

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JULY 20, 2023

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Joe Paul, Jeff Gordon, Ryan Sharpe, Art Peterson for Jennifer Bastian, Ed Engle, Ray Hessinger, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt</i> Industry Members: <i>Richard Stegner, Jack Madden, Kevin Sudano, James Michel, Ed Golitko, Josh Coran, Frank Pascazio, Jon Michel, Dave Warner, Stephen Mark, Rob Magdule, Rich Bowie, Paul Jamieson</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Jodi Lehmkuhl, Troy Hughes, Marci Petterson, Jennifer Bastian, Mike Murray, Tarek Omar, Melissa Shurland, Blair Slaughter, Barley Fields</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Technical subcommittee Chair George Hull, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

2023 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2023 NGENC two-pager is available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

To date 336 copies have been distributed.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are currently 203 industry participants. (three new members joined this week)

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

As of 6-8-23 negotiations were continuing and the “cone of silence” remained in effect.

No change reported on 7-20-23.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Working Group on Vehicle Weight Issues:

On 3-30-23, Jeff Gordon, FRA reported that he intends to update the document based on working group feedback rather than schedule a meeting. He will then ask for input from the members via email. His issue is that he has been called for Jury duty and if enpaneled could be serving for 3 months and he would not be able to hold a working group meeting. If he is not enpaneled, this may change, but for now he intends to begin updating the document based on feedback received to date.

Steve Hewitt asked Jeff to let him know when he is ready to present an update to the technical subcommittee and he will add it to the agenda at that time.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Communications on Rail Cars Working Group as of 6-8-27:

On 6-8-23, Tammy Krause reported the following update:

The Communications on Rail Cars Working Group is working on the communications chapter 12 of the single level specification. They were asked to bring the communications section up to current. They are currently working on the Digital Train Line section. The PRIIA sub specification was sunset but the concept is still needed. The new section being written by the communications group includes newer technology and options as opposed to the original ethernet cables. Their next meeting will be on June 20, 2023.

Next Update: As appropriate

Car Body Materials Working Group as of 6-22-23:

Per Tammy Krause on 6-22-23:

The Materials Working Group has not completed their review of the EN Welding Standards yet but will give a report/summary to the TSC when they do.

Next Update: As Provided

University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study as of 6-22-23:

We continued our field testing for verification of our transceiver design. This is to investigate a better utilization of some of the sub-giga-Hertz frequencies for rail applications to ease the spectrum saturation. We have been investigating 160 MHz which has been used primarily for voice communications but believe this band can be utilized more efficiently for some of the data rail applications and this is the core of our study. We have built computer models for the physical layer transmission of 160 MHz as well as the upper layers to simulate and field test different rail applications. Our developed transceiver has been implemented using software-defined radios for field tests. Hope to provide the results later in the summer.

For questions or additional information, contact Hamid Sharif at: hsharif@UNL.edu

Next Update: 8-17-23

3. Approval of the Minutes from 7-6-23 – George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Curtis McDowell, NCDOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 7-6-23 were approved as submitted.

4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement –Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans:

On 7-20-23, Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes:

The remaining Cab Car FDR submittals are in the final closure stage with nearly all subsystems approved. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been submitted to Amtrak for review and transfer to FRA with clarifications made. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed and the requested MCAT simulation is in work.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F test reports are approved. The Cab Car Complete FAI occurred on July 18, and the FRA Sample Car Inspection is scheduled for July 27.

131 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is targeting revenue start in 2023. Progress on agreements has been made with signatures expected in July or August.

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

On 7-20-23, Ray Hessinger provided the following update:

Production on Carshells 1 and 2 continue to be ahead of schedule.

Final Assembly is on track to start later this month (July).

FAIs #1 on the carshell as well as FAI #5 truck frame welded are complete.

6.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

George Hull provide the following update:

On the Charger Locomotives – Amtrak continues to take delivery of additional units.

On the new Acela – Work continues on qualification items.

On the Airo Trainset – the first car shell is almost complete and Final Design Review (FDR) continues.

7.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause reviewed the comments submitted following the NGEN working groups' review of the PRIIA 305-900 series Reference specifications.

I am working with the Technical Writer on identifying the Amtrak fleet references in the sub specifications. Mr. Warner reminded me that we also need to remove references to the two specs that we are sunseting, 305-911 "Replacement of Copper Waste Piping" and 305-919 "Digital Trainline Hardware".

The APTA PRESS Electrical Working Group has been asked to work with the NGEN on the Digital Trainline spec. I let them know that we were no longer working on that and would not be updating 305-919 in the future. I offered to send them a copy of 305-919. They have been asked about DTL by some Commuter Railroads.

There were 16 changes proposed for the PRIIA sub specifications, 4 of them (DCRs 305-001 through 305-004) were addressed at the last Technical Subcommittee (TSC) meeting. The remaining 12 (DCRs 305-005 through 305-016) are located in the marked-up version of the 305-901 Intercom Systems. This document has been provided to the TSC and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Steve Hewitt asked several clarifying questions on the DCR numbers for those that were adjudicated on the last call and for the updates to reference (or sub) specification 305-901. It was made clear that DCRs 305-001 through 305-004 were adjudicated on 7-6-23 and the DCRs 305 through 016 are the ones contained in the update of reference spec 305-901 and were to be considered on today's call.

After some discussion, it was clear that most members had not gotten an opportunity to read through the proposed changes to update 305-901. Understanding that this was the case, George Hull extended the time for members to review the changes and provide comments to Tammy Krause in advance of the 8-3-23 TSC call. The intent will be to discuss any comments submitted and to potentially consider adjudication of the DCRs pertaining to 305-901.

Tammy Krause will send a revised version of 305-901 with the DCRs noted and provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution along with the minutes of today's meeting. (7-20-23)

George Hull announced that the week of 8-3-23, he will be on vacation, so he asked TSC Vice Chair Joe Paul to run the meeting on 8-3-23 for him. Joe agreed and stated he was available. Steve Hewitt will send the DRAFT agenda for 8-3-23 to both Joe and George for approval. If George does not see it or weigh in, Joe will approve it.

6.

Update: NGEN Funding – Steve Hewitt:

As initially reported on the 7-19-23 NGEN Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) by NGEN Treasurer, Tim Ziethen.

Balance/Spend Rate Through May 2023

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

Expenses Incurred through May 2023: \$1,198,774.76

Balance remaining: \$51,225.24.

Estimated spend at current rate for balance of the Grant: \$59,938.74

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,984.68.

Estimated Balance at the end of the Grant Period: (8,713.50) over target.

On 7-19-23, Tim Ziethen noted that there is a fair amount of variance in invoices each month and historically these are "light

months” so it is possible to go over budget slightly, but it will be close. If it does go over, Amtrak has agreed to pick up the “small overage.” Tim also noted that he is not aware of anything “hanging out there.”

NGEC Funding Issues/potential interim solutions/path forward:

Amtrak has developed an interim SOW and Budget to fund the NGEF for a 12-month period to continue the baseline work of the Committee while awaiting the results of the CRISI Grant application and/or exploring other funding solutions.

O 7-19-23, the NGEF FASC reviewed and approved a motion to recommend the DRAFT budget be moved forward to the Executive Board for its consideration with the amount not to exceed \$260,620. After meeting with AASHTO later in the day – Tim Ziethen sent Steve Hewitt an adjusted DRAFT budget with a not to exceed amount of \$260,220. This adjusted budget has been sent to the FASC members and will be forwarded to the Executive Board on 7-21-23 along with the Executive Board 7-25-23 meeting agenda.

It should be noted that the FRA has requested that the Executive Board go into Executive Session on the 7-25-23 call to discuss the proposed budget before considering it for approval. The Executive Session is planned to occur at the end of the 7-25-23 Executive Board meeting.

CRISI Grant Awards Timeline:

Timeframe: Announcement of CRISI Grant Awards: August-September 2023

Timeframe for receiving funds if awarded a Grant – about 6 months.

9.

Other/Adjourn – George Hull:

With no other business forthcoming, George Hull adjourned today’s Technical Subcommittee meeting at 3:23pm.

Next meeting – 8-3-23

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

2023 NGEF Backgrounder educational document:

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It is also posted on the NGEF website – www.ngef.org

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are just over two hundred industry participants (203).

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Next Update – 8-3-23

Document Control Management as of 7-20-23:

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It was agreed that comments to the changes to 305-901 (identified as DCRs 305-005 through 305-016) will be discussed and will be (potentially) considered for approval on 8-3-23.

Send all comments to Tammy Krause.

Next Update – 8-3-23**Working Group on Weight Issues:**

On 3-30-23, Jeff Gordon, FRA reported that he intends to update the document based on working group feedback rather than schedule a meeting. He will then ask for input from the members via email. His issue is that he has been called for Jury duty and if enpaneled could be serving for 3 months and he would not be able to hold a working group meeting. If he is not enpaneled, this may change, but for now he intends to begin updating the document based on feedback received to date.

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Next Update – 8-17-23**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 7-20-23:**

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FAIs #1 on the carshell as well as FAI #5 truck frame welded are complete.

Next Update – 8-17-23**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

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Next Update: 8-17-23.

NGEC Funding Status - as of 7-19-23:

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Path Forward for the NGEC (Interim):**6-month no-cost current grant agreement extension:**

Amtrak has submitted a 6 month no-cost GARF to FRA which is now under review. The GARF extends the period of performance and “allows us to draw down expenses in the grant until exhausted.”

NGEC Funding Issues/potential interim solutions/path forward:

On 6-27-23, Tim Ziethen reported “great news!” to the Executive Board. He noted that he had met with Mike Murray and Jeff Gordon, FRA, and learned that FRA has reviewed the Amtrak proposal to fund the ongoing work of the Committee out of the Annual Grant it receives through Appropriations. Tim noted “we have the green light to move forward with what we have proposed.” Tim added that Amtrak is still looking at whether it will be identified as a Capital Project or an operating expense. He termed this as “more of an accounting question.”

On 7-19-20 the status was:

Amtrak has developed an interim SOW and Budget to fund the NGEC for a 12-month period to continue the baseline work of the Committee while awaiting the results of the CRISI Grant application and/or exploring other funding solutions.

On 7-19-23, the NGEC FASC reviewed and approved a motion to recommend the DRAFT budget be moved forward to the Executive Board for its consideration (with the understanding that after Tim Ziethen has talked to AASHTO later on 7-19-23 there may be some tweaks or adjustments) with the amount not to exceed \$260,620. After meeting with AASHTO – Tim Ziethen sent Steve Hewitt an adjusted DRAFT budget with a not to exceed amount of \$260,220. This adjusted budget has been sent to the FASC members and will be forwarded to the Executive Board on 7-21-23 along with the Executive Board 7-25-23 meeting agenda.

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Next Meeting – 8-3-23

ATTACHMENTS



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

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

Agenda

7-20-23

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| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 7-6-23 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement | Ryan Sharp |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| Review/discuss/consider updates to PRIIA Reference spec 305-901 | |
| 8. Status: NGEC Funding | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next Meeting 8-3-23