



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES DECEMBER 28, 2021, 11:30 EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

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

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 (12-28-21).

Industry Participation:

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

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

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

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

Update:

Steve Hewitt has reached out to VIA Rail to invite them to participate in the 2022 NGEC Annual Meeting and give a presentation on their vehicle procurements. There has been no response thus far.

Next Update: NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting - potentially

CtDOT Rail Car Procurement as of 12-28-21:

The "cone of silence" period continues.

Update 12-28-21:

Steve Hewitt checked in with Marci about giving a presentation update at the Annual meeting and she said it was still in the “cone of silence” and she would not have a report for the Annual Meeting.

Next Update: As appropriate

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: 1-11-2

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – 11-30-21:

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.

Next Update: 1-11-22

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 12-14-21:

On a motion by Jason Biggs, WSDOT, and a second by Jeff Gordon, FRA, the minutes from the call held on 12-14-21 were approved as submitted.

5. FASC Report – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

In the absence of FASC Chair Tim Ziethen, this agenda item was tabled until the next call (1-11-22).

6. Update: Multi-State Passenger Rail car procurement – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans as of 12-28-21:

On 12-28-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car shell 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 complete with the test report in work and the cab car compression test report review is nearly complete. FAIs will continue for café and cab car subsystems after the first of the year.

99 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.

IDOT has reached final acceptance with Amtrak on four cars and has started on rail testing of Wi-Fi and passenger information systems, along with crew training on those cars.

7. Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes (12-28-21):

Due to the Holidays, there is not much update for Document Control. I have met several times with the Technical Writer, and we have finalized all the non-technical changes to the Trainset specification. The reformatting is almost done and will hopefully be submitted at the next Executive Board meeting.

**8.
DMU Specification Revision A – Review Panel Report and Recommendations – Larry Salci:**

Larry Salci provided a detailed summary of the DMU Specification update including the background related to two batches of DCRs – the first having been approved by the Technical subcommittee in October 2020, and a subsequent batch of 90+ DCRs submitted by Stadler Rail after the Executive Board agreed to Stadler's request to have a period of time to prepare their DCRs. What was expected to be a month extension became much more than that. This resulted in a longer delay than initially anticipated. It was always the view of the Chair that it was better to get it right than rushed.

Larry explained in detail that the Review Panel did a very thorough job in reviewing the DRAFT report and the DCR recommendations and made several changes or clarifications to the Final DRAFT Review panel Report with Recommendations. Ultimately, on 12-13-21, the Panel approved the DRAFT Report for submittal to the Executive Board for its consideration.

**9.
Consideration of the Adoption of the Review Panel Report and Recommendations and the adoption of DMU Specification 305-009 Revision A – Ray Hessinger:**

Unfortunately, following Mr. Salci's detailed summary, it was realized that the version sent to Board members did not include the Review Panel changes.

Steve Hewitt acknowledged that it was his error – that there were many DRAFTS of the Report, and he inadvertently sent a previous DRAFT to the Board thinking it was the final DRAFT.

As a result, it was agreed that Larry Salci and Steve Hewitt will get together and to be sure that Steve distributes the correct "Final Final" DRAFT DMU Review Panel Report.

Note: On 12-29-21 in a separate email, Steve Hewitt forwarded, received from Larry Salci, the correct DRAFT Report with the Review Panel's changes/clarifications included.

**10.
Review 2022 NGEC two-pager mock-up – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt walked through the mock-up of the 2022 two-pager and identified proposed changes that have been suggested.

On the NGEC Timeline – Page One – All dates will list month and year consistently as opposed to month, day, and year. Currently there were inconsistencies in format.

The timeline will now reflect the DMU specification update as January 2022.

The timeline will now reflect the Trainset specification update as January 2022.

It was also agreed that, in the timeline, TSSSA will be spelled out with a document title that more clearly identifies for the audience what it is. Rather than call it TSSSA document, it will be spelled out as: "Guidance for Long-term Vehicle Service Agreements".

On page two, under the 3rd section of Results bullets three and four will be revised to refer to Passenger rail cars and locomotives:

The bullets will now say:

The multi-state procurement are revitalizing the passenger rail car and locomotive manufacturing industry.

And

Connecting passenger rail car and locomotive builders and US suppliers to achieve 100% Buy America goal.

The above annotated revisions were agreed to and will be submitted by Steve Hewitt to Laura Seabaugh, MODOT to include in a final draft for Executive Board review and approval. The intent is to try to have these changes incorporated in advance of the next Board call – 1-11-22 if possible.

**11.
Preparing for the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-25- 22 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Capitol Hill, Washington DC**

from 8:00am-12:30pm.

Steve Hewitt reviewed the DRAFT Annual Meeting agenda.

He noted that he had reached out to VIA Rail to invite them to attend and to give an update on their vehicle procurements.

As of 12-28-21 – there has been no response. Steve will note “invited” on the DRAFT agenda and reach out again to VIA Rail after the Holidays.

Steve also reached out to CtDOT, and they have confirmed that they will not have a report – they expect to still be in the cone of silence.

Steve Hewitt has removed the CtDOT presentation from the DRAFT agenda.

Ray Hessinger has reached out to Metro-North to invite them to provide a presentation on the Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement. Ray’s invite has been acknowledged, but no decision has been reached.

Steve Hewitt will note “invited” on the DRAFT agenda.

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, agreed to check with Kyle Gradinger or Momo Tamaaki to determine who will give either or both of the update presentations being requested.

Jason Biggs, WSDOT will confirm who will represent WSDOT to give the presentation on Washington State DOT’s experience with the Charger Locomotive deployment.

George Hull, Amtrak, agreed to give the Amtrak Equipment Procurements update, but may name another member of his office to give the presentation on Amtrak’s experience with the Charger Locomotive deployment.

George Hull will also remind Tim Ziethen to work with Amtrak Government Affairs to determine who will give the Amtrak Government Affairs update.

Mike Murray, FRA, previously agreed to talk with the FRA policy office to determine who will represent FRA in giving the FRA update at the Annual Meeting.

Other Actions:

At the Annual meeting this year, the election of State Board members and State officers for two-year terms will take place.

Per NGEC By-Laws, Chairman Ray Hessinger will appoint a Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee will nominate the State Members to be appointed to two-year terms.

Once the State Board Members are elected, they will choose their representatives for the offices of Chair and Secretary.

The policy is that the Amtrak CMO or his representative holds the office of Vice Chair.

The policy is also that Amtrak will hold the Treasurer’s officer role as Amtrak receives the grant and manages the funds.

State representatives are asked to let Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt know if the State wishes to continue as a member of the Board and to confirm the Board representative.

12.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:28pm Eastern

Next meeting – 1-11-22

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer's Report:

Balance/ Spend Rate as of 12-24-21:

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

Amount Spent through October 2021: \$850,314.73

Balance remaining: \$ 399,685.27

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$320,610.47

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,939.59

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$79,074 (this would carry the NGEC about 5 months beyond the end of the grant period)

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.

On 12-28-21, a mock-up of the 2022 two-pager provided by Missouri DOT graphic arts was reviewed and discussed. Several changes were made to the mock-up and Steve Hewitt will provide them to Laura Seabaugh, MODOT.

The intent is to have a revised mock-up ready (if possible) for discussion on the Executive Board's next call 1-11-22.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement:

On 12-28-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car shell 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.

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99 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.

IDOT has reached final acceptance with Amtrak on four cars and has started on rail testing of Wi-Fi and passenger information systems, along with crew training on those cars.

Next Update: 1-11-21

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: 1-11-21

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

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.

Next Update: 1-11-21

Update: Document Control Management 12-28-21:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (12-28-21):

Due to the Holidays, there is not much update for Document Control. I have met several times with the Technical Writer, and we have finalized all the non-technical changes to the Trainset specification. The reformatting is almost done and will hopefully be submitted at the next Executive Board meeting.

Consideration of the DMU Specification Review Panel Report with Recommendations:

The Executive Board will review the FINAL DRAFT of the DMU review Panel Report as distributed on 12-29-21 by Steve Hewitt and send any concerns, comments, edits to Larry Salci (CC to Steve Hewitt and Tammy Krause) in advance of the 1-11-22 NGEC Executive Board call. On that call, the Chair intends to call for a motion to accept the Review Panel Report and adopt the changes contained therein to result in PRIIA DMU Specification 305-009 Revision A.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

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

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: Steve Hewitt will follow-up with VIA Rail on the invitation extended to them to attend the Annual Meeting and to see if they would be interested in, once again, providing an update on their vehicle procurements.

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

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: 2-25-22 – NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting

Establishing 2022 Priorities – Ray Hessinger:

Ray Hessinger noted that this has been a standing agenda item for several months and based on previous discussions he planned to move forward with the following identified priorities for 2022:

Review/update NGEC Reference and Drawings series 305-900 and 305-800.

Review/Update the Bi-level specification currently in Revision C.4. With Amtrak looking at using some of the funding from the new IIJA for its western fleet, it makes sense for the NGEC to review and update the Bi-Level car specification.

Review the car body materials issue from a broader perspective for all NGEC equipment not only DMUs. Ray would like to take a look at developing a consistent approach for all of the NGEC vehicle specifications.

Review "emerging technologies": On the last technical subcommittee call (12-9-21) the topic of emerging technologies for propulsion was raised. Ray believes that the technical subcommittee should conduct a scan of the industry regarding emerging technologies for propulsion and how they relate to the NGEC.

Review and consider using the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Specification organizational changes to determine if they should be adopted by the NGEC and applied across the board to all NGEC specifications. This would be an administrative change not impacting technical content of any of the specifications and could be resolved by the Executive Board.

Action:

At the NGEC Annual Meeting, Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager, is asked to provide a progress report on activities and accomplishments from Document Control over the past year and to provide an action plan for the year ahead which should be based on the priorities as identified by the Chair.

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State representatives are asked to let Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt know if the State wishes to continue as a member of the Board and to confirm the Board representative.

Next update – 1-11-21

NGEC Executive Board Meeting

12-28-21

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 12-14-21 meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. FASC Update
Balance/Spend Rate
Status – Efforts to Increase NGEC Awareness | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Passenger Rail car procurement | Caltrans |
| 7. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Status Trainset specification re/write/re/format | |
| 8. DMU Specification Rev A Review Panel Report and Recommendations | Larry Salci |
| 9. Consideration of Adoption of the Review Panel Report and Recommendations and adoption of the DMU Specification - Revision A | Ray Hessinger |
| 10. Review 2022 NGEC two-pager Mock -up | Steve |
| 11. Preparing for the NGEC Annual Meeting | Ray/Steve |
| - Review DRAFT agenda – confirm speakers | |
| - Logistics review | |
| - Appointing a nominating committee - timeline | |
| - Affirming States representatives for 2022 | |

12. Other

All

13. Adjourn

Ray Hessinger

Next call/meeting – 1-11-22

draft