



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 27, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Eric Curtit, Charlie King, Ray Hessinger, Michael Lestingi, John Oimoen, Amanda Martin, Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Gradinger, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II, Support Staff:</i> <i>Steve Hewitt, Michael Burshtin, Patrick Centolanzi, Colleagues/Guests:</i> <i>Robert Becker</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Ron Pate, John Rosacker, Arun Rao, Tim Hoeffner, Kyle Gradinger, Allan Paul, Tim Ziethen Support:</i> <i>Jon Dees, Jason Biggs, John Bell, Strat Cavros, Shayne Gill, George Hull, Byron Comati, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray,</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 at first the roll call proved to be one state short of a quorum, but, ultimately one more state joined, and the presence of a quorum was confirmed.

**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 (8-27-19)

**Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 8-27-19:**

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, (8-27-19) 265 hard copies and 355 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto: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**

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**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.

They are in the process of fine tuning the final configuration after beginning with a base specification.

**Next Update: 9-24-19**

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

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

**Next Update – 9-10-19**

**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.

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 NGE Annual Meeting (February 2020)**

**Treasurer's Report – Balance and Spend Rate – as of 8-13-19:**

Balance: \$814, 590.67

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

**Next Update: 9-10-19**

**NGEC Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group – as of 8-13-19:**

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 NGENC 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 NGENC 2020 Annual Meeting (February 2020).

**Next Update – 9-24-19**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 8-13-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:**

On a motion offered by John Oimoen, IDOT, and seconded by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, the minutes from the 8-13-19 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

**5. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-22-19 Steve Hewitt for Kyle Gradinger:**

In the absence of Caltrans, Steve Hewitt provided the most recent update given to the Technical subcommittee on 8-22-19:

- *All FDR System Level and related submittal approvals for the standard coach are at a Conditional Approval level or greater.*
- *The IDOT 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 confirmed for September 4th.*
- *The first 29 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Static Lean, Wedge testing and air brake testing continue this week on Car #1. The corner load test is complete on Car #2 which is being prepared for trucking. Luggage rack brackets have been installed on Carshell #3. 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 Compete Coach Car FAI is tentatively scheduled for September 17th pending production progress through the week. The FRA Sample Car Inspection will be scheduled once FAI dates are*

*finalized.*

Later in the call, Caltrans joined and confirmed that this update is current for this call.

**6. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurements – Charlie King, Amtrak:**

On the Acela 21:

2 cars are together at Hornell – not officially a trainset yet – no power cars at this point – but great progress. There have been a few minor delays but the start of testing at TTCI remains on schedule for January 2020.

On the Charger:

The procurement remains on track – Amtrak is engaged in a review conference with Siemens.

The anticipated April 2021 Delivery timeframe remains on track.

On the Trainset procurement:

November remains as the timeframe for bids to come in and then an aggressive schedule will proceed on the next steps. Minor adjustment to the spec is being made as input is received from potential bidders.

Charlie also reported that Amtrak is preparing an RFP to replace yard and local engines in Illinois – the current ones are about 50 years old.

Bob Becker, VIA Rail noted that when their new equipment comes online, they will be retiring 21 P42 locomotives and if Amtrak would like to take them for spare parts let VIA Rail know.

Charlie King agreed to reach out to Amtrak's Engineering and supply groups to let them know of this potential opportunity.

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

Eric Curtit provided an overview of the DRAFT NGEC reauthorization language that was distributed prior to today's call. It is re-printed below:

*DRAFT NGEC Reauthorization scope and funding language*

*(§24101): The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 directed Amtrak, states, FRA and industry to establish the Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC) to standardize and streamline the process for designing and obtaining next-generation passenger rail equipment purchased with federal funding. NGEC is the national leader in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment. The Committee effectively developed 6 specifications that focus on single level car, bi-level car, single level train sets, diesel-electric locomotive, diesel multiple units, and dual-mode locomotive. Its document control procedures enable a review of the use of specifications and requests for modifications in order to continuously improve these specifications as new developments are conceived in vehicle production/manufacturing. The Committee has succeeded in lowering operating and maintenance costs and extending vehicle life expectancy. Lastly, NGEC sparked domestic production, invigorated the supply chain and created high-wage jobs. It is important that Congress reauthorize the committee in order to improve future equipment needs.*

*The NGEC suggests the following actions for consideration in the FAST Act Reauthorization:*

- 1) Reauthorize the NGEC and provide \$2,500,000 over the life of the bill for the NGEC activities;*
- 2) Authorize the NGEC to:*
  - a. Continue its document management efforts to maintain and improve upon its current passenger rail equipment specifications through existing NGEC procedures;*
  - b. Continue its work in documenting best practices and lessons learned in equipment acquisition and ownership including; the development of a living reference document that will provide guidance for*

*future equipment procurements;*

- c. Continue to work with entities like the Transportation Research Board (TRB) to leverage limited funding for additional research;*
  - d. Develop high speed rail equipment specifications;*
- 3) *Award preference to entities using NGEC specifications who seek discretionary federal funding for new passenger rail equipment;*

*To date an ever-increasing number of entities within and outside of the NGEC have used its specifications as a basis for procuring new rail equipment and this trend is expected to continue.*

*To date, the committee has expended approximately \$3 million and has created six standardized vehicle specifications and continues to improve each as they are used in actual development of equipment. Creating and using standardized specifications will help to continue to increase competition and lower costs.*

Eric added that he will include a line in the proposed language that notes that the FRA is not a party to the request – that it is coming from the states and Amtrak.

The intent is to have all comments in to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt by COB on 9-6-19, and the language will be finalized on the 9-10-19 Executive Board call. In the meantime, if Amtrak or AASHTO or others need the language to meet a deadline, this language will be used as a placeholder.

#### **8.**

##### **Discussion: Proposed TRB Session – The NGEC After 10 Years – Next Steps - Timeline– Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit reminded Board members that on the last call, it was agreed that the NGEC would participate with TRB in a lectern session at the TRB Annual Meeting in January in DC. Jack Madden is the point of contact between the NGEC and TRB. The session will be a panel format. Panelists need to be confirmed, but the intent is to have Chairman Curtit; a State representative from one of the NGEC procurements; Charlie King, Technical subcommittee Chair; an FRA representative; and possibly Larry Salci to provide the industry perspective.

The Board needs to provide Jack Madden with the names of the panelists – and the content to be covered by 10-1-19.

Michael Lestingi, FRA committed to making sure FRA is represented on the panel.

Charlie King will look at his schedule, and Eric is confirming his as well, but does plan to be there.

Bottom line is that the NGEC needs to let Jack Madden know by 10-1-19 who will participate and what the content will be.

This will remain as an agenda item for the next call to try to firm up participants.

#### **9.**

##### **Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:**

The Technical subcommittee approved the DCRs presented for Revision B of the Trainset specification 305-007. The subcommittee has asked the Executive Board to begin its review process to moving forward in consideration of adopting the changes and create Revision B. Tammy Krause requested that Chairman Curtit re-convene the Trainset Review Panel and request that consultant Larry Salci begin the review process.

#### **10.**

##### **Re-Convening the Trainset Spec Review Panel – confirming members/setting timeline -Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit and Jeff Gordon are confirmed as panel members – as are staff/advisors Steve Hewitt, Tammy Krause and Michael Burshtin.

Steve Hewitt will send an email to all Review panel members to ask that they confirm their willingness to serve again.

Steve will also reach out to Larry Salci and ask that he take the necessary steps with AASHTO to facilitate a contract for his review of the DCRs and preparation of a Review Panel report with recommendations. Larry will be asked on the next

Executive Board call – 9-10-19 – to provide a timeline for completion and some dates for a Review panel call.

**Trainset Review Panel:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT - Chair  
Allan Paul, North Carolina DOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA  
Larry Salci, consultant to the Review Panel  
Michael Burshtin, Amtrak – technical support  
Tammy Krause, NGEC Document Control Manager  
Steve Hewitt -NGEC support

**11.  
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Eric Curtit adjourned the meeting at 11:56pm Eastern.

**The next conference call will be 9-10-19**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-2-19:**

See agenda item 5 in the minutes.

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

7

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

**Next Update – 9-10-19**

**Document Control Update – 8-27-19:**

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**Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 8-27-19:**

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.

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

**Next update 9-24-19:**

**Amtrak Locomotive Procurement -8-27-19:**

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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 NGEC re-authorization language (scope and funding)**

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Action timeline: All comments are due to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt by COB on 9-6-19, and the language will be finalized on the 9-10-19 Executive Board call. In the meantime, if Amtrak or AASHTO or others need the language to meet a deadline, this language will be used as a placeholder.

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There have been no major issues.



They are in the process of fine tuning the final configuration after beginning with a base specification.

**Next Update: 9-24-19**

**TRB session – NGECEC 10 years of Progress:**

On 8-13-19, it was agreed that Jack Madden will work with TRB and the NGECEC 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 NGECEC – 10 Years of Progress".

On 8-27-19, speakers were discussed further. FRA has committed to having a representative on the panel.

Action/timeline: The NGECEC Executive Board needs to let Jack Madden know by 10-1-19 who will participate and what the content will be.

This will remain as an agenda item for the next call (9-10-19) to try to firm up participants.

**S305 NGECEC Executive Board Conference Call  
August 27, 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 8-13-19 conference call meeting   | Eric Curtit              |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement  | Kyle Gradinger           |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurements  | Charlie King             |
| 7. Update: Developing proposed NGECEC re-authorization language (scope and funding)   | Eric Curtit              |
| 8. Update: TRB Session –The NGECEC after 10 years – next steps/timeline   | Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Update: Document Control   | Tammy Krause             |
| a. Overview of Technical subcommittee Approved DCRs (summary Table) Revision B Trainset Spec 305-007  |                          |
| b. Updating the Bi-Level Specification to incorporate changes noted in the Trainset DCR table and other DCRS to be incorporated into the next Bi-Level Revision |                          |
| 1. Process  |                          |
| 2. Timeline for review and approval via Technical subcommittee  |                          |
| 10. Re-Convening the PRIIA Trainset Specification Review Panel – confirming members/setting timeline  | Eric Curtit              |

**Trainset Review Panel:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT - Chair  
Allan Paul, North Carolina DOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA  
Larry Salci, consultant to the Review Panel  
Michael Burshtin, Amtrak – technical support  
Tammy Krause, NGECEC Document Control Manager  
Steve Hewitt -NGECEC support

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11. Other

All

**Next Call-9-10-19**

DRAFT