



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2023

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, George Hull, Jeff Gordon, John Oimoen, Tim Ziethen, Amanda Martin, Troy Hughes, Jason Orthner, Jason Biggs, Richard Kedzior, Kyle Gradinger, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II Support Staff and Colleagues: Steve Hewitt, Mike Murray, Dave "Mr. Emeritus/Cone" Warner, Tammy Krause, Larry Salci, Patrick Centolanzi, Joe Paul, Strat Cavros,
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Support: Shayne Gill, Rebecca Anger, Jon Dees

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – George Hull, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board and Steve Hewitt, NGEC Manager:

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, was delayed for part of the meeting so Steve Hewitt and George Hull opened the meeting, and Steve Hewitt called the roll.

2.

Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

Following the roll call, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

3.

Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:

The action items review was tabled for this meeting. These minutes provide the current status.

Industry Participation:

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

Two new members were added this past week, (week of 1-2-23)

2022 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available in both electronic and hard copy.

To date 655 copies have been distributed.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-25-22 – during the 12th NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is posted to the website.

VIA Rail has accepted the invitation to give a virtual presentation during the 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting.

Next Update: 2-3-22 – NGEC Annual Meeting

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 1-5-23, during the Technical subcommittee call, Marci Petterson, CtDOT reported that they expect to receive proposals by the end of January. At that point they will enter the “cone of silence.”

Next Update – as appropriate

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 12-13-22 and 12-27-22 NGEC Executive Board Meetings– George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Richard Kedzior, WisDOT, the minutes from the 12-13 and 12-27-22 meetings were approved as presented.

5. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-10-23- Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

On 1-10-23, Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes:

The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review and closure stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car F-Coupler FAI is tentative for February.

121 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once all necessary agreements are in place.

6. Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

As of 1-10-23:

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on FRA qualifications and modeling. Four trainsets have been delivered.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. 22 have been delivered with 17 in service.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

This is now the “Airo” program. The Final Design Review (FDR) Phase continues.

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

On 1-10-23, Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North has confirmed that “the first pieces of steel are on the floor – fabrication of the first car shell is underway”. Ray added that Metro-North and Siemens are still resolving some FDR comments.

8. Update: Document Control/timeline – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes:

Bi-Level update continues, all of the DCRs have been sent to the entire Technical subcommittee for review and to provide any additional comments they may have. I have requested all comments to me by 1/12/23. I will then be sending out a final version for discussion and approval at the Technical subcommittee meeting of 1/19/23. The

changes will then be sent to the Executive Board.

(On the 24th the Executive Board Chairman can formally re-convene the Bi-Level specification review panel and send the proposed changes to Larry Salci for review.)

The Technical Writer contract needs to have an extension to allow her to continue to support the NGEC projects. We met to discuss the additional funding to go through to 9/30/23.

Strat Cavros, AASHTO, and Steve Hewitt clarified that the contract would not need to be extended as it runs through the grant period (9-30-2023). Strat further clarified that what would be needed would be to "obligate additional funds." Strat also noted that the remaining funds left in the NGEC grant is tight, so that would need to be part of the consideration.

Steve asked Tammy to provide the work plan and dollar amount for the technical writer for the remaining time between now and the end of the current grant period.

Tammy will provide the information to Steve Hewitt, and he will forward it to Tim Ziethen, Strat Cavros and Ray Hessinger to determine how to proceed.

9.

Website Refresh: Steve Hewitt:

The website refresh is complete and the new site www.ngec.org has officially gone live.

Steve Hewitt has begun a review of the documents on the site and is sending any missing items to Rebecca Anger at AASHTO to upload them to the site.

10.

Review of DRAFT NGEC 2023 two-pager – Steve:

On 1-3-23, Laura Seabaugh, MODOT, completed a first draft of the 2023 two-pager incorporating the changes requested.

On 1-4-23, the FASC reviewed the draft and a few more changes were requested – the primary change being replacing one of two pictures of the Surfliner for a picture of a Venture car.

The FASC changes were incorporated into a second draft. That draft was sent to the Executive Board members and support team along with other materials for the 1-10-23 call.

Several additional changes/corrections have been requested thus far:

On the Timeline Column on page one: In each of the specifications add the word "last" in front of updated This indicates that this is not the first update since the initial release occurred.

In the item referring to the Single Level Cars in service – delete "First Single Level Coach delivered" but leave "First Venture Car delivered in 2021 – 30 are in service as of December 2022".

On page two:

Under Goals – insert a hyphen between "state supported."

Under the first Results item add "an estimated" in front of \$2 million.

In the Realization section delete the word "Commuter" for Metro-North Railroad.

With no additional comments or objections to the recommended changes, Ray Hessinger asked Steve Hewitt to provide them to MODOT for revising and finalizing the DRAFT.

Steve will send them to Laura and after a look at the final version will ask MODOT to finalize it and print copies. Steve will contact Troy Hughes to provide him with the number of copies to be printed and where to send them. Steve added that he will reduce the number of hard copies significantly from past years as the majority of requests are for the electronic version.

11.

NGEC 20230 Annual Meeting – Ray/Steve:

Finalize Agenda and confirm speakers and attendance:

Steve Hewitt walked through the agenda and called on Board members regarding their attendance and confirming who would be giving presentations.

Registration so far is coming in fairly slow still currently there are around 51 attending – 34 in-person and 17 virtually.

Steve asked Board members to confirm their presence (virtually or in-person) and asked for speaker confirmations for each agenda item.

Members weighed in and were able to confirm attendance with some not yet approved for travel but pending that approval they would attend in-person. In the event they were not approved, they would participate virtually.

Most of the speakers were clarified.

Amtrak's Government Affairs presentation speaker has not yet been identified, but Tim Ziethen noted that he should have the name shortly.

For the Hydrogen Fuel Cell presentation – Kyle Gradinger reported that he has discussed this with Stadler Rail, and they are interested in presenting on the subject, as is Caltrans. Steve mentioned that Cummins also has suggested they would be interested in giving a presentation. Kyle said he thought that Stadler Rail would have no problem with both entities presenting. Kyle will reach out to Stadler to confirm the presenter.

12.

FASC Update and Treasurer's Report – Tim Ziethen:

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

Expenses Incurred through OCTOBER 2022: \$1,060,656.68

Balance remaining: \$189,343.4.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,524.33.

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): around \$29,000.00.

With the website refresh complete, \$12,000 will be due to iEngineering (after an invoice is provided to AASHTO and submitted not Tim Ziethen and Ray Hessinger for approval).

This will reduce the balance to about \$17,000 and with the additional funds needed to complete the technical writing being determined, the ending balance will be close.

13.

Other – all:

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:14pm Eastern.

Next meeting – 1-24-23

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer's Report – 1-10-23:

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2022 NGEC Backgrounder educational document as of 1-10-23:

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available in both electronic and hard copy.

To date 655 copies have been distributed.

NGEC Website Refresh as of 1-10-23:

The website is live and located at www.ngec.org

Status – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-10-23:

The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review and closure stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.

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Next Update – 1-24-22

Status: – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 1-10-23:

On 1-5-23, Marci Petterson, CtDOT reported that they expect to receive proposals by the end of January. At that point they will enter the “cone of silence.”

Next Update – as appropriate

Status - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 1-10-23:

Metro-North has confirmed that “the first pieces of steel are on the floor – fabrication of the first car shell is underway”. Ray added that Metro-North and Siemens are still resolving some FDR comments.

Next Update: 2-3-23NGEC Annual Meeting

Status - Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

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On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

This is now the “Arrow” program. The Final Design Review (FDR) Phase continues.

Next Update: 2-3-23 – NGEC Annual Meeting

Status - Document Control Management as of 1-10-23:

Bi-Level update continues, all of the DCRs have been sent to the entire Technical subcommittee for review and to provide any additional comments they may have. I have requested all comments to me by 1/12/23. I will then be sending out a final version for discussion and approval at the Technical subcommittee meeting of 1/19/23. The changes

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Next Update 1-24-23

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

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VIA Rail has accepted the invitation to provide an update presentation to the NGEC during its 2-3-23 Annual Meeting. VIA Rail will participate virtually.

Next Update: 2-3-23 NGEC Annual Meeting

Status CRISI Grant Application:

On 12-13-22, Tim Ziethen reported that the CRISI Grant for funding for the NGEC was submitted on time (early). He thanked the Board for its feedback – especially in light of the short turnaround time.

Tim has requested a count on the number of support letters received and included with the application package.

Tim added that the Amtrak grants office was impressed with the number of support letters and the enthusiasm for this application.

The grants office also noted that the application was a strong and well put together document.

Tim will confirm whether or not FRA and/or Amtrak is still accepting letters of support.

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive and Venture Cars Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: 2-3-23 NGEC Annual Meeting

NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting as of 1-10-23:

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Next Update – 1-24-23

Status of 2022 Priorities as of 1-10-23:

Priority Area: Review/Update the Bi-level specification currently in Revision C.4. With Amtrak looking at using some of the funding from the new IIJA for its western fleet, it makes sense for the NGEC to review and update the Bi-Level car specification.

Action as of 1-10-23: Bi-Level Car Specification Review/Update is still with the technical working groups. The technical subcommittee review is expected to take place on 1-19-23 and the intent is to have the Revision D updates adopted and signed by the Chair by the end of February.

Priority Area: Review the car body materials issue from a broader perspective for all NGEC equipment not only DMUs. Ray would like to take a look at developing a consistent approach for all of the NGEC vehicle specifications.

Action as of 1-10-23: The Carbody Materials Working Group has about completed its work and will submit its recommendations to the Technical subcommittee in January 2023.

Priority Area: Review "emerging technologies": On the technical subcommittee call of 12-9-21 the topic of emerging technologies for propulsion was raised. Ray Hessinger believed that the technical subcommittee should conduct a scan of the industry regarding emerging technologies for propulsion and how they relate to the NGEC.

Action as of 1-10-23: A presentation during the NEC Annual Meeting by Stadler Rail on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Multiple Unit Trains and by Caltrans is scheduled. Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, is confirming speakers.

Cummins has also offered to provide a presentation on this topic. Steve Hewitt to follow up.

Priority Area: Review and consider using the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Specification organizational changes to determine if they should be adopted by the NGEC and applied across the board to all NGEC specifications. This would be an administrative change not impacting technical content of any of the specifications and could be resolved by the Executive Board.

Action as of 1-10-23 -This is included in the DCM action Plan and will follow the Bi-Level Car Specification update or may begin simultaneously with making updates to that specification. Tammy Krause and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell, have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.

Priority Area: Review/update NGEC Reference and Drawings series 305-900 and 305-800.

Action as of 1-10-23: This item is on the DCM action plan for 2022 – no activity on reviewing the reference documents per se, but Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager will be working with Jeff Gordon to create a new reference specification to address the Volpe Center information on CEM.

Action: This activity will be carried over into 2023.

Next Meeting -1-24-23

NGEC Executive Board Meeting

1-10-23

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon 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 12-13-22 and 12-27-22 Minutes | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Multi-State Passenger Rail Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: Document Control – bi-level spec update timeline for completion | Tammy Krause |
| 9. Status: Website Refresh | Ray Hessinger |
| 10. Review: 2023 DRAFT NGEC Two-pager | Steve/Ray |
| 11. 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting | Steve |
| - Finalize Agenda | |
| - Confirm Speakers | |
| - Confirm attendance by Board members | |
| - Current Registration | |
| 12. FASC Update | Tim Ziethen |
| - Balance/Spend Rate | |
| 13. Other | All |
| 14. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting – 1-24-23