Document Control Management  | Tammy Krause         |
| - Status – additional DMU specification changes   |                      |
| - Status: Completion of Technical formatting of Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B      |                      |
| - Status: Finalizing updated list of Technical working group members  |                      |
| - Status: Electronic Vote results - Equipment Acquisition & Ownership WG –DRAFT 305-200 Recommended Practices |                      |
| - Status: Preparation of the Document Management 2020 Progress Report for the Annual Meeting                  |                      |
| - Status: PRIIA Use Of APTA PRESS Standards   |                      |
| 10. Update: working group on specification weight issues  | Jeff Gordon          |
| 11. Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group   | Steve Hewitt         |
| 12. Update: University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study  | Hamid Sharif-Kashani |
| 13. Update: AAR TAG Committee on LED Headlights   | Tarek Omar           |
| 14. NGENC 2021 "virtual" Annual Meeting – final overview  | Steve Hewitt         |
| 15. Other   | All                  |
| 16. Review this meeting:  | Steve Hewitt         |

**Next call – NGENC Virtual Annual Meeting 2-23-21 11:30am-2:00pm Eastern**