



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2022

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

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

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call 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:**

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 (12-13-22).

**Industry Participation:**

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

**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 625 copies have been distributed.

Discussion of the status of the 2023 version will take place under agenda item 11.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 2-25-22 – during the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 an update presentation during the 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting.

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

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 11-15-22 NGEC Executive Board Meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Richard Kedzior, Wisconsin DOT, the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting held on 11-15-22 were approved as submitted.

**5.**

**Adoption of proposed NGEC By-Laws Revisions – Ray Hessinger:**

The FASC recommended changes to the By-Laws which would add permissible activities to help raise the NGEC's visibility.

The proposed revisions (below) have been in the hands of Board members since October 13<sup>th</sup> with no comments forthcoming. The By-Laws require that Board members be provided with proposed changes or revisions in writing at least 30 days prior to consideration of adoption. This requirement has been met.

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*f. The Executive Board may issue news releases communicating activities or accomplishments of the Committee.*

*g. The Executive Board may authorize Committee member participation at related meetings, conferences, trade shows, or other similar events to communicate the activities of the Committee or to maintain visibility among stakeholders.*

Ray Hessinger called for a motion to adopt the revisions to the By-laws as submitted by the FASC on 10-13-22.

A motion to adopt the proposed By-Laws Revisions was offered by Brian Beeler II for Maine DOT, and was seconded by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT,

Ray Hessinger asked if there was any discussion.

With no discussion forthcoming, Ray Hessinger asked Steve Hewitt to poll the members of the Board present or represented today and record their vote:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Aye  
George Hull, Amtrak – Aye  
John Oimoen, IDOT – Aye  
Tim Ziethen, Amtrak – Aye  
Jeff Gordon, FRA – Aye  
Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT – Aye  
Amanda Martin as proxy for Troy Hughes, MODOT – Aye  
Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, NCDOT – Aye  
Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, WSDOT – Aye  
Richard Kedzior, Wisconsin DOT – Aye  
Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT – Aye  
Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA for Maine DOT - Aye

With a quorum having been established and all votes cast in the affirmative, Chairman Hessinger determined that consensus had been achieved and the motion is approved.

Steve Hewitt will update the NGEC By-Laws as revised and provide a PDF version for posting to the NGEC website.

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**6.**

**Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 12-13-22 – Steve Hewitt for Caltrans:**

In the absence of representation by Caltrans on today's call, Steve Hewitt provided the update given to the Technical subcommittee on 12-8-22 by Sarah Hernandez, Caltrans:

*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 Rev B test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on Tuesday, October 25 with Amtrak, and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car Coupler FAI is tentative for December.*

*117 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.*

John Oimoen, IDOT, added that a Café car is on its way to the climate testing chamber in Canada.

**7.**

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

On 12-13-22, Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North and Siemens are continuing Final Design Review (FDR) and are anticipating vehicle production to begin in January 2023.

**8.**

**Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:**

George Hull reported on 12-13-22:

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on qualification and testing.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. Twenty units have been shipped and 16 units are in service.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

They continue to progress well and are continuing in the Final Design Review (FDR) Phase and are on-track.

On the GP38 yard locomotives:

Two have shipped and two are on their way.

**9.**

**Update: Document Control/updated timelines - 12-13-22 – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause was not available for today's meeting, so this item was tabled until the next meeting – 12-27-22.

**10.**

**Website Refresh: Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger provided a status update and an overview of the beta release of the new website that was sent out via its link yesterday by Steve Hewitt.

Ray is asking that any comments be provided to Steve Hewitt with a CC to Ray Hessinger and Tim Ziethen by COB on Wednesday 12-14-22.

Most of the comments (13) submitted by Steve and Ray after the initial beta release have been addressed. On three of those comments, iEngineering has requested clarification. Steve Hewitt is preparing responses.

One iEngineering request was for the new Statute Language with the FAST Act changes. Ray Hessinger provided

this to Steve Hewitt during today's call, and he will add it to the response to iEngineering.

Several Board Members and support staff have provided comments to Steve Hewitt which he is compiling for submittal to iEngineering by 12-15-22 along with his clarification responses.

Comments offered prior to and during today's meeting included:

Highlights of changes noted:

Need to confirm if accreditation is needed for the photos to be used.

- John Oimoen, IDOT, George Hull, Amtrak will check on this for the photos they have provided. Steve Hewitt will check with Caltrans on its photo and Jason Biggs, WSDOT, noted that he is in the process of getting a photo(s) to Steve. The WSDOT photos do not require accreditation as they are in the public domain.

In the **About us** section - a new photo is needed – the one used is of an Acela II – not an NGEC spec vehicle

In the **Meetings** section - the photos are of P42 locomotives – not NGEC spec vehicles - need to change the photos.

In the **Meetings** section, add the DRAFT agenda, Date, and meeting information for the 2023 Annual meeting scheduled for 2-3-23.

On the **Opening page** it was agreed that the mission statement should be changed to read "provides" instead of "will provide."

Under **Organization Structure** -remove the sub section Working Group – the content within this section should be included within the Executive Board section. Under the **Finance and Administrative subcommittee subsection**, remove the Locomotive Technology Task Force it belongs under the Technical subcommittee (and is already there).

Steve Hewitt will send iEngineering the NGEC By-Law as revised on 12-13-22.

All members were reminded to provide Steve Hewitt with any additional comments by COB on Wednesday 12-14-22.

#### **11. NGEC 2023 two-pager – Steve/Ray:**

During the last Executive Board call, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger were tasked with finalizing the approved revisions – primarily to the Timeline on page one and to provide MODOT with some new pictures from those provided by IDOT, Caltrans and Amtrak. The intent is to try to have four pictures – two on the front and two on the back – depending on how that impacts the layout.

Steve will provide the recommended changes and photos by this week (once he has received photo accreditation confirmation as discussed under agenda item 10 - the website refresh) to MODOT graphic arts – Laura Seabaugh.

#### **12. NGEC 20230 Annual Meeting – Ray/Steve:**

Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger reviewed the DRAFT NGEC Annual Meeting agenda and requested input from Board members on who is attending – in-person or virtual – and on who will give the scheduled presentations.

Steve walked through the agenda to fill in what is missing:

Primarily missing is confirming who will give the various updates from the states, Amtrak, and FRA.

Steve also noted that he needs confirmation from Board members that they plan to attend and whether it will be in-person or virtual.

Steve is asking for this information asap and, at the latest, by 1-13-23 so as to be able to provide the in-person head count and name badge information to AASHTO.

**Hotel reservation link:**

Attendees can begin booking sleeping rooms here - <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RAIL>. Rooms must be booked by Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Room Rate is \$188 per night plus 14.95% tax.

Questions on Hotel room reservations – contact:

**Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP**

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

555 12th St, NW, Suite 1000 \*NEW ADDRESS\*

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: [khendrickson@ashto.org](mailto:khendrickson@ashto.org)

**13.**

**FASC Update and Treasurer’s Report – Tim Ziethen:**

**a. Balance and Spend Rate:**

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

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

Balance remaining: \$189,343.32

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,529.54

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$29,536.05

Note: New web site design is authorized, and the cost will be deducted from ending projection shown. The cost of the website will be \$12,000.00. It is a fixed price contract.

**b. Status – Amtrak – NGEC CRISI Grant Application - Tim Ziethen:**

At this point, Ray Hessinger paused for a moment to give the FRA representatives on the call a moment to step off, due to potential conflict of interest as the discussion turned to Amtrak’s NGEC CRISI Grant application.

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 very strong and well put together document.

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

**14.**

**Other – all:**

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:18pm Eastern.

**Next meeting – 12-27-22**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Treasurer’s Report – 12-13-22:**

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

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

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Note: New web site design is authorized, and the cost will be deducted from ending projection shown. The cost of the website will be \$12,000.00. It is a fixed price contract.

**2022 NGEC Backgrounder educational document as of 12-13-22:**

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

To date 625 copies have been distributed.

On the 2023 version of the two-pager:

During the last Executive Board call, 11-15-22, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger were tasked with finalizing the approved revisions – primarily to the Timeline on page one and to provide MODOT with some new pictures from those provided by IDOT, Caltrans and Amtrak. The intent is to try to have four pictures – 2 on the front and two on the back – depending on how that impacts the layout.

Steve will provide the recommended changes and photos by this week (once he has received photo accreditation confirmation as discussed under agenda item 10 - the website refresh) to MODOT graphic arts – Laura Seabaugh.

**NGEC Website Refresh as of 12-13-22:**

On 12-13-22, Ray Hessinger provided a status update and a walk-through of the beta release of the new website that was sent out via its link yesterday by Steve Hewitt.

Comments are due to Steve Hewitt with a CC to Ray Hessinger and Tim Ziethen by COB on Wednesday 12-14-22.

Most of the comments (13) submitted by Steve and Ray after the initial beta release have been addressed. On three of those comments, iEngineering has requested clarification. Steve Hewitt is preparing responses.

One iEngineering request was for the new Statute Language with the FAST Act changes. Ray Hessinger provided this to Steve Hewitt during today's call, and he will add it to the response to iEngineering.

Several Board Members and support staff have provided comments to Steve Hewitt which he is compiling for submittal to iEngineering by 12-15-22 along with his clarification responses.

Critical action is to let Steve Hewitt know if accreditation is needed for photos to be used on the site.

**Status – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement:**

Status as of 12-8-22 (provided to the NGEC Technical subcommittee on 12-8-22, and presented to the Exec Board on 12-13-22:

*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 Rev B test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on Tuesday, October 25 with Amtrak, and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car Coupler FAI is tentative for December.*

*117 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.*

On 12-13-22, John Oimoen, IDOT, added that a Café car is on its way to the climate testing chamber in Canada.

**Next Update – 12-27-22**

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

On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

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**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Status - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment:**

Metro-North and Siemens continue with FDR and anticipate vehicle production to begin in January 2023.

**Next Update: 1-14-23**

**Status - Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

As of 12-13-22:

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on qualification and testing.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. Twenty units have been shipped and 16 units are in service.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

They continue to progress well and are continuing in the Final Design Review (FDR) Phase and are on-track.

On the G38 yard locomotives:

Two have shipped and two are on their way.

**Next Update: 1-14-23**

**Status - Document Control Management as of 11-15-22:**

*The minor updates and formatting changes to the Bi-Level Specification are under way. The technical working groups are still reviewing their DCRs, and I am going to ask for their comments back by 11/23/22.*

*I am also proposing to send the entire list of changes to the entire technical subcommittee for their comments on 11/28/22. I have not put together an entire timeline yet. The goal will be to complete the specification update by the end of the year so it can be signed at the annual meeting.*

*I have provided some requested information to two working groups and one PRIIA member in the past week, and I also continue to meet with the Technical Writer weekly.*

**There was no update provided on 12-13-22. Tammy Krause is asked to provide an update and a timeline on the 12-27-22 call.**

**Next Update – 12-27-22**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

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

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 very strong and well put together document.

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

**By-Laws Review and change recommendations:**

The proposed revisions to the NGEN By-Laws were adopted by the Executive Board on 12-13-22. See above for further details.

Steve Hewitt will update the By-Laws and save in PDF format. He will provide the updated document to iEngineering and to AASHTO.

**Task Complete**

**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 NGEN Annual Meeting**

**NGEN 2023 Annual Meeting:**

On 12-13-22, Steve Hewitt reviewed the DRAFT NGEN Annual Meeting agenda.

**Actions:**

Mike Murray, FRA, will let Steve Hewitt know who will give the FRA update.

Tim Ziethen and George Hull will let Steve Hewitt know who will provide the Amtrak update.

Kyle Gradinger will reach out to Stadler Rail for a representative to give a presentation on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Multiple Unit Train.

The relevant states who will be presenting will let Steve know who will give the presentation and whether or not the manufacturer will be a part of the presentation.

Steve Hewitt will reach out to VIA Rail to see invite them to give an update on their vehicle procurements.

Steve reminded all members to let him know if they are attending and, if so, in-person or virtual.

**Hotel reservation link:**

Attendees can begin booking sleeping rooms here - <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RA1L>. Rooms must be booked by Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Room Rate is \$188 per night plus 14.95% tax.

**Questions on Hotel room reservations – contact:**

**Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP**

Senior Meeting Planner

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**Next Update 12-13-22**

**Status of 2022 Priorities as of 12-13-22:**

**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 12-13-22:** Bi-Level Car Specification Review/Update is still with the technical working groups. The technical subcommittee review is expected to take place on 12-22-22 and the intent to have the Revision D updates adopted and signed by the Chair during the Annual Meeting – 2-3-22.

**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 12-13-22:** The Carbody Materials Working Group has about completed its work and will submit its recommendations to the Technical subcommittee in December 2022.

**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 12-13-22:** A presentation during the NEC Annual Meeting by Stadler Rail on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Multiple Unit Trains will be requested. Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans will make the request

**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 12-13-22** -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 12-13-22:** 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.

**Next Meeting -12-27-22**

### NGEC Executive Board Meeting

**12-13-22**

**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  |

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|--|----------------|
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 11-15-22 Executive Board Minutes       | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Adoption of proposed NGEC By-Laws Revisions                     | Ray Hessinger  |
| 6. Multi-State Passenger Rail Car Procurement                      | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement           | Ray Hessinger  |
| 8. Update – Amtrak Vehicle Procurements                            | George Hull    |
| 9. Update: Document Control/timeline – Timelines                   | Tammy Krause   |
| 10. Status: Website Refresh  | Ray Hessinger  |
| 11. Status: NGEC Two-pager   | Steve/Ray      |
| 12. 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting – Review Agenda/Speakers/Registration | Steve          |
| 13. FASC Update  | Tim Ziethen    |
| - Balance/Spend Rate   |                |
| - Update: CRISI Grant  |                |
| 14. Other  | All            |
| 15. Adjourn  | Ray Hessinger  |

**Next Meeting – 12-27-22**