



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, George Hull, Tim Ziethen, Jeff Gordon, Troy Hughes, Amanda Martin, Amanda Martin also as proxy for John Oimoen, Jason Orthner, Arun Rao, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II Support Staff and Colleagues: Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Rebecca Anger, Jon Dees, Mike Murray
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Ron Pate, John Oimoen, Kyle Gradinger, Support: Joe Paul, Michael Kraft, Patrick Centolanzi, Momo Tamaoki, Strat Cavros, Larry Salci

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

Following the roll call, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

3.

Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt briefly reviewed the status of open action items not covered under the agenda this week and noted they will be included on the next call agenda, and the status of each is included in today’s minutes (11-30-21).

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document continues to be available electronically or in hard copy by request - contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. To date 615 electronic copies have been distributed.

The FASC continues to finalize updates to the two-pager for the 2022 version and expects vote on those changes on the next call – December 8, 2021

Industry Participation:

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back from the Access Board and there is a Final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGEC DCR process.

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland reported to the Technical subcommittee, 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 NGECE technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 11-16-21 – there has been no news on the status of the Access Board's efforts.

Next Update: As appropriate

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-23-21 – during the NGECE Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate

CtDOT Rail Car Procurement as of 11-30-21:

The "cone of silence" period continues.

Next Update: As appropriate

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 11-2-21 and 11-16-21:

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Troy Hughes, Missouri DOT, the minutes from the last two meetings (11-2-21 and 11-16-21) were approved as submitted.

5. Treasurer's Report –Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

On 11-30-21, Tim Ziethen provided the current Balance and Spend rate:

Balance/ Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.

Amount Spent through September 2021: \$834,812.51

Balance remaining: \$ 415,187.49

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$333,925.00

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,913.54

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$81,262.49

6 Consideration of Approval of the proposed By-Laws changes as approved by the FASC on 10-13-21 and submitted to the Executive Board on 10-14-21 – Ray Hessinger:

Chairman Ray Hessinger noted that Board members had the proposed By-Law revisions as approved by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) in their possession since 10-14-21. This fulfills the 30-day requirement period.

Chairman Hessinger added that he or Steve Hewitt have not received any comments to date. He asked if there were any comments or discussion from those on the call today. Hearing none the Chair called for a motion to adopt the By-Law changes as submitted by the FASC.

Brian Beeler, NNEPRA for Maine DOT offered a motion to adopt, North Carolina DOT seconded the motion.

With no further discussion forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of voting members present.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed that all those present voted in the affirmative and with a quorum having been established, the Chair determined consensus achieved and the Revisions as proposed by the FASC are adopted. Steve Hewitt will finalize the document and distribute to the Executive Board and to AASHTO for posting to the NGECE web site.

7.

Update: Multi-State Passenger Rail car procurement – Kyle Gradinger:

This item was tabled as California was not represented on the call and did not submit an update.

8.

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

Ray Hessinger reported that Siemens submitted IDRs for all thirty-nine topics. Metro-North agreed and told them to proceed on thirty-four of the IDRs Siemens submitted four revised IDRs and there is one that remains open.

9.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:

George Hull reported on the status of the Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On the Chargers (ACL 42) – 4 are on the property for testing

On the Acela – testing and qualification processes continue.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail equipment – preliminary Design Review continues.

10.

Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (11-30-21):

Not much has been going on in Document Control. There was no Technical Subcommittee meeting last week (due to the Thanksgiving Holiday). The DMU review panel meeting is next week (12-7-21) and hopefully we will approve the proposed changes and submit them to the Executive Board. The Technical Writer is ready to receive the changes and complete the revisions.

Steve Hewitt asked Tammy Krause to follow-up with Review Panel Consultant Larry Salci to check on the status and timeline for completing his review and report on the DMU changes.

Tammy agreed to follow-up with Larry.

Members of the DMU Review Panel:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Review Panel Chairman
Jeff Gordon, FRA
Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA for Maine DOT
Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans

Support:

Mike Kraft, Amtrak
Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager
Larry Salci, Review Panel Consultant
Steve Hewitt, NGEC Manager

11.

Establishing 2022 Priorities – Ray Hessinger:

Ray Hessinger noted that this has been a standing agenda item for a while now and it seems that “we are coalescing around updating the reference specifications” and drawing documents (series 800 and 900) and returning to the Trainset and DMU specifications to address the carbody material issue that was raised during the DMU update. Ray stated that, for now, he will “keep these penciled in” as the priorities.

Ray also alerted Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager to be prepared to give a presentation at the Annual Meeting that provides a summary of 2021 activities and an action plan for 2022 which should be based on the aforementioned priorities.

Additionally, Ray noted that he would like to take a look at the organizational changes that Metro-North made to the Dual Mode Locomotive Specification and consider them to be applied across the board to all of the NGEC specifications. They are not technical changes they simply organized the document to be more user friendly and easier to read.

12.

Preparing for the NGEC Annual Meeting – Ray/Steve:

Ray asked Steve Hewitt to provide an update on preparations for the upcoming 2022 Annual Meeting.

Steve noted that the meeting continues to be planned as in-person at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, DC and turned to Shayne Gill to confirm that AASHTO's plans have not changed. Shayne Gill, AASHTO, confirmed that the plans for the meetings the week of 2-21-22 are that they will be held in-person. (The NGEC meeting will be on 2-25-22 from 8:30am to Noon).

Steve Hewitt added that he and Ray Hessinger have discussed making the NGEC meeting hybrid – in-person with remote capabilities - which is how the SPRC is conducting its meeting earlier that week. The NGEC usually refrains from having remote access, but because of travel limitations due to COVID, it would be reasonable to allow for that access.

Steve Hewitt stated that he will prepare a first DRAFT meeting agenda for discussion with Ray Hessinger next week and following that discussion a DRAFT agenda will be provided to the Executive Board in advance of the next call – 12-14-21.

Steve Hewitt asked Rebecca Anger, AASHTO, if she had yet scheduled the planning meeting that she had proposed for the participating organizations (SPRC, SAIPRC, NGEC AASHTO) for the meetings to be held in DC during the week of 2-21-21. Rebecca responded that she had not yet sent out the appointment but would be doing so soon.

13.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 11:54am Eastern

Next meeting – 12-14-21

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer's Report:

Tim Ziethen provided the current Balance and Spend on 11-30-21:

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The FASC is in the process of finalizing updates to the two-pager for the 2022 version and will look to approve the changes out of the subcommittee on its next call - 12-8-21.

Annual By-Law Review/Update:

The FASC submitted proposed changes to the By-Laws to the Executive Board on 10-14-21. The Board was expected to vote on the proposed changes on 11-16-21, but due to the lack of a quorum on that date, the vote was tabled until the next call 11-30-21.

On 11-30-21, the NGEC Executive Board adopted the By-Laws revisions as proposed by the Finance and Administrative

subcommittee on 10-13-21. Steve Hewitt will finalize the document and distribute to Executive Board members and to AASHTO for posting to the NGEC website.

Task Complete

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement:

Caltrans provided the following update to the Technical subcommittee on 10-28-21. Steve Hewitt read it into the record on 11-2-21:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Carshell final design has been approved and the first 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 scheduled to resume in November and the compression test report is in work. The FAI for the cab Side Window is occurring this week in Canada.

Ninety-four 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 are being addressed.

Caltrans was not represented on the Executive Board calls held in November. No updates provided.

Next Update: 12-14-21

Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

This procurement continues to be in the “cone of silence” phase.

Next Update – as appropriate

Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 11-30-21:

Siemens submitted IDRs for all thirty-nine topics. Metro-North agreed and told them to proceed on thirty-four of the IDRs Siemens submitted four revised IDRs and there is one that remains open.

Next Update: 12-28-21

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – 11-30-21:

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On the Acela – testing and qualification processes continue.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail equipment – preliminary Design Review continues.

Next Update: 12-28-21

Update: Document Control Management 11-30-21:

The DMU review panel meeting is next week (12-7-21) and hopefully we will approve the proposed changes and submit them to the Executive Board. The Technical Writer is ready to receive the changes and complete the revisions.

Tammy Krause will follow-up with Review Panel Consultant Larry Salci to check on the status and timeline for completing his review and report on the DMU changes.

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Next Update: As appropriate

Exploring/confirming funding options beyond 9-30-2023:

On 10-5-21, Mike Murray, FRA, reported that the FRA is looking at options and briefing leadership in the Office of Railroad Policy and Development. This will take a couple of months and Mike suggested that the Board not carry this as an agenda item for the bi-weekly meetings as it will take time. When he has more information, he will let the Board know.

Tim Ziethen reported that he has reached out to Ken Altman, Amtrak Government Affairs to follow-up with him on previous discussions that an option could be Amtrak funding the NGEC through its grant. It was the general thinking that this would be a possibility as the NGEC was included as a potential type of recipient in the overall Amtrak grant request. Tim will report back once he hears from Ken Altman.

Decisions/Actions:

Ray Hessinger suggested that the FASC follow these issues and keep this on their monthly agenda, and report back to the NGEC Executive Board as more information is forthcoming.

The NGEC will explore potential grant opportunities and potential appropriations requests for funding beyond 2023.

Next Update – As appropriate

Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back and there is a final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGEC DCR process.

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Next Update: as appropriate

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: as appropriate

Establishing Priorities and developing updated work plan for 2022 – Ray Hessinger:

On 11-30-21, Ray Hessinger noted that this has been a standing agenda item for a while now and it seems that "we are coalescing around updating the reference specifications" and drawing documents (series 800 and 900) and returning to the Trainset and DMU specifications to address the carbody material issue that was raised during the DMU update. Ray stated that, for now, he will "keep these penciled in" as the priorities.

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Additionally, Ray noted that he would like to take a look at the organizational changes that Metro-North made to the Dual Mode Locomotive Specification and consider them to be applied across the board to all of the NGEC specifications. They are not technical changes they simply organized the document to be more user friendly and easier to read.

Action:

Members are asked to provide input over the next few weeks.

Next Update-12-14-21

NGEC in-person Annual Meeting – Washington DC – Hyatt Regency on the Hill – 2-25-22.

The meeting continues to be planned as in-person at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, DC and turned to Shayne Gill to confirm that AASHTO's plans have not changed. On 11-30-21, Shayne Gill, AASHTO, confirmed that the plans for the meetings the week of 2-21-22 continue to be for an in-person meeting. (The NGEC meeting will be on 2-25-22 from 8:30am to Noon).

Due to COVID and resulting travel restrictions, the NGEC will hold a hybrid meeting – in-person and virtual.

A DRAFT meeting agenda will be provided to the Executive Board in advance of the next call – 12-14-21.

AASHTO is arranging for a planning/coordination meeting among the organizations (SPRC, SAIPRC, AASHTO, NGEC) participating in meetings during the week of 2-21-22

Next Update – 12-14-21

NGEC Executive Board Meeting

11-30-21

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern

By computer:

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

By phone:

1-415-655-0001

Access code:

126-073-1531

Agenda

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 11-2-21 and 11-16-21 meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Treasurer's Report
Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Consideration of adoption of the FASC proposed By-Laws changes | Ray Hessinger |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Passenger Rail car procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 8. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 9. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 11. Establishing Priorities for 2022 | Ray Hessinger |
| 12. Preparing for the NGEC Annual Meeting | Ray/Steve |
| 13. Other | All |

14. Adjourn

Ray Hessinger

Next call/meeting – 12-14-21