



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Eric Curtit, Tim Ziethen, Tim Ziethen also for Charlie King, Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, Allan Paul, John Oimoen, John Oimoen also as proxy for Arun Rao, Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Gradinger, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II</i> Support Staff: <i>Steve Hewitt, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Tammy Krause, Larry Salci, Michael Burshtin, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Charlie King, John Rosacker, Kyle Gradinger, Ray Hessinger, Tim Hoefner, Amanda Martin, Ron Pate</i> Support: <i>John Bell, Jon Dees, George Hull, Byron Comati, Patrick Centolanzi</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

Chairman Curtit opened the meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

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

Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

3.

Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reported that open action items not covered under the agenda this week will be included on the next call agenda and the current status of each is included in today's minutes (12-3-19).

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 12-3-19:

The current version of the NGEC educational (two-pager) document was released at the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19 and is available in hard copy or electronically.

To date, (12-3-19) 265 hard copies and 393 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

Note: The document is being updated by the Executive Board, and MODOT will print the updated version in advance of the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-21-20.

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

On 4-9-19, John Oimoen, IDOT, provided an overview of the METRA Equipment Procurement effort:

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties were to respond by August 2019.

METRA has the NGEC specification, but John does not know if they plan to use it or if they will be in contact with the NGEC or not.

Next Update: 12-17-19

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience – as of 7-30-19:

Mid-West States Experience:

The Charger locomotives have been running for 2-years and are working well with all of the locomotives in service and only the normal "teething" issues occurring and being worked through.

One area that they are striving for improvement and are making improvements on is parts availability and field service. These issues are challenging but being worked out and improving.

John also pointed out the fact that there have been several vehicle strikes, and debris strikes in the Mid-West, but the good news is that the Crash Energy Management (CEM) performed very well. The engineers were very satisfied with the safety of the cabs.

Overall, John reported that they are very pleased with the performance of the locomotives.

California Experience:

Momo provided the average number of miles and engine hours for the locomotives in the various sections of the state where they are being used and noted that they are performing well.

There have been several debris strikes and Siemens and Amtrak are working on repairs.

Caltrans has exercised its option for continuing technical support with Siemens after the warranty has expired.

There have been some instances of ice buildup on the HVAC and they are working on determining the root cause.

Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.

Washington State Experience:

No report provided

Amtrak Experience:

Charlie King reported that Amtrak has held several meetings with Siemens on parts availability as "we continue to support the states" as our partners.

Amtrak is leasing a state unit to test in Long Distance service. Rolling Stock Engineers are on board to see how the locomotives perform in the hot days and high altitudes. The locomotive is in the trail, not lead, position on this test.

So far it has performed extremely well.

The intent is to also conduct a test in the winter weather to see how it fares. And they are working on resolving the snow ingestion issues that occurred last winter.

Next Update: 2020 NGEA Annual Meeting (February 21, 2020)

Amtrak Locomotive Procurements as of 11-5-19:

On the Acela replacement:

Trainset 1 is together – power car on both ends.

Trainset 2 is being put together for the NEC.

Tilt testing has been completed and has been or will be submitted to the FRA.

Passenger cars are in the final testing and once complete will be submitted to FRA.

On the Locomotives:

Design review is well underway – there are some changes being processed and in the near future Amtrak will come back to the states with some of the adjustments being made.

The issue of snow ingestion is being addressed and Siemens appears to have a solution for it.

On the Trainsets:

The RFP is due back this month.

On the Maintenance of Way Yard Locomotive Replacements:

The RFP is due back this month.

Next update 12-17-19

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 11-19-19 conference call meetings – Eric Curtit, MODOT:

On a motion by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by John Oimoen, IDOT, the minutes from the 11-19-19 Executive Board call were approved as presented.

5.

The NGEC – 2020 – the year ahead – transitioning - Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt:

NGEC Board member changes/retirements:

Eric Curtit announced that he has taken a new position at Missouri DOT as Director of Planning and will no longer be in Railroads. However, he has worked it out so that he can remain on as NGEC Chair through the end of his term in office (The 2020 NGEC Annual Meeting 2-21-20). He will be available to chair all remaining calls up to the Annual Meeting. Since he cannot be at the Annual Meeting, he has asked Charlie King to chair in his place and Charlie has agreed to do so. It is during the Annual Meeting that State Board member elections and officer elections are due to take place, so this timeline allows for a clean break and a more seamless transition.

Eric also noted that he will not be able to attend the TRB session and asked John Oimoen to double up by presenting the Goals and Visions for the NGEC as well as the State procurement experience. John agreed to do so.

Steve Hewitt thanked Eric for his leadership and congratulated him on his new career challenge. Steve added "you will be missed".

Eric added that the 12-31-19 Executive Board call will be cancelled due to it being New Years Eve, and there will have been two December calls prior to that.

Appointing a nominating committee:

The NGEC By-Laws require that the chair appoint a nominating committee two months prior to the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee responsibility is to present a slate of State representatives to the Executive Board for consideration at the NGEC Annual Meeting. The term of office for Board members is two years.

After the Board is elected, the Board elects its officers. By NGEC precedent – Amtrak holds the positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer and the states hold the positions of Chair and Secretary.

Today (12-3-19), Eric appointed Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, John Oimoen, IDOT, and Ron Pate, WSDOT to the nominating committee. Eric will contact the committee members to fill them in on some of the groundwork that he has done and to let them know that there are a number of state member retirements forthcoming from within the current Board membership.

TRB Session:

Steve Hewitt reminded the TRB panelists that he provided instructions to them in an email from Jack Madden for them to follow in preparing and submitting their presentations. Steve agreed to re-print the instructions in the minutes (see below):

TRB Presentation instructions provided by Jack Madden:

Here is the link with the instructions for submission of presentations for the NGEC Lectern Session at TRB 2020 Annual Meeting: <http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/VisualAidsSubmission.aspx>

The "Online Visual Aid Submission Site" opens in mid-December for submission of presentations in advance for the TRB 2020 Annual Meeting. Prior to mid-December, the presenter should receive an email from the TRB audio visual vendor, PSAV [noreply@psavds.com] with log-in information and a password to upload their presentation.

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At TRB, at least four hours prior to the Lectern session on Tuesday, January 14th, at 10:15 am, each presenter should check-in at the "On-site Ready Room" in the Convention Center, Street Level, Salon F. (The hours are listed on the submission site.) This allows TRB to know that the presenter is here and allows the presenter to confirm that the presentation was uploaded correctly and is ready to go (bring a backup of the presentation on a jump drive in the event there was a problem). If the presenter has made last-minute changes to the presentation, he or she can bring the new presentation on a jump drive (original and backup) which can then be uploaded at the On-site Ready Room. Please avoid bringing a revised presentation directly to the Session Room; although the Audio-Visual Technician in the Session Room can upload it, it may cause delays in the start of the Session.

A couple of months after the TRB Annual Meeting, the presentations will be available through the Annual Meeting Online. If a presenter does not want their slides published in this, then during the upload of their presentation, they are given the opportunity to request that their presentation be deleted from the website after their presentation and it will not be published.

I hope that this helps answer the questions of the presenters. Please let me know if there is anything else, I can do to assist.

Jack M

6. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 12-3-19 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:

Momo Tamaoki provided the following update for inclusion on today's minutes (12-3-19)

FDR for the standard coach is complete. Cab Car PDR action items are closed, and the FDR has been approved by Caltrans.

The Complete Coach FAI is occurred on November 13-14 in Sacramento. The action items have been recorded and the FAI findings are being worked through. Testing continues at TTCI with cars 1 and 2 with Slide Testing next on the agenda. Car #3 has begun climate room testing in Ottawa. Caltrans and IDOT are witnessing tests in both locations. 40 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Carshell #4 is the FAI car and undergoing work to address the FAI findings. The remaining carshells are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.

Most system-level FAIs for standard coach are complete. Cab Car Structure IDR documents have been submitted and are in review. The IDR meeting for the carshell is scheduled for December 11. Amtrak is planning a visit to Sacramento to view the FAI car on December 12.

7. Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Ray Hessinger was unavailable – this item was tabled until the next call (12-17-19)

8. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement – Robert Becker, VIA Rail:

Bob Becker was unavailable for the call, so this item was tabled until the next call in which VIA Rail is available.

9. Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

The Trainset revision B is currently being compiled. I do not have a date for completion yet, I have been asked for some additional information. After that is received, I should get a completion date.

There is an additional report on Equipment Acquisition and Ownership that the technical writer can provide support, but I need to let her know how large the report is and when it would be available.

Steve Hewitt will send Tammy the 3 completed draft sections of the report and noted that there is a 4th section (Planning) yet to be updated by team leader Jennifer Bastian, IDOT.

The next specification due to be updated is the Diesel Multiple Unit. I will start putting together the DCRS for this. There are two changes that will be made to the other specifications, but they are administrative and will not go through the TSC.

Confirm specifications update timelines for NGEC Two-pager:

Steve Hewitt asked Tammy Krause to review the current (draft) update of the two pager and confirm with him, and with Eric, that the dates of the latest revisions to the specifications are correct. Once that has been done, Eric will ask MODOT graphic arts to revise the two-pager, accordingly, and print copies for distribution at the NGEC Annual Meeting.

Tammy agreed to look at the dates and make any necessary changes and confirm them with Steve and Eric.

10.

Discussion: NGEC letter to the Hill on the merits of Strategic Investments in next generation equipment – Eric Curtit:

Chairman Curtit responded to the request/suggestion by Mike Jenkins, Oregon, on the last NGEC Executive Board call (11-19-19) that the NGEC send a letter to Congress on the merits of Strategic Investments in next generation equipment.

Eric noted that the NGEC is a highly technical group and it is not appropriate for the NGEC Executive Board, whose members include states, Amtrak, and FRA to weigh in on policy matters. It does not fall in line with the NGEC's role as a technical, body established to provide objective advice on standardization of equipment.

Eric added that AASHTO and the States for Passenger Rail, where states are members, are the more appropriate bodies to weigh in with a letter or letters to Congress on policy issues.

Eric asked if there were any questions or differences with his thoughts on this. Hearing none, the discussion was closed with no action to be taken.

11.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Curtit adjourned today's meeting (12-3-19) at 11:52am.

The next conference call will be 12-17-19

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 12-3-19:

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Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 11-5-19:

Metro-North continues to negotiate with vendors on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

There was no update provided on 12-3-19.

Next Update – 12-17-19

Document Control Update – 12-3-19:

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Tammy agreed to look at the dates and make any necessary changes and confirm them with Steve and Eric.

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 12-3-19:

The working group is waiting for one last section to be updated (Planning). Tammy Krause has confirmed Cameron Cordell's willingness to take on this task. Cameron is asking how large a document and when it will begin.

Steve Hewitt will send Tammy the 3 completed draft sections of the report and noted that there is a 4th section (Planning) yet to be updated by team leader Jennifer Bastian, IDOT. The task should not begin until the 4th section draft is complete.

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Next update – 12-17-19

FASC update and Treasurer's Report – 11-19-19:

Treasurer's Report:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent: \$ 472,593.10
Balance remaining: \$ 777,406.90
Spend Rate per month: just under \$14,000 per month

At this rate there is enough funding for three years (36 months) which, at the current spend rate would allow for a cushion of about \$42,000. FRA has given verbal approval to apply for, and hopefully approve, another no-cost extension to be requested.

Requesting a no-cost grant agreement extension:

On the last FASC call (11-13-19), the question of whether the request for a no-cost extension can be for one year only or for multiple years. It is believed that multiple year extensions are allowed, but the FASC has asked FRA for confirmation. Once the answer is provided, hopefully by the next FASC call, (12-11-19) the subcommittee will make a recommendation to the Executive Board to formally request a no-cost grant agreement extension for 36 months if allowed or for 12 months if that is the maximum allowed time period.

NGEC Annual By-Laws Review:

Tim Ziethen reported that on behalf of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger conducted the Annual By-Laws Review and recommended that no changes or revisions were needed. Subsequently the FASC voted to accept the recommendation and formally request that the Executive Board act accept the recommendation that no changes or revisions were needed to the NGEC By-Laws at this time, and that the activity (conducting the annual review is complete).

A motion to accept the recommendations of the FASC was offered by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and was seconded by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT.

With a quorum having been established and no objections being raised, Charlie King determined that consensus was achieved, and the motion is approved.

This task is complete

Next Treasurer's report and FASC update will take place on 12-17-19.

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience as of 7-30-19:

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VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update as of 10-8-19:

Robert Becker reported that things are going well – with several mock-ups taking place currently and over the next several months. Overall things are moving forward on schedule and in good shape so far.

VIA Rail was not present on 12-3-19, so the update has been tabled until the next call (12-27-19) if VIA Rail is available.

Next planned update: 12-17-19

Update: TRB Session – “The NGEC - 10 Years of Progress”:

As reported previously, TRB has confirmed the date and time for “The NGEC -10 Years of Progress” as:

Tuesday, 1-14-20 10:15AM.

The confirmed participants/panelists for the NGEC are (please note, Eric Curtit is unavailable for this pane, but John Oimoen has agreed to incorporate the Goals and Policies that Eric was to address into his presentation.

Charlie King, Vice Chair - NGEC Executive Board – Chair - NGEC Technical subcommittee - Presentation Title: “NGEC Technical Subcommittee and Specification Development”

John Oimoen, Deputy Director of Railroads, Illinois DOT - Presentation Title: “The States’ Role” and “NGEC Goals and Policies”

Jeffrey Gordon, Federal Railroad Administration - Presentation Title: “The Federal Role”

Larry Salci, *SalciConsult* - Presentation Title: "The Industry Role"

Steve Hewitt - NGENC Program Manager – will attend as support for the panel.

Steve Hewitt has provided the NGENC PowerPoint Template to all panelists.

Each panelist should plan for about a 15-minute presentation.

TRB Session:

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Jack M

Preparing for the 10th NGENC Annual Meeting 2-21-20 –Steve Hewitt:

Review: DRAFT agenda:

This item will be addressed/updated on the 12-17-19 call:

On 11-19-19, Steve Hewitt reviewed the DRAFT agenda and asked for clarifications on speakers and for changes or suggestions for additional topics by the next Exec Board call 12-3-19.

Tim Ziethen has reached out to Ken Altman, Amtrak Government Affairs, and has exchanged emails, but will contact him to confirm, by the next Board call 12-3-19, if he is available or who from his staff would be available.

Michael Iestingi is following up within FRA to determine who will provide the FRA update.

Steve Hewitt spoke to Mario Bergeron to ascertain VIA Rail's interest in providing an update presentation at the Annual Meeting. Mario agreed that VIA Rail will be at the meeting and would give an update. He asked Steve to list him (Mario Bergeron) and Bob Becker as presenters.

Bob Becker confirmed on today's call that VIA Rail will be there and will provide an update.

All Board members are asked to confirm their attendance at the Annual Meeting by 12-17-19, if possible, and those who are slated to speak are asked to confirm their availability by that same date.

Appointing a nominating Committee – for Election of State Executive Board Members:

The NGEC By-Laws require that the chair appoint a nominating committee two months prior to the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee responsibility is to present a slate of State representatives to the Executive Board for consideration at the NGEC Annual Meeting. The term of office for Board members is two years.

After the Board is elected, the Board elects its officers. By NGEC precedent – Amtrak holds the positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer and the states hold the positions of Chair and Secretary.

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NGEC two pager – Revise/ Update:

Steve and Eric reviewed the two-pager and noted that at least two of the specifications have been updated since last year's version was distributed. Those updates will be added to the updated version and will be printed by Missouri DOT for distribution at the Annual Meeting.

Steve will follow up with Tammy Krause to confirm that the specification updates are correct.

If there are no other changes by 12-3-19, Chairman Curtit will send the updates to MODOT Graphic Arts for printing.

As of 12-3-19, it was agreed that Tammy Krause will confirm the specification revision dates on the document. Once this is done, the two-pager will be sent to MODOT Graphic Arts for finalizing and printing.

The NGEC submitting a letter to the Hill on the merits of making Strategic Investments in next generation equipment:

Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT, raised the possibility of the NGEC submitting a letter to Congress (following its recent Hearing on Amtrak) on the merits of strategic investments in next generation equipment. He had sent the suggestion to Eric and Steve but did not know if they had a chance to discuss it yet. He believes the record will remain open for 15 days.

Steve noted that he and Eric have not talked about it and added that because the NGEC members include FRA and Amtrak, it is always difficult, as a body, for them to weigh in with letters to Congressional Committees. He added that the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, whose membership is all states, may be the better vehicle.

Mike agreed that SPRC should also weigh in, but still feels that it would be appropriate and beneficial for the NGEC to weigh in.

Charlie King asked Steve to discuss this with Eric and to add it as an agenda item for the next call.

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call

December 3, 2019

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern

Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127

Agenda

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| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |

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| 4. Approval of Minutes from 11-19-19 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. The NGEC – 2020 – the year ahead - transitioning | Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt |
| - NGEC Board member changes/retirements | |
| - Appointing a nominating committee | |
| - Review: DRAFT Annual Meeting agenda - firm up Board member attendance and speakers | |
| - TRB Session | |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement | Bob Becker |
| 9. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B – timeline for completion | |
| - Next planned Specification update(s) and timeline | |
| - Follow-up with Cameron Cordell on her availability for Equip Acquisition and Ownership report | |
| - Confirm specifications update timelines for NGEC Two-pager | |
| 10. Discussion: NGEC letter to the Hill on the merits of Strategic Investments in next gen equipment | Eric Curtit |
| 11. Other | All |

Next Call-12-17-19