

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2  
2021

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> <i>George Hull, Melissa Shurland for Jeffrey Gordon, Gurleen Boparai, Ray Hessinger, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Jennifer Bastian, Ed Engle, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Steve Hewitt, Larry Salci, Art Peterson, Rebecca Anger, Tammy Krause, <b>Industry Members:</b> Dick Bruss, Richard Curtis, James Michel, Anthony Lucas, Steve Ojalvo, Paul Jamieson, Rich Stegner, Kevin Sudano, Paul Arnone, Josh Coran, Dave Warner, Shunsake Takaya, Steve Morrison, Marco Weber, Joe Kenas, Darrell Smith, Ed Golitko, Rich Bowie, Peter Basile, Tom LaMano, Jack Martinson, Jack Madden, Stephen Mark, Martin Bloedt</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Matthew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Marci Petterson, Jeff Gordon, Blair Slaughter, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Tarek Omar, Larry Salci,</i>

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Chairman George Hull 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 Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:**

**2021 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2021 version of the NGENC two-page backgrounder/educational document has been released and is available electronically or in hard copy by request. Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com)

About 555 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

**Update:** On 7-21-22, the NGENC Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) set a timeline and process for reviewing and updating the two-pager for 2022. The NGENC has a great story to tell, and many achievements have occurred in 2021 that should be highlighted in the next two-pager. The plan is to have it released by the NGENC Annual Meeting which will be held in-person on 2-25-22 in Washington, DC., at the Hyatt Regency on the Hill.

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

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

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Marci Petterson confirmed the procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**NGENC 2022 Annual Meeting:**

The 2022 NGENC Annual Meeting will take place in person on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington DC. An agenda and other meeting information and materials will be forthcoming as the date draws near.

3.

**Approval of the Minutes from 8-5-21– George Hull, Amtrak:**

On a motion by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, and a second by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, the minutes from the 8-5-21 were approved as submitted.

**4. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 9-2-21 – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:**

On 9-2-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update:

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car shell final design has been approved for production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are near the approval stage, and the cab car Clearance information will be submitted to Amtrak. The IDOT Café Car FDR is in the closeout stage with action items being addressed. Part 2 of the galley FAI is planned for September.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is tentative for the week of September 20th in Germany and the compression test report is in work. Several Cab Car FAIs are scheduled for September.*

*94 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT has conditionally accepted 8 coach cars. The Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are addressed.*

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

Metro-North continues to hold their initial design review meetings.

They are scheduled to do an on-site visit of the Siemens factory in Sacramento during the week of 9-20-21. The purpose will be to review some of the systems that will remain the same in the Dual Mode Locomotive as those in the Charger.

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

On the CAF cars: The last car shipped from Elmira – all the equipment is delivered, and Amtrak is looking to get them commissioned and into service.

On the Acela 21 – work continues on qualification and testing.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset (Amfleet) – it is progressing well. It is in the initial design review stage.

On Long Distance Locomotive – there are two on the property that are progressing with testing.

**7. Update Working Group on Weight Issues – Steve Hewitt for Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

Jeff Gordon provided the following update for inclusion in these meeting minutes. Steve Hewitt read them into the record:

*The NGEC Vehicle Weight Working Group has its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting on August 9. There were 11 members in attendance.*

*We discussed lateral imbalance and some ideas for how this parameter can be defined in a common way for all specifications. Some carbuilders expressed concern that the clearer definition of the vehicle condition(s) under which the imbalance is evaluated is required. Discussions ensued about clearance issues and that lateral imbalance is most often corrected by ballasting.*

*It was noted that the specifications do not explicitly require that production cars must be vertically plumb (although carbuilders achieve this by ballasting as required). Some carbuilders do not consider imbalance until all requirements related to wheel load equalization, derailment safety, ride quality and clearance are addressed.*

*It was noted that generally food service (café) cars pose the greatest challenge as it relates to lateral imbalance. The Working Group lead proposed to assemble the information the group has deliberated upon to date and synthesize this into a single document for review at the next WG meeting on September 27 at 1pm ET. This document will eventually become the Working Group's report to the Technical Subcommittee.*

*Please let Jeff know if you are interested in attending the next WG meeting.*

**8. Update: Document Control Management as of 9-2-21 - Tammy Krause:**

Update – Electronics on Trains Working Group - current activities:

Report from David Brabb to Steve Hewitt – read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

*1. We received input from Siemens yesterday, of which we still have questions, that we will incorporate into 305-919 DTL Hardware for review this next month; we plan to publish the revision in October.*

*2. We will start building a framework for 305-920 Software this month as well. I will send out the latest version of 920 to the group for input and discussion on September 28th.*

Continue Review – DMU specification summary of changes:

Tammy Krause walked through proposed DCR'S (propulsion) that have been adjudicated in the appropriate working group. There was a general consensus on the working group positions as presented.

The Structural working group and the VTI working group still have not completed their reviews of dcrs submitted by Stadler. In some cases, (Brian Marquis – VTI team leader) there are questions which Stadler Euro will respond to on the next call. The Structural working group has yet to hold its meeting to consider changes that pertain to this working group's area of responsibility.. Anand Parabhakaran – team leader - expects to hold the meeting of his group in advance of the 9-16-21 Tech subcommittee call.

The intent is to adjudicate these last DCRs and consider the full summary of changes for approval to be submitted to the Executive Board. Once that occurs, the Review Panel and its consultant Larry Salci will review the changes against the original Requirements Document for compliance and develop a report with recommendations to the Executive Board.

**Update: University/FRA High Speed Wireless Study – Steve Hewitt for Hamid Sharif-Kashani:**

Hamid Sharif-Kashani was unavailable for this call, but previously had provided Steve Hewitt with the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes. Steve Hewitt read them into the record:

*"We continue our work in studying the characteristics of 160 MHz RF band. We are currently working on design and implementation of a computer simulation model to evaluate a number of path loss predictions to be used in our end-to-end transceiver design. Here, we want to determine the performance of a transceiver design – the transmitter and receiver pair – and through different the RF channel conditions for 160 MHz Our focus is on a model that excels at representing different environment scenarios with high accuracy for this RF band. Hope to share our findings with the group next time. "*

*Please feel free to contact me for any additional information. Thanks.*

**Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:33PM.

**Next Tech subcommittee Call: 9-16-21– 3:00pm Eastern**

**Decisions and Action Items**

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**Document Control Update -9-2-21:**

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

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

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.

**Still waiting for the list of activities.**

**University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 9-2-21:**

Hamid Sharif-Kashani was unavailable for this call, but previously had provided Steve Hewitt with the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes. Steve Hewitt read them into the record:

*"We continue our work in studying the characteristics of 160 MHz RF band. We are currently working on design and implementation of a computer simulation model to evaluate a number of path loss predictions to be used in our end-to-end transceiver design. Here, we want to determine the performance of a transceiver design – the transmitter and receiver pair – and through different the RF channel conditions for 160 MHz Our focus is on a model that excels at representing different environment scenarios with high accuracy for this RF band. Hope to share our findings with the group next time. "*

For any questions, please contact Hamid Sharif at [hamidSharif@UNL.edu](mailto:hamidSharif@UNL.edu).

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –9-2-21**

Metro-North continues to hold their initial design review meetings.

They are scheduled to do an on-site visit of the Siemens factory in Sacramento during the week of 9-20-21. The purpose will be to review some of the systems that will remain the same in the Dual Mode Locomotive as those in the Charger.

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

As of 9-2-21, this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update: As appropriate

**Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 9-2-21**

On the CAF cars: The last car shipped from Elmira – all the equipment is delivered, and Amtrak is looking to get it commissioned and into service.

On the Acela 21 – work continues on qualification and testing.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset (Amfleet) – it is progressing well. It is in the initial design review stage.

On Long Distance Locomotive – there are three on the property that are progressing with testing.

**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

**NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:**

The 2022 NGEC Annual Meeting will take place in person on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington DC. An agenda and other meeting information and materials will be forthcoming as the date draws near.

**Next call: 9-16-21**

**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

**9-2-21**

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt         |
| 2. Review Action Items  | Steve Hewitt         |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 8-5-21  | George Hull          |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement   | Momo Tamaoki         |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement   | Ray Hessinger        |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements  | George Hull          |
| 7. Update: Working Group on Weight issues   | Jeff Gordon          |
| 8. Document Control Management  | Tammy Krause         |
| Update - Electronics on Trains working group – current activities – list of issues this group is working on |                      |
| Continue Review of DMU specification DCRS   |                      |
| 9. Possible consideration of approval of the DMU summary of changes or setting timeline                     | George Hull          |
| 10. Update: University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed wireless Study  | Hamid Sharif-Kashani |
| 11. Other   | All                  |
| 12. Review this meeting:  | Steve Hewitt         |

**Next call – 9-16-21**