



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 11:30 EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1. Welcome – Charlie King, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

Chairman Curtit was unavailable for today’s call and asked that Vice Chair Charlie King facilitate the call. Charlie 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 (9-24-19).

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 9-24-19:

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, (9-24-19) 265 hard copies and 355 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

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 NGEN Annual Meeting (February 2020)

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 NGEN 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 NGEN 2020 Annual Meeting (February 2020).

Due to the AASHTO, SPRC and SAIPRC meetings in Hartford during the week of 9-16-19, the working group call was postponed until 10-3-19.

Next Update – 10-8-19

Treasurer's Update – Current Balance and Spend Rate as of 9-10-19

Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer's Report on 9-10-19:

Spent to date: \$460,236.38
Total Grant Amount: \$1,250,000
Balance: \$789,763.62

The current run rate is just under \$15,000 a month with about one year left on the current grant agreement. To continue, the NGEN has been deemed to be for a no-cost grant agreement extension. The recommendation (with concurrence from the FRA) is to begin the formal request process no later than shortly after the first of the year (January 2020).

Next Update – 10-8-19

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 9-10-19:

Metro-North continues to negotiate to come up with a conforming specification to allow vendors to submit bid proposals

Next Update – 10-8-19

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 9-10-19 conference call meeting – Charlie King, Amtrak:

On a motion offered by Allan Paul, NCDOT and seconded by John Oimoen, IDOT, the minutes from the 9-10-19 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 9-24-19 Steve Hewitt for Caltrans:

Steve Hewitt read the following update (provided by Momo Tamaoki) into the record of today's (9-24-19) meeting:

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 first half of October 2019. IDR system reviews for the IDOT café car occurred week of September 2. Action items for the Cab Car PDRs are complete and the Cab Car Brake System IDR occurred on September 4 in Sacramento.

The first 30 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Static testing is nearly complete on Carshell #1. Corner load, trucking and water tests were completed on Carshell #2. Liners and luggage racks are installed on Carshell #3. Carshells 4 and 5 remain in production with work including: door platforms, underframe racks, toilet modules and wiring. 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. The FRA Sample Car Inspection occurred on September 18th and the first two cars are being prepared for shipment to TTCI. The overall car FAI will be scheduled for week of October 21. A functional wheelchair lift demonstration will occur at Ricon on October 15.

6.

Update- Amtrak Equipment Procurement – Charlie King, Amtrak:

On the Acela:

Continues to move forward – progressing well with a power car moving at Hornell using its own power on the catenary.

It is expected to depart in January for TTCI.

Non-passenger cars (no interiors) – moving along well.

On the Locomotives:

Progressing nicely with the OEM – Amtrak will soon be going to FRA to request a waiver for testing since the state locomotives were tested and there is not much difference between these locomotives and those.

On the Trainset (cars):

This continues to move forward with bids due in a November timeframe.

7.

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

VIA Rail was not in attendance of the call – this item was tabled until the next meeting – (dependent upon VIA Rail's availability).

8.

Update - Finalizing proposed NGEC Re-authorization Language – adding disclaimer – FRA – Steve Hewitt:

As of 9-10-19, no comments or edits were received.

Eric noted at that time that he and Steve Hewitt would add a disclaimer to the effect that FRA is not a party to developing or advocating for the language being proposed.

Once the disclaimer is added, it will be sent to FRA (Jeff Gordon and Michael Lestingi) for their ok. After that, a final document will be distributed to AASHTO and Amtrak for their use and to all NGEC members to use as appropriate.

The Chairman asked if there were any objections or issues with the language or the approach. Hearing none, it was determined that the process would move forward as described.

On 9-24-19, in the absence of Eric Curtit, Steve Hewitt reported that he and Eric had not gotten together yet on completing the disclaimer but would do so as soon as possible and get it to FRA for approval. Once that has been resolved, the document will be good to go for use by AASHTO, Amtrak and any NGEC members.

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 continue to improve the management of current and 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.

9.

Update: TRB Session – The NGEC After 10 Years – Finalizing NGEC panelists– Eric Curtit:

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

As of 9-10-19 confirmed participants were:

Eric Curtit, NGEC Chair/MODOT
 Charlie King, NGEC Technical subcommittee Chair/Amtrak
 Larry Salci agreed to participate as the industry representative on the panel.

The FRA committed to participate but has not yet named a representative. Jeff Gordon noted that it has not yet been determined for certain, but that it most likely will be him.

On Monday, 9-23-19, Steve Hewitt received the following information from Jack Madden who is the TRB representative working with the NGEC on this. Jack is in need of this information ASAP so that he can submit it by 10-1-19:

For invited speakers, list of presentations in the order they will occur (this is the proposed sequence, by title/position, as I understand it from the 8/13 Executive Board call-please confirm):

*Chairman, Next Generation Equipment Committee
 Vice Chairman, NGEC & Chair of the Technical Subcommittee
 Representative of a State which has procured PRIIA equipment and placed it in service
 Representative of the Federal Railroad Administration
 Representative of the Rail Equipment Industry*

Presentation Titles for each of the above presentations.

Speaker names and full contact information for the above speakers. (See my contact information as an example)

Presiding officer and his or her full contact information:

*John V. "Jack" Madden
 Sr. Project Engineer-Transportation
 Erdman Anthony & Associates
 23 Weymouth Court
 Hudson NH 03051*

Email: maddenj@erdmananthony.com
Mobile phone: 603-305-2419

From looking at the schedule of Technical Subcommittee conference calls, I believe that the Executive Board has a conference call on Tuesday, September 24th. If that is so, would you be able to nail down the above information shortly after that call, so that I can provide the information to AR020 Chairman Davidson Ward by October 1st?

On 9-24-19, the following panelists were confirmed – in the order suggested:

The title:

Session Title: "The Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)– 10 Years of Progress"

Speakers:

Eric Curtit - Chair, NGEC
Charlie King - Vice Chair, NGEC, and Chair NGEC Technical subcommittee
John Oimoen, IDOT – representing a State which has procured PRIIA equipment and placed it in service
Jeffrey Gordon, Representing the Federal Railroad Administration
Larry Salci, providing the industry perspective

Each panelist has been asked to provide the following information to Steve Hewitt by 9-27-19:

1. Name, title, organization, address, email and mobile phone (see Jack Madden example above)
2. Presentation Title

10.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (9-24-19):

Document Control has been very quiet lately, only a few questions and comments from a few TSC members. The Technical subcommittee has not met since August and there is no update from the electronics on Trains WG. The TSC accepted changes to the Train set specification have been submitted to the EB and I am waiting upon Larry Salci's review.

11.

Trainset Revision B Review Panel Report – timeline – Steve Hewitt for Larry Salci:

Larry Salci has begun a review of the summary of changes and noted the need to have a call with Tammy Krause to get some clarifications.

Larry prepared the letter with scope and budget and submitted it to AASHTO and Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt.

It was previously agreed that the target date for Executive Board consideration of the Review Panel Report and recommendation will be 10-22-19.

All Review Panel members are now confirmed:

Trainset Review Panel:

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

12.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Charlie King adjourned the meeting at 11:51am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 10-8-19

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 9-24-19:

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Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 9-24-19:

The Working Group met on 8-8-19

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Due to the AASHTO, SPRC and SAIPRC meetings in Hartford during the week of 9-16-19, the working group call was postponed until 10-3-19.

Next update 10-8-19:

Amtrak Locomotive Procurement -9-24-19:

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Next update 10-22-19

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Next Update 10-8-19

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

On 8-27-19, Eric Curtit provided an overview of the DRAFT NGEC reauthorization language that was distributed prior to the call. It is re-printed under agenda item 7 of these minutes.

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.

As of 9-10-19, no comments or edits were received.

Eric noted that he and Steve Hewitt will add a disclaimer to the effect that FRA is not a party to developing or advocating for the language being proposed.

Once the disclaimer is added, it will be sent to FRA (Jeff Gordon and Michael Lestingi) for their ok. After that, a final

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VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update 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: 10-8-19

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 lecture 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".

On 9-24-19, the following panelists were confirmed – in the order suggested:

The title:

Session Title: The NGEC – 10 Years of Progress

Speakers:

Eric Curtit - Chair, NGEC

Charlie King - Vice Chair, NGEC, and Chair NGEC Technical subcommittee

John Oimoen, IDOT – representing a State which has procured PRIIA equipment and placed it in service

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Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT - confirmed

Jeff Gordon, FRA - confirmed

Larry Salci, consultant to the Review Panel - confirmed

Michael Burshtin, Amtrak – technical support - confirmed

Tammy Krause, NGEC Document Control Manager - confirmed

Steve Hewitt -NGEC support - confirmed

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call

September 24, 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 | Charlie King |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 9-10-19 conference call meeting | Charlie King |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement | Charlie King |
| 7. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement | Robert Becker |
| 8. Update: Finalizing proposed NGEC re-authorization language – adding FRA disclaimer | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Update: TRB Session –The NGEC after 10 years – finalize NGEC panelists | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 11. Trainset Revision B Review Panel Report – timeline and finalize members | Larry Salci/Steve Hewitt |
| 12. Other | All |

Next Call-10-8-19