

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2023 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeff Gordon, Ryan Sharpe, Art Peterson, Ray Hessinger, Curt Massie, Curt Massie also as proxy for Mike Jenkins, Curtis McDowell, Dave Warner, Hamid Sharif, Jennifer Bastian, Steve Hewitt</i> Industry Members: <i>Kevin Sudano, Ed Golitko, Frank Pascazio, Rob Magdole, Steve Ojalvo, Kevin Myles, Rich Bowie, Josh Coran, Tom LaMano, Allen Meeks, Bill Saddler, Bill Luebke, Jeff Schultz, Darrell Smith, Joe Kenas</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Mike Jenkins, Troy Hughes, Ed Engle, Marci Petterson, Mike Murray, Tarek Omar, Melissa Shurland, Tammy Krause, Larry Salci, Blair Slaughter, Joe Paul, 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:

Note: Since several members on the call today (8-31-23) had limited time, Steve Hewitt stated that he would not review the action items, instead, he referenced that their status would be included in the minutes of the call.

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 338 copies have been distributed.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are currently 204 industry participants. (three new members joined since the last technical subcommittee meeting)

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

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

CtDOT Rail car Procurement:

Marci Petterson, CtDOT, provided the following update for inclusion in the 8-17-23 meeting minutes:

CtDOT's contract was awarded to Alstom on 8/3/23. Base order is for sixty cars – 19 cabs and forty-one trailers. There are options for up to an additional 272 cars. We are expecting a prototype 4-car consist in mid-2026. The delivery rate is four cars per month. Manufacturing is in Sahagun, Mexico.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

On 8-17-23, Ray Hessinger provided the following update:

Production of Locomotives #301 and 302 remain on schedule – car shells are completed.

CtDOT executed their option for additional locomotives.

FAIs for an alluminum roof were approved.

Siemens is working with Metro-North on delay issues.

Upcoming work includes scheduling of additional of FAIs.

Next Update: 9-14-23

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On 8-17-23 George Hull provided the following update:

On the new Acela – Work continues on qualification items. Trainset #8 should be in by the end of the month.

On the Charger Locomotives – There are forty units thus far with thirty units in service. Overall, it's going very well.

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

On the Long -Distance Procurement – they are in the second round of RFI and working toward an RFP by the end of the year.

Next Update: 9-14-23

3. Approval of the Minutes from 8-17-23 – George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Art Peterson, for IDOT, and a second by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, the minutes from 8-17-23 were approved as submitted.

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

On 8-31-23, Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting 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 FRA via Amtrak with additional clarifications provided. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are complete and the requested MCAT simulations are in review for submittal.

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 was completed on July 27. Open items from both are being addressed to prepare the cab car for PTC and 238 testing.

137 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 pending completion of final agreements.

5. Update: University of Nebraska/FRA High-Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif:

Hamid Sharif provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (8-31-23):

The University of Nebraska Advanced Telecommunications Engineering Lab has been studying the sub-giga-Hertz frequencies for rail applications to ease the current spectrum saturation for railroads, under the direction of FRA. We have studied the 160 MHz frequency as an example of these sub-giga Hertz bands. Theoretical and computer models were designed to represent a typical Transmitter, a Receiver, and a channel model for this frequency band. Then, different applications and rail scenarios were simulated, and performance data were collected. We have been doing field tests this summer to verify our lab data. We plan to publish our results this Fall. Any interested parties, please feel free to contact me for more information.

Additionally, as we plan for the next phase of this project, we are interested to hear any suggestions for implementing any other sub-giga frequencies or any specific rail application utilizing the 160 MHz. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any utilization of our current work or suggestions and ideas for the next phase of this project. Thank you.

*Hamid Sharif
Advanced Telecommunications Engineering Lab
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Phone: 402-917-6363
Email: HSHARIF@UNL.EDU*

**6.
Document Control – Dave Warner:**

Discussion – review of comments/updates to PRIIA Reference (sub-spec) 305-901:

Dave Warner shared the updated document with comments included, on his screen. Steve Hewitt pointed out that all Tech subcommittee members had been provided this same version on Monday 8-28-23.

Dave briefly scrolled through the comments noting that they were primarily “de-Amtrak” (or removal of referring to Amtrak) to clean up the document. He also pointed out that the document format had been revised as well so that this reference spec matches the format of the PRIIA Vehicle specifications.

George Hull asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, George called for a motion to approve 305-901 as revised to send it to the Executive Board for its review and consideration.

**7.
Consideration of Approval of DCRs for the 305-901 Reference (sub-spec) – George Hull:**

On a motion by Art Peterson, for IDOT, a second by Curtis McDowell, for NCDOT, and with no objections forthcoming, Chairman Hull determined that consensus had been achieved, and the updated version of 305-901 was approved by the technical subcommittee for submittal to the Executive Board.

It was agreed that Steve Hewitt should transmit this version, with the comments included, to the Executive Board in advance of its next meeting (9-5-23). The comments will remain in order to let Board members see the changes that have been made.

**8.
Calendar Updates – Steve Hewitt:**

Beginning on 10-1-23 – Steve Hewitt will re-start the NGEC calendars for 12 months. The legacy calendar goes on infinitely and has some old information. Steve Hewitt will stop the recurring meetings at the end of this month and send new calendar appointments beginning in October 2023. On 8-17-23, the subcommittee agreed to remain with bi-weekly calls with George Hull and Steve Hewitt determining whether a meeting is to be canceled if there is a light agenda.

**9.
Other/Adjourn – George Hull:**

With no other business forthcoming, George Hull adjourned today's Technical Subcommittee meeting at 3:24pm.

Next meeting – 9-14-23

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

2023 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

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To date 338 copies have been distributed.

It is also posted on the NGEC website – www.ngec.org

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are just over two hundred industry participants (204).

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

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 8-31-23:

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 FRA via Amtrak with additional clarifications provided. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are complete and the requested MCAT simulations are in review for submittal.

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Next Update – 9-14-23

Document Control Management as of 8-31-23:

Dave Warner provided an overview of the updated draft version of 305-901.

The technical subcommittee approved 305-901 as presented and asked that it be submitted to the Executive Board with the comments included so that Board members would see what the changes were as they review and consider its adoption.

Next Update – 9-5-23

Working Group on Weight Issues:

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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

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Transmitter, a Receiver, and a channel model for this frequency band. Then, different applications and rail scenarios were simulated, and performance data were collected. We have been doing field tests this summer to verify our lab data. We plan to publish our results this Fall. Any interested parties, please feel free to contact me for more information.

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*Hamid Sharif
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On the Airo Trainset – the first car shell is almost complete and Final Design Review (FDR) and FAIs continue.

On the Long -Distance Procurement – they are in the second round of RFI and working toward an RFP by the end of the year.

Next Update: 9-14-23.

NGEC 12 month interim funding:

On 8-17-23, Steve Hewitt reported that, on the 7-25-23 Executive Board Meeting the Board went into Executive session to discuss the proposed budget for a 12-month interim funding plan for the NGEC to be funded out of the Amtrak Operating Plan (AOP). During that meeting the budget was approved for approximately \$260,000.

On the 8-8-23 Executive Board call, the Board received clarification that even if the 2024 Appropriations has not been approved and there is a CR – Amtrak will still fund the 12-month interim NGEC plan. This was confirmed by Amtrak CMO George Hull. Thank you George!

The hope remains that the NGEC will be awarded a CRISI Grant which it applied for. This would provide long-term funding

and a more in depth work plan that would allow the NGEC to continue maintain current specs and look into new technologies, develop new specifications and fully address the updating of the current specs based on changes made by entities that have used those specs (a project that will begin with the interim funding plan).

Steve asked George Hull if he had missed anything or if he had anything to add. George replied that he had nothing to add and that Steve Hewitt had captured it correctly.

CRISI Grant Awards Timeline:

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

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

No Change in status as of 8-31-23

Meeting Calendar:

Beginning on 10-1-23 – Steve Hewitt will re-start the NGEC calendars for 12 months. The legacy calendar goes on infinitely and has some old information. Steve Hewitt will stop the recurring meetings at the end of this month and send new calendar appointments beginning in October 2023. On 8-17-23, the subcommittee agreed to remain with bi-weekly calls with George Hull and Steve Hewitt determining whether a meeting is to be canceled if there is a light agenda.

NGEC 2024 Annual Meeting:

The NGEC 2024 Annual Meeting will take place on 2-2-24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
Details will be forthcoming.

Next Meeting – 9-14-23

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

8-31-23

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| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 8-17-23 | George Hull |

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| 4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 5. Update: University of Nebraska/FRA High-Speed Wireless Study | Hamid Sharif |
| 6. Document Control | Dave Warner |
| - Discussion: Review of comments/updates to PRIIA Reference (sub-spec 305-901) | |
| 7. Consideration of approval of DCRs of 305-901 as revised | George Hull |
| 8. Calendar Updates | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next Meeting 9-14-23