



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>FACILITATOR</b> | <i>Ray Hessinger, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>   |
| <b>ATTENDEES</b>   | <b>Board Members:</b> <i>Ray Hessinger, George Hull, John Oimoen, Tim Ziethen, Jeff Gordon for Michael Lestingi, Arun Rao, Amanda Martin, Troy Hughes, Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, Kyle Gradinger, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II</i><br><b>Support Staff and Colleagues:</b> <i>Mike Murray, Michael Kraft, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Oscar Bermudez, Tammy Krause, Larry Salci, Patrick Centolanzi</i> |
| <b>ABSENTEES</b>   | <b>Board Members:</b> <i>Michigan State DOT – which has yet to name its representative to the Board, Michael Lestingi, Ron Pate, Jason Orthner, Support: Momo Tamaoki, Joe Paul</i>  |

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Ray Hessinger, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Hessinger 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 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 (2-9-21).

**Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:**

In-depth updates were provided during the 2020 Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:**

This item was tabled until John Oimoen receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**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.

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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 NGENC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 2-1-21 – the Access Board continues in its holding pattern, there will be no update during the Annual Meeting.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

As of 1-12-21, Steve Hewitt has confirmed with Mario Bergeron that VIA Rail will give a presentation at the Annual Meeting. Presenter(s) will be a combination of Mario Bergeron, Ron Bartels, and Joe Di Liello. The NGENC PowerPoint template has been provided.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGENC Annual Meeting**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

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

**Next Update – 3-23-21**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:**

On 2-4-21, Ray Hessinger reported to the NGENC Technical subcommittee 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.

Dwight Sowden, Metro-North has been confirmed to provide a PowerPoint presentation on this procurement during the NGENC Annual meeting on 2-23-21.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGENC Annual Meeting**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

On 2-4-21 George Hull reported:

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 NGENC Annual Meeting**

**Developing a TSSSA Primer:**

On 2-4-21, George Hull reported to the Technical subcommittee 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 NGENC 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 NGENC Annual Meeting**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 1-26-21 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 1-26-21 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

**5. Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 2-9-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer's Report Invoices through October 2020):

Balance and Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent: \$681,572.36.

Balance remaining: \$ 568,427.64.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$486,837.83.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,909.64.

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$81,590.24

Strat Cavros, AASHTO, reported that he has sent the November invoice over to Amtrak. (Amtrak has had email filter issues and is not accepting some email accounts)

Tim Ziethen will be providing a full FASC and Treasurer's Report Progress Report/Update during the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-23-21.

**6. Status: Updating NGEC Two-Pager – 2021 – Steve Hewitt and Troy Hughes:**

Missouri DOT Graphis Arts (Laura Seaboard) has completed the formatting and has finalized the 2021 version of the NGEC two-page educational document. On Friday 2-5-21, Steve Hewitt distributed it for final Board review and approval.

Ray Hessinger asked for comments and called for a motion to approve the production and release of the NGEC 2021 Two-Page Educational document.

On a motion by Brian Beeler II, for Maine DOT, and a second by Troy Hughes, MODOT, the 2021 version of the document was approved as is. Steve Hewitt will include this item in the material "packets" for the NGEC Annual Meeting.

MODOT will provide Steve Hewitt with 200 printed copies as well for distribution upon request by contacting Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

The NGEC wishes to, once again, thank MODOT – Troy Hughes and Laura Seabaugh for volunteering their time and effort to produce this exceptionally well-done educational piece.

**7. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 2-9-21 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (2-9-21):

*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*

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*Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago. Four Caltrans cars are scheduled to ship in late February.*

**8.**

**Review/comment/discussion: DRAFT (V6) Recommended Practice Document 305-200 – Ray Hessinger:**

On 2-1-21, the NGEN Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices and Lessons Learned working group approved DRAFT Revision 6 of PRIIA 305-200 Recommended Practice to be submitted to the Executive Board for its review and consideration of adoption.

On 2-2-21, Steve Hewitt distributed the document to all Board members and asked that they begin their review.

Ray Hessinger called for a discussion of the document and asked all members with comments to submit them to Steve Hewitt, Ray Hessinger and Tammy Krause by COB 2-16-21.

John Oimoen, IDOT expressed his thanks to all involved in this “huge effort”. The people involved were primarily those who were also in the middle of procurements and were still willing and able to commit the time and effort to developing this useful document. John called this a “most impressive effort” and stressed the need to acknowledge those who contributed to its development.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that 305-200 is to be a living document subject to periodic updates.

Ray Hessinger agreed and used the example of potentially housing the TSSSA primer within the 305-200 document at some point.

The intent is to make any necessary changes in advance of the NGEN Annual Meeting and to consider 305-200 for adoption by the Executive Board as a living document and part of the PRIIA family of documents to be maintained and updated periodically through the NGEN process.

**9.**

**Update: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:**

On 2-9-21, Tammy reported that the primary focus at the moment is the DMU specification update. She has received the first of the Stadler Rail proposed changes and is supposed to be receiving the second set of changes on 2-10-21.

Larry Salci asked Tammy to send the Stadler changes to him as she gets them so that he can submit a revised scope of work to AASHTO to revise the initial task order to reflect the additional work and develop a revised timeline.

Larry still anticipates completing the DMU Review in time to meet a Spring 2021 timeline.

Tammy will be providing a 12-month progress report during the Annual Meeting with a look at what has been done throughout the year as well as a look ahead.

Steve Hewitt, again, requested a list of all of the members of the technical working groups for inclusion in the NGEN Roster for the Annual Meeting Packets and for the website.

Ray Hessinger asked what the next update would be. Tammy was not sure yet – but did state that Camren would begin completing the formatting of the Single level Trainset update now that the Recommended Practices document is complete.

**10.**

**Finalizing preparations for the NGEN 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

Overview DRAFT agenda:

Steve provided a brief overview on the Annual Meeting agenda.

Most speakers/presenters have been confirmed. The NGEN PowerPoint template has been sent to all presenters. **A deadline for presentations to be provided to Steve Hewitt has been set for 2-16-21.** Oscar Bermudez, AASHTO has agreed to manage/run the presentations throughout the meeting since Dave “PowerPoint” Warner is not available for the full meeting this year. Oscar and Steve will talk off-line as the meeting gets closer to coordinate this effort.

Registration: Currently there are 83 registrants for the Annual Meeting.

Tim Ziethen has confirmed that Cody McClelland will represent Amtrak Government Affairs and give its presentation at the meeting.

Steve has sent Cody the formal invite and the PowerPoint template.

Meeting Materials:

Meeting Agenda  
2021 two-page educational document  
PRIIA Statute  
NGEC By-Laws as revised 2020  
NGEC Roster  
2021 Org Charts  
DRAFT Revision 6 PRIIA 305-200 Recommended Practice Document  
DRAFT minutes 2-9-21 NGEC Executive Board call.  
NGEC Monthly Activities Report 1-31-21.

PowerPoint presentations will be made available following the Annual Meeting – posted to the NGEC website.

Steve Hewitt also noted that there are several vacancies that will need to be filled during the Annual Meeting:

Brent Thompson, WSDOT – member and first Vice Chair of the FASC and Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT – member of the Technical subcommittee and member of 2 of the Review Panels.

Amanda Martin will check with Iowa DOT to determine their intentions and Jason Biggs felt that WSDOT would want to remain on the FASC and will remain in his role as WSDOT rep (he is currently the alternate) until a successor to Brent Thompson is named.

Tim Ziethen, Chair of the FASC will name the first Vice Chair of the subcommittee.

Ray Hessinger authorized Steve Hewitt to remove the DRAFT watermark on the agenda and use this as the final agenda unless an unforeseen change occurs between now and the meeting.

**11.**

**Status: Michigan Members on the Executive Board and/or as an NGEC member – John Oimoen, IDOT:**

John Oimoen had left the call by the time this item came up.

It was agreed that if there is no answer from Michigan DOT – the Board will no longer carry a vacancy and will go with 10 state DOT members until or unless Michigan or another state expresses interest in assuming a seat on the Board.

**12.**

**Call schedule for the weeks and year ahead – Steve/Ray:**

There will be no call on 3-9-21 – this is typical of the precedent in recent year – there is a brief respite following the Annual Meeting.

The next call will take place on 3-23-21.

Steve Hewitt will adjust all calendars via Outlook.

From there on, the same process as last year will be followed – the calls will be scheduled as bi-weekly, with Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger having the option to cancel calls periodically if the agenda is particularly light.

**12.**

**Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (2-9-21) at 12:08pm.

**The next conference call will be held on 3-23-21.**

## Decisions/Action Items

### **Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 2-9-21:**

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (2-9-21):

*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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### **Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 2-4-21:**

On 2-4-21, Ray Hessinger reported to the NGEC Technical subcommittee 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.

Dwight Sowden, Metro-North has been confirmed to provide a PowerPoint presentation on this procurement during the NGEC Annual meeting on 2-23-21.

### **Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

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

Tammy reported that the primary focus at the moment is the DMU specification update. She has received the first of the Stadler Rail proposed changes and is supposed to be receiving the second set of changes on 2-10-21.

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Tammy will be providing a 12-month progress report during the Annual Meeting with a look at what has been done throughout the year as well as a look ahead.

### **Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

### **Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 1-12-21:**

As of 1-12-21:

CAF Sleeper cars – two more have been delivered – that leaves 9 left.

Long-Distance Locomotive – on track with the first one anticipated to ship in March 2021.

Amfleet replacement – this procurement is progressing and is in the “cone of silence” stage.

AE21 – is in testing on the Northeast Corridor and a TTCI.

### **Next Update – 2-9-21**

### **VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 10-20-20, Ron Bartels, VIA Rail, provided the NGEC Executive Board with an update on the VIA Rail vehicle procurement program.

He gave an overview of an exciting program that will result in 32 trainsets - each with 1 locomotive, 4 coaches and a cab car. Ron provided a general overview of milestones and an anticipated timeline for delivery.

He also described the great level of progress that has taken place, even with a tight schedule and the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Steve Hewitt reported that he has confirmed with Mario Bergeron that VIA rail will give a presentation at the Annual Meeting. Presenter will be a combination of Mario Bergeron, Ron Bartels, and Joe Di Liello

**Next Update – 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

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This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

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**Task Complete**

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**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGENC Annual Meeting**

**Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:**

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**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGENC Annual Meeting**

**Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

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Tim Ziethen, Chair of the FASC will name the first Vice Chair of the subcommittee.

Ray Hessinger authorized Steve Hewitt to remove the DRAFT watermark on the agenda and use this as the final agenda unless an unforeseen change occurs between now and the meeting.

**Michigan Membership:**

This item remains on hold as a new Rail Director for Michigan was only named recently and it was determined that outreach would wait until he has had a chance to get settled in.

On 2-9-21, it was agreed that if there is no answer from Michigan DOT – the Board will no longer carry a vacancy and will go with 10 state DOT members until or unless Michigan or another state expresses interest in assuming a seat on the Board.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEN Annual Meeting**

**FRA Request for list of NGEN Executive Board votes taken in 2020:**

The FRA – week of 1-25-21, requested a list of all NGEN Executive Board votes taken in 2020. On 1-28-21, Steve Hewitt provided a list of key decisions/actions taken by the Board in 2020, after a review by Chairman Hessinger, and submitted it to Mike Murray, FRA. Noted in the submittal is the fact that the Board operates on consensus and few formal votes are taken, but many decisions/actions are taken throughout the year to keep the workflow moving and to continuously monitor the work of the standing subcommittees and technical working groups.

**Task Complete**

**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call**

**2-9-21**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM 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 1-26-20 conference call meeting                                 | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Treasurer's Report – Balance/Spend Rate  | Tim Ziethen    |
| 6. Status: Updating NGEN two-pager - 2021 – anticipated timeline for completion             | Troy Hughes    |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement  | Kyle Gradinger |
| 8. Review/comment/discussion - Working Group approved Recommended Practice Document 305-200 | Ray Hessinger  |
| 9. Update: Document Control Management  | Tammy Krause   |

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| 10. Finalizing preparations for the NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting    | Steve Hewitt |
| 11. Status: Michigan Membership on the Board and/or as NGEC member | John Oimoen  |
| 12. Call schedule for the weeks and year ahead                     | Steve/Ray.   |
| 13. Other  | All          |

**Next up – 2-23-21 NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting**