

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9,
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, Curtis McDowell, Ray Hessinger, Mike Jenkins, Jodi Lehmkuhl, Dave Warner, Blair Slaughter, Steve Hewitt, Barley Fields</i> Industry Members: <i>Ed Golitko, Rich Stegner, Jack Madden, Kevin Myles, Dick Bruss, Kevin Sudano, David Wilcock, James Michel, Brian Ley, Stephen Mark, Paul Jamieson, Steve Ojalvo, Joanna Hallisy, Frank Pazcazio, Jonathan Michel, Tom LaMano, Frank Maldari, Allen Meeks,</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Ed Engle, Marci Petterson, Art Peterson, Curt Massie, Joe Paul, Tammy Krause, Mike Murray, Tarek Omar, Melissa Shurland, Larry Salci</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 could not confirm the presence of a quorum. It was agreed that the meeting would be held and minutes taken, but no decisions would be made and no votes would take place.

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 354 copies have been distributed.

On 11-8-23, the NGENC Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) reviewed proposed updates to the NGENC two-page backgrounder and will send proposed updates and new photos to the Executive Board for discussion on its next call 11-28-23.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are currently about 205 industry participants.

Steve Hewitt noted that he is going to send out the industry participants list with today's minutes and is asking all members to review it and inform him of any changes that should be made to update it.

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

CtDOT Rail car Procurement:

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.

On 10-12-23, Marci Petterson reported that the kick-off meeting was held and they have begun pre-design meetings.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Working Group on Weight Issues:

On 10-26-23, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that he is looking to set a meeting of the working group for 11-9-23 from noon to 1:00pm Eastern. He asked that anyone not on his list, but interested in participating on the working group to contact him at jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov.

Update: On 11-9-23, Jeff Gordon reported that the working group met earlier in the day with 7 members present. Jeff had “fluffed” up the DRAFT document and distributed it to members of the group. He has highlighted the areas that needed additional input/changes and asked that members return it to him by 11-25-23. He has scheduled the next meeting for 12-4-23 with the intent of adjudicating the document to send it on to the full Technical subcommittee.

Next Update: 12-7-23

3. Approval of the Minutes from 10-26-23:

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes from 10-26-23 was tabled until the next meeting – 12-7-23.

4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement as of 11-9-23 – Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans:

Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes:

- *The remaining Cab Car FDR items are in the closure stage with final submittals in work. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been approved by the states and the FRA. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are complete and the requested Café Car MCAT simulations have also been submitted to the FRA for review.*

- *The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspection occurred in July with open items in review and closure.*

- *137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is preparing for crew familiarization and shakedown testing of the first trainset pending completion of maintenance items and necessary training.*

Next Update: 12-7-23

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

Ray Hessinger reported that he has not received an update from Metro-North for October and therefore did not have much to provide beyond what was previously reported. He did say that the primary focus has been on FAIs on “all sorts of components” and everything is proceeding on schedule.

Next Update: 12-7-23

6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:

On the new Acela:

Work continues on various qualifications.

On the Charger Long-Distance Locomotives:

Amtrak continues to take delivery of units and add routes where they are in service.

On the Airo trainsets:

There are car shells in production and they are finalizing FAI’s.

Next Update: 12-7-23

7.**Document Control Update- Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause is on vacation this week, but provided the following updates:

Status – Finalizing 305-901 as adopted:

I have the reformatted version from Camren and I am just giving it a final review before releasing it.

Status – Materials Working Group:

The group met on 10/30/23 and is working on reviewing the Single Level Specification in relation to the European Standards per our discussions in Spring. Next meeting is 11/13/23.

Status- Communications on Cars Working Group:

The group met on 9/26/23 and they submitted a DCR for inclusion of a DTL specification section into the existing Single Level Vehicle Spec., 305-003. The single level specification is the next one to be reviewed by the TSC so it will be reviewed during this upgrade. Next meeting is not currently scheduled.

Steve Hewitt noted that Tammy also sent him the list of Working Group members and asked that he:

Review Technical Working Group members/team leaders – vacancies:

The Mechanical Working Group and the Weight Working Group are both headed up by Jeff Gordon and we will need a replacement.

Jeff is hoping to complete the work of the Weight Issues Working Group prior to retiring at the end of December and has already informed the Technical subcommittee that Melissa Shurland will replace him as the FRA member on both the Technical Subcommittee and the Mechanical Working Group. A team leader will be determined by the members of the group.

Can you please ask TSC members that are not currently in a WG to consider joining one?

Steve Hewitt stated that he will share the Working Group member list with Technical Subcommittee members and asked that anyone interested in joining a Working Group contact Tammy Krause at tkrauser@gmail.com or tammy.krause@stvinc.com.

In addition, please ask the TSC members to start reviewing the single level specification and the Dual Mode locomotive specification for proposed DCRs.

Steve asked members of the appropriate groups to begin reviewing the above noted specifications for proposed DCRs.

8.**University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study as of 11-9-23:**

Hamid Sharif, University of Nebraska, provided an update on the High-Speed Wireless Study. He gave a brief background/overview of the study and the progress thus far in its current phase:

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.

After conducting modeling and simulation testing, they began to conduct field testing. Up to now the data from the field testing is close to the modeling and simulations.

They will continue on this phase through the end of December and will look to FRA for funding to continue the study in different areas.

Additionally, as they plan for the next phase of this project, they are interested in hearing any suggestions for implementing any other sub-giga frequencies or any specific rail application utilizing the 160 MHz.

Hamid also noted that he has been invited by Steve Hewitt to give a presentation on the study during the Annual Meeting of the NGECC in Washington, DC on 2-2-24.

Hamid's contact information is:

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

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

Next Update – Annual Meeting – 2-2- 2024

**9.
NGEC Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reminded members that the NGEC Annual Meeting will be held on 2-2-24 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC.

A DRAFT agenda has been prepared and is under review by Executive Board Members. It was presented as a first DRAFT on 10-31-23.

The format will be similar to last year's with presentations on the status of procurements, updates on experiences with the new equipment, as well as a Treasurer's report, NGEC elections for the State Board members and the officers, and more...

Registration will take place at 8:00am Eastern with the meeting kicking off at 8:30AM and ending around 12:30PM Eastern.

It will be a hybrid meeting – in-person and virtual – details to follow.

Tech SC members – please let Steve Hewitt know by 1-11-24 if you plan to attend and whether it will be in-person or virtually.

AASHTO has provided the hotel link for the rail meetings to be held during that week. As always, the NGEC is a part of several meetings held in conjunction with AASHTO's Council on Rail Transportation.

Below is the link for the 2024 Winter Rail Meeting provided by Kamasha Hendrickson, AASHTO Senior Meeting Planner:

Room Rate: \$193 per night plus tax
Hotel Link: [AASHTO 2024 Council on Rail Transportation Legislative Meeting \(hyatt.com\)](https://www.hyatt.com/en/usa/meetings-events/2024/01-05-08/aashto-council-on-rail-transportation-legislative-meeting)
Cut-Off Date: January 5, 2024

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP
Senior Meeting Planner
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
555 12th St, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202-624-5403
E-mail: khendrickson@aaashto.org

**10.
Status – Changing from WebEx to Teams – Steve Hewitt:**

On the 10-31-23 Executive Board meeting, it was agreed that Steve Hewitt will research what Teams plans are available that would work for these meetings and accommodate the Annual Meeting and to look at the costs for hosting.

Steve Hewitt will report back to the Executive Board on its next call on 11-28-23. It does look like there will be a change – likely in December – to Teams. When that happens Steve will send updated calendar invites with the link to the Teams meetings.

Steve noted that on 11-8-23, he reported to the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) that the costs seemed minimal and that he will pick up the costs for Teams with no charge to the NGEC.

A trial run will likely take place on the 11-28-23 Executive Board meeting or the 12-6-23 FASC meeting.

11.

Other/Adjourn – George Hull, Amtrak:

With no other business forthcoming, George Hull adjourned today's meeting at 3:25PM

Next meeting – 12-7-23

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

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Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 11-9 -23:

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

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

Next Update – 11-9-23

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

On 10-12-23, Ray Hessinger presented the following update:

Metro North and Siemens conducted a First Article Inspection for the energy storage cubicle, the switchgear-and 3rd rail cubicle, the battery rack and 4 delta FAIs for changed cabinets on-site in Sacramento.

Metro North and Siemens agreed upon test values for a shock & vibration test for the 3rd rail current collector shoe mechanism.

MNR locomotive #301 is ready for low voltage cable tray installation (Q23) and is progressing in Final Assembly and MNR locomotive #302 is progressing per the DCS.

The FAI for the MNR traction converter was performed and the component was dispositioned as allowed to ship with minor open items.

On 11-9-23, Ray reported that he had not received an update from Metro-North for the month of October. He added that they are on schedule and the focus is on FAIs on "all sorts of components."

Next Update: 12-7-23

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

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Cut-Off Date: January 5, 2024

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

555 12th St, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: khendrickson@ashto.org

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Next Meeting – 12-7-23

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://stephenhewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

Agenda

11-9-23

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 10-12-23 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Venture Rail Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinge |
| 6. Update: AmtrakVehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Document Control Update | Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Status – Finalizing 305-901 as adopted.- Status – Materials working group.- Status- Communications on Cars working group.- Review Technical Working Group members/team leaders – vacancies. | |
| 8. Update: University of Nebraska High-Speed Wireless on Trains Study | Hamid Sharif |
| 9. Annual Meeting 2024 | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. Status: Changing from WebEx to Teams | Steve Hewitt |
| 11. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next Meeting
12-7-23