



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 30, 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Ray Hessinger, Charlie King, John Oimoen, Tim Ziethen, Michael Lestingi, Arun Rao, Amanda Martin, Kyle Gradinger, Jason Orthner, Brian Beeler II</i> Support Staff and Colleagues: <i>Jon Dees, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Michael Kraft, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Oscar Bermudez, Patrick Centolanzi,</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Michigan State DOT – which has yet to name its representative to the Board, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Ron Pate</i> Support: <i>Strat Cavros, George Hull, Byron Comati, Larry Salci, Momo Tamaoki, Jason Biggs</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

Chairman Hessinger opened the meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

Steve Hewitt called the roll and 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 (6-30-20).

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate

NGEC Two-pager Educational Document 2020:

Steve Hewitt reported that the updated NGEC two-pager remains available in hard copy and PDF. To date, over 400 hard copies and electronic copies have been distributed.

Copies are available in either version by request from Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

This item was tabled until John Oimoen receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement as of 2-21-20:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations

were distributed and posted to the website.

Next update: as appropriate

Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back from the Access Board and there is a Final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGECC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGECC DCR process.

Update: On 5-28-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, informed Steve Hewitt that The US Access Board extended the comment period for Recommendations on Access for Rail Vehicles until **7-14-20**. NGECC members were provided with this information and the link (below):

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/transportation/vehicles/update-of-the-guidelines-for-transportation-vehicles/advance-notice-of-proposed-rulemaking-2>

On 6-30-20, Steve Hewitt again reminded members of the Board of the deadline – 7-14-20 – for submitting comments to the docket.

Next Update: As appropriate

Connecticut DOT Rail Car RFP:

The link to the ConnDOT Rail Car RFP and corresponding information as provided on 5-1-20:

https://biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Search/BidDetail.aspx?CID=53056

Of interest to other states as well as carbuilders – while our spec is based on the PRIIA spec, there is no Federal funding in this procurement. However, our scoring gives points to work done in and components supplied from the US and CT. We are open to partnering with other states while maintaining those terms. The car amenities will be somewhere between a traditional commuter car and an intercity car, leaning toward intercity.

This is listed digitally in Railway Age.

Next Update: As appropriate

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 6-16-20 – Ray Hessinger:

The process remains in the procurement “cone of silence” period, but things are moving forward. Getting closer every week to coming out of the “cone of silence”.

Next Update: 7-14-20

Amtrak Equipment Procurements as of 6-16-20 – Charlie King:

On the Acela:

The first Trainset is at Pueblo at TTCI for testing. It has reached speeds up to 165 mph on the test track. Charlie also noted that the instrumental wheels are being moved from TTCI to the NEC.

The second Trainset has done a few early runs out of Philly and has reached 125 mph. There are still a few PTC issues that are being worked on.

On the Charger Locomotives:

The locomotive continues to be under construction with little impact from the COVID 19 pandemic. It remains on schedule for February-March (2021) delivery of the first test locomotive on the NEC.

On the Intercity Trainset Procurement:

This procurement is proceeding, but it is at a stage where it remains in the “cone of silence”.

Next Update – 7-14-20

Developing a TSSSA template/primer as of 6-16-20 – Charlie King:

Charlie King reported that they continue to work on the development of a TSSSA primer. The OEM has provided permission to use the drawing that had been developed by the manufacturer and Amtrak. Charlie will ramp up the effort to get the proposed primer completed and ready for Tammy Krause to add to the library of NGEN documents.

Next Update: 7-14-20

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 6-16-20 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Brian Beeler II, for Maine DOT, the minutes from the 6-16-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5. NGEN Treasurer's Report as of 6-30-20 - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Balance/Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent: \$596,770.62 (through April 2020)
Balance remaining: \$ 653,229.38
Anticipated spending through the remainder of the current grant period – approximately \$90,000.
Estimated balance remaining at the end of the current grant period (9-30-20) - \$563,837.45
Actual current spend rate: \$13,878.39
Average Monthly expenditure estimated for the extension period is: \$15,000.00
Amount utilized if the Grant is extended for 36 months at estimated spend rate \$540,000.00
Projected total remaining at the end of the 36-month extension: \$23,837.45

Grant Agreement extension request:

Tim Ziethen reported that the grant agreement extension request is still under review by FRA and it is expected to be completed and approved shortly. Amtrak and FRA grants are talking/checking in weekly. Tim will keep the Board apprised as he gets a status update.

6. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-30-20 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete, and CEM element testing is currently planned for early July, with setup for compression testing to follow in July or August. The Cab Car brake system FDR is confirmed for July 13th. IDOT galley FDR reviews and releases are ongoing, and the latest galley review occurred on June 16th.

Travel restrictions are being evaluated, with potential travel in July to reviews and test sites. Video and photos continue to be provided for tests that SMEs are unable to witness. NEC testing is complete, and the test report is in process.

51 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs for standard coach are complete with final open items in work to complete first car overall FAI. The overall car FAI for IDOT is in process this week, followed by an FRA Sample Car Inspection. There are seven cars total at the Stockton facility. Cars 11 and 12 are scheduled to be shipped to Stockton at the end of June. The IDOT cars are scheduled to begin shipments near the end of July.

The project teams continue to monitor potential production and schedule impacts due to the coronavirus and are receiving frequent updates from SCOA and Siemens.

7. Update: Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group – Ray Hessinger:

Ray Hessinger provided a status update on the activities of the NGEN Equipment Acquisition and Ownership working group. The group last met on 6-25-20 to go over comments received on the most recent draft. It was a productive session with all comments addressed in one way or another. Some suggested edits will require additional rewriting to address comments made.

Another version of the document will be drafted, and another round of working group review will be needed. The next meeting will take place on 7-30-20 and Ray is hopeful it will be the last round of reviews by the working group before advancing the DRAFT to the Executive Board for its review and comment.

Of note, on 6-25-20, the group agreed on a name for this work product – “Recommended Practice”. It is not meant to be formal guidance but will identify issues and recommendations for any entity as it engages in the procurement process.

8. Update: Document Control as of 6-30-20 – Tammy Krause:

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

Document Control activities have primarily been around the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group on which Ray Hessinger has provided an update. I need to send out the working group approved changes and finish collecting comments before getting the next version of the draft issued.

The updating of the trainset continues to bring it in line with the other PRIIA specifications.

I am still waiting to hear from 2 working groups on their DMU comments, and I am still waiting for membership lists from 2 working groups.

9. Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today’s meeting (6-30-20) at 11:44am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 7-14-20

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-30-20:

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Next Update – 7-14-20

VIA Rail Equipment Procurements – 2-21-20

At the Annual Meeting, 2-21-20, Mario Bergeron, Bob Becker and Joe Diliello provided an update on the ongoing VIA Rail equipment procurement and an overview of VIA Rail as a company.

The complete presentation was provided as a PDF file and was not re-printed in the Minutes but is available on the website and was distributed along with other NGEC presentations.

Next Update as appropriate

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 4-21-19:

This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

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We will ask Marci to provide monthly updates on the progress of this procurement on Technical subcommittee calls and Steve Hewitt will provide that update on the following Executive Board call.

Next Update: As appropriate

**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call
6-30-20
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

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 6-16-20 conference call meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Status: Treasurer's Report; 36-month No-Cost Grant Extension Request and Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 7. Update: Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B | |
| - Status: DMU Spec update – timeline | |
| - Status: Updating list of Technical working group members | |
| 9. Other | All |

Next Meeting – 7-14-20