



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 13, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

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 (8-13-19)

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 8-13-19:

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, (8-13-19) 265 hard copies and 353 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.

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 4-9-19:

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

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties must 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: as appropriate

Amtrak Locomotive Procurement -7-30-19:

Acela:

The Acela trainset 1 remains on schedule for TTCI testing in January 2020.

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Charger Locomotive:

On schedule – no issues.

Trainset Procurement:

On schedule for a November timeframe for bid submission.

Next update: 8-27-19

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement – as of 7-30-19:

VIA Rail reported that things are going well and that they are close to wrapping up the conceptual design review phase.

In September, they will begin the next phase – preliminary design review.

There have been no major issues.

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Next Update: 9-24-19

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 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.

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Washington State Experience:

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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.

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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 NGEC Annual Meeting (February 2020)

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 7-30-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:

On a motion offered by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, and seconded by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 7-30-19 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Balance and Spend Rate – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Tim Ziethen was unavailable for this call (8-13-19) but let Steve Hewitt know that there was no change from the last report. The last invoice received from AASHTO was for May 2019. He is anticipating the June invoice to come in soon and will have an update after that.

Current Balance: \$814, 590.67

Strat Cavros, AASHTO, reported that they are closing out their fiscal year this month and he anticipates getting out the NGEC June invoice in the third week of August. The July invoice will follow shortly thereafter.

6. Discussion: Developing proposed NGEC Re-authorization Language – scope and funding – Eric Curtit:

On the last several FASC calls discussion has ensued around the preparation of proposed language for reauthorizing the NGEC. On the last Executive Board call it was agreed that Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt will prepare proposed language including, scope and funding, for Board consideration. The language once approved will be provided to Amtrak, AASHTO and others for use in their reauthorization efforts.

Some comments/suggestions have been received from Board members. Additional thoughts/suggestions should be sent to Steve and Eric over the next week or so.

Eric noted that FRA will abstain (appropriately so) from approval/input of the reauthorization request as it has in previous years.

There is a sense of urgency in getting the language/request developed, as Amtrak and AASHTO are both looking to include it in their authorization requests. Eric commented that we may need to submit proposed DRAFT language prior to Board approval to serve as a placeholder.

The intent is to have a DRAFT ready to be discussed/presented to the Executive Board on the 8-27-19 call.

7. Discussion: Proposed TRB Session – The NGEC After 10 Years – Eric Curtit/Jack Madden:

Eric Curtit introduced the topic of a proposed TRB Session focusing on 10 years of progress by the NGEC. He reported that he and Steve Hewitt have been working with Jack Madden (representing TRB) on the session and have invited Jack to participate on this call to brief the Executive Board on what he envisions the session to be, and to get input.

Jack Madden provided the following presentation to the Board and provided the text to Steve Hewitt for inclusion in the minutes from today’s call (8-13-19):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Good morning. Thank you for having me on the Executive Board Call. It has been some time since I have been here and for those who do not know me, my name is Jack Madden and I have been on the NGEC Technical Subcommittee since its inception in March 2010. Working for Ray Hessinger as a Project

Team Leader, I represented NYSDOT on the Technical Subcommittee until my retirement at the end of 2015. I am also the past Chair of the Locomotive Working Group, turning over that position to Rich Stegner of SNC/Lavalin after the NGEN Annual Meeting in 2016. Since fall of 2016, I have been employed part time as a Senior Project Engineer-Transportation, working on railroad capital projects, for Erdman Anthony & Associates. I also serve on the Transportation Research Board Committee AR020 Rail Rolling Stock and Motive Power, which is the position from which I make today's proposal for your consideration.

The Transportation Research Board 2020 Annual Meeting will be from Sunday, January 12th to Thursday, January 16th, 2020 in Washington DC, at the Walter Washington Convention Center. Representing Committee AR020, I have made a proposal to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt for a Lectern Session consisting of a Panel Discussion with the working title of "Next Generation Equipment Committee: 10 Years of Progress". The intent of the Session will be to make industry transportation professionals, members of academia, and government officials aware of the work which the NGEN has accomplished over the last 10 years, the passenger equipment specifications which have been developed, the equipment which has been produced using those specifications and the experience in using that equipment in service today.

The Session would be one hour and forty-five minutes in length and would be held on either Monday January 13th or Tuesday January 14th. In discussion with Eric and Steve, the concept would be four panelists consisting of:

*Chairman, NGEN (also representing the States)
Vice Chairman, NGEN & Chair of the Technical Subcommittee (also representing Amtrak)
Federal Railroad Administration representative
Rail Equipment Industry representative*

Each panelist would make a 15 to 20-minute presentation, taking a few questions immediately after their presentation, and then there would be a final round of questions after all panelists have finished.

We ask the NGEN's permission to move forward and plan for this presentation at the TRB 2020 Annual Meeting. Are there any questions?

Kyle Gradinger suggested that a panelist from a State which has procured equipment would be useful and the Chairman Agreed.

Larry Salci noted that in early 2012 he believes he and the late Kevin Kessler made a presentation at TRB on the initiation of the NGEN. Jack noted that a few years ago, right after the initial contracts for locomotives and bi-level cars were issued, there was another presentation at TRB by Tammy Krause, Kevin Kessler, Siemens, and Progress Rail/EMD on the use of the new specifications to manufacture equipment. California was unable to attend due to contractual issues with the then vendor. Steve remembered both presentations.

Chairman Curtit gave Jack permission to move forward with planning the Session. Jack noted that October 1st was the date by which we should finalize the speaker list, summary of proposals, etc. for TRB.

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Following Jack's presentation, Board members weighed in with the view that the session is a great idea and would be very beneficial in raising visibility for the NGEN.

Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans recommended that a fifth panelist be added from a member of one of the procuring states to provide an overview of the experience.

Eric Curtit commented that he and Steve had talked about Larry Salci as being a possibility for serving to provide the industry perspective on the panel.

Larry noted that he had done something similar at TRB in 2012 along with FRA (the late Kevin Kesler) so there is precedent.

Jack Madden added that another session was done with the panel being members of the manufacturing industry, FRA and Amtrak on experience with the NGEN specifications and procurement process.

Steve Hewitt added that he recalls both of the earlier sessions, and that this one would fit extremely well in providing the TRB attendees with an overview of the NGEN 10 years out. Steve also thought it would increase the NGEN visibility and that the timing would coincide well with the reauthorization process.

Ultimately, it was agreed that Jack should move forward with TRB on the session and the NGEN executive Board would work with Jack on who the panelists will be.

Jack will reserve the slot using the working title of "The NGEN – 10 years of Progress". By 10-1-19, Jack will need to

finalize the list of participants and the content of the session.

8.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-13-19 Kyle Grading:

All FDR System Level and related submittal approvals for the standard coach are at a Conditional Approval level or greater.

The Updated IDOT Galley PDR has been approved and the galley mock-up review is scheduled for October 2019. The IDOT Café Car IDR is scheduled for the week of September 2 in Sacramento. Action items for the Cab Car PDRs are in work and the Cab Car Brake System IDR is tentatively scheduled for 1st half of September.

The first 29 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Carshell #1 has been released to static testing. Production continues on Carshell #2 with work on wiring, ducting and ceiling supports for panel installation. Interior work continues on Carshell #3 with wiring, toilet module and ceiling supports. The remaining carshells are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.

The FAI process continues and most system-level FAIs are complete. Recent FAIs include the Trap Door and Vestibule Lining. The End Door FAI is scheduled for the last week of August. The complete coach FAI is tentatively scheduled for September 17th. The FRA Sample Car Inspection will be scheduled once FAI dates are finalized.

9.

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

Metro-North is setting the documents - moving forward in the process.

10.

Update: Document Control – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:

The proposed set of revisions for Revision B of the Trainset specification were reviewed with the TSC on Thursday 8/8. I am still accepting comments through Thursday 8/15 and I will be sending out a revised list of comments to the TSC on 8/16. The TSC will review any additional comments at the 8/22 meeting and plan to vote for acceptance at that meeting. This will allow the EB to request that the proposed changes be reviewed by Larry Salci at the 8/27 meeting.

11.

Update: NGEC Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group – Eric Curtit:

The Working Group met on 8-8-19

All sections (Planning, Implementation, Revenue Service, and Sustainability) have been submitted by the team leaders and working group members have begun to review and comment on the material that has been submitted.

On 8-8-19, a discussion about the nature of the comments and a path forward took place. In general, the comments received revolved around duplication, overlap between sections and differences in structure.

It was agreed that members will be given additional time for review and to provide additional comments.

Once all comments are received, the next step will be to develop a scope and budget for possibly procuring professional assistance to compile the sections and write the report.

During the discussion, it was emphasized/clarified that this "report" is meant to be a reference document. It is meant to be a tool that states or entities looking to procure equipment can use as a reference identifying best practices as well as issues that have come up in these initial NGEC procurements.

A timeline was established as follows:

All members having additional comments are to submit them in track changes to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt by COB 9-5-19.

Steve Hewitt will send all comments out to the members in advance of the next call which will take place on 9-19-19 at 4:00pm Eastern. On that call, next steps will be further defined. The overall timeline remains for the document to be finalized in time for the NGEC 2020 Annual Meeting (February 2020).

On the next Finance and Administrative subcommittee call (8-21-19), Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit will begin the discussion on moving forward under NGEC procurement procedures for contracting for a consultant to complete the

document.

**12.
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Eric Curtit adjourned the meeting at 11:57pm Eastern.

The next conference call will be 8-27-19

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-13-19:

See agenda item 6 in the minutes.

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 8-13-19:

Metro-North is setting the documents - moving forward in the process.

Next Update – 9-10-19

Document Control Update – 8-13-19:

On 8-13-19, Tammy Krause provided the following update:

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Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 8-13-19:

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Next update – as appropriate

Treasurer's Update – Current Balance and Spend Rate as of 8-13-19:

As of 8-13-19:

Initial grant amount: \$1,250,000

Current Balance: \$814, 590.67

Next Update 9-10-19

Developing proposed NGECC re-authorization language (scope and funding)

Eric Curtit will circulate proposed language to Steve Hewitt for distribution prior to the next call. On the next call, the Board will consider the language, scope and funding and provide it to Amtrak and others for their use.

Tim Ziethen will let Steve and Eric know if the Amtrak timeline is sooner than the next two weeks and whether placeholder language may need to be provided.

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

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TRB session – NGEC 10 years of Progress:

On 8-13-19, it was agreed that Jack Madden will work with TRB and the NGEC executive Board in developing a lectern session to be held during the TRB Annual Meeting in January 2020.

The Board will determine the content and the speakers for the panel and keep Jack apprised. Jack will need to finalize participants and content by 10-1-19. In the meantime, Jack will reserve the slot for the TRB meeting using the working session title of “The NGEC – 10 Years of Progress”.

July 30, 2019
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127

Agenda

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 7-16-19 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Update: Finance and Administrative Subcommittee discussion on S305 NGEC Re-Authorization - proposed language/funding amount and performance length | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement | Charlie King |
| 8. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement | Robert Becker |
| 9. Update: States and Amtrak - Charger Locomotive Experience | Eric Curtit |
| a. Mid-West States Experience – John Oimoen, IDOT | |
| b. California experience – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans | |
| c. Washington State Experience – Jason Biggs, WSDOT | |
| d. Amtrak Experience – Charlie King, Amtrak | |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| a. Status of the update to the Single Level Trainset Specification/timeline for completion | |
| b. Update: Finalizing member lists for all Technical working Groups | |
| 11. Other | All |

Next Call-8-13-19