

# SECTION 305/209 – NGENC – 514 Subcommittee

MINUTES      JUNE 29, 2015      4:00PM EASTERN      CONFERENCE CALL

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>FACILITATOR</b> | <i>Jeremy Jewkes, Subcommittee Co-Chair</i>   |
| <b>ATTENDEES</b>   | <i>AASHTO: Bryan Hong; Amtrak: Darrell Smith, Mario Bergeron, Tom Butler; FRA: Ashok Sundararajan; Caltrans: Brian Tsukamoto; CTDOT: Marci Petterson; NCDOT: Paul Worley; NYSDOT: John Bell; ODOT: Jennifer Sellers; WSDOT: Ron Pate, Jeremy Jewkes; WisDOT: Arun Rao</i> |
| <b>ABSENTEES</b>   | <i>CCJPA: David Kutrosky, NNEPRA: Brian Beeler; TXDOT: Quentin Huckaby</i>  |

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Welcome and Open Meeting:</b>               |   |
| Jeremy Jewkes began the meeting.                  |   |
| <b>2. Roll Call – Bryan Hong:</b>                 |   |
| Bryan Hong called the roll.                       |   |
| <b>3. Action Item Status Review – Bryan Hong:</b> |   |
| <i>Action Items from 6/15</i>                     |   |
| 1.  | Tom Butler will continue investigating equipment cost numbers for Amfleet cars related to the updated tables.<br><br>Darrell Smith received new numbers that reflect the change for the Horizon cars, as was previously discussed. No changes are coming for Amfleet, which Tom agreed with.  |
| 2.  | Tom Butler will look at units as they stand today, what services they run in, and put together a table that shows where Amtrak is in overhauling each of those units and what the amount of investment is to date. It will also include when each unit scheduled for their next overhaul according to the plan for 2016-2017. The subcommittee will then comment and make a decision. Amtrak will be sure to include all states involved. Ron Pate will also reach out to those states not currently on the call. The results and definition will be reported out to the 209 governance structure.<br><br>This action item is still in progress and will be available for the next meeting. |
| 3.  | Darrell Smith will distribute revised tables on the CIP prior to the next meeting once the Amfleet/Horizon review is formalized and incorporated. The new version will also reflect an increased number of units used for the Wolverine service and eliminate any units used related to the Hoosier State.<br><br>Darrell received new information this morning (also related to Item 1), so this item will be sent out before the next meeting.  |
| 4.  | A final survey question on corridor equipment needs has not been finalized for distribution. Ron Pate will follow up with Jeremy Jewkes for the status.<br><br>Jeremy Jewkes mentioned this item has been placed on the agenda for today's call. Language will be compiled and then sent out through AASHTO.  |
| 5.  | Jeremy Jewkes and Darrell Smith will look at the process for finalizing the major updates for this year and figuring out a date.<br><br>This item has been placed on the agenda for today's call.   |
| 6.  | Ron Pate is working on obtaining the exact FMCS Capital Equipment Items language and will confirm he has the right version with Tom Butler before sending it to the subcommittee.   |

Ron confirmed he has the language that was sent from DJ Stadtler. Tom will double check with DJ on the wording, but thought that it looked fine.

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes from 06-15-15 – Jeremy Jewkes/All:**

Jeremy Jewkes provided a minor amendment to the minutes to correct a name. Tom Butler mentioned an inconsistency in the call-in number on the agenda, which Bryan Hong corrected for future meetings.

On a motion by John Bell, and a second from Jennifer Sellers, the minutes from the June 15, 2015 subcommittee conference call were approved as amended and without exception.

#### **5. Closing the Loop on Interest in Available Equipment 2018-2020 – All:**

The next step is for the subcommittee to finalize language and send it to AASHTO for distribution. Darrell Smith mentioned Amtrak's biggest, current concerns are Virginia (growth plans assuming more use of Amfleet), Illinois (debating changes in funding), and California (change in governance) in addition to the general needs of other states. Bryan Hong said he would coordinate sending out the language and materials with Shayne Gill.

Ron Pate confirmed with Darrell and Mario Bergeron that a notice needs to go out saying that this effort could impact states' abilities to secure or use equipment in the future if they do not provide this information. Amtrak is currently redoing its strategic fleet plan and there are some equipment types with leases, meaning within the timeframe of this CIP it needs to make decisions about doing anything more or returning the equipment to the lender. Ron will discuss with Jeremy and Darrell how to distribute these items through AASHTO.

#### **6. Enhancements to the Minor Update Process – All:**

Jeremy Jewkes mentioned that the current process is very simplistic. States provide forecasts to Amtrak, where they are used to develop the minor update. This year the subcommittee identified a need for at least one or two additional steps for how it can negotiate and make these things happen. Next year, more is needed in formalizing this process and make things clearer.

One proposal offered:

- States submit forecast to Amtrak
- Amtrak issues Draft Minor Update
- States provide adjustments to their forecasts to Amtrak
- Amtrak incorporates those adjustments and issues a Final Minor Update

After discussion on how the process has gone for states this year and their suggestions for improvement, the subcommittee determined that more definition is needed about the last say on any final numbers, as well as more steps clarifying its give-and-take nature.

#### **7. Timeline for Completing the 2016-2020 Major Update – All:**

Jeremy Jewkes said that both the minor and major update would be done around the same times this year. In terms of hard dates for the subcommittee's knowledge, Darrell recalled that certain Midwest states have July 1 fiscal years, and the Federal calendar revolves around October 1. The implications of this difference are not known. Responding to state input, Congress is currently directing Amtrak to have numbers available earlier (at the end of January as opposed to the end of March). This is already accomplished by the multi-year forecasts in the CIP. Darrell said that one of the things captured during FMCS was the need to give guidance on what contingency levels should be, which could be used toward the next major update. Ron mentioned the subcommittee will follow up with other states on this issue, potentially in the letter using AASHTO resources.

Answering a question from Ashok Sundararajan, Jeremy said in the absence of feedback, the plan is to have the minor and major updates done concurrently. The goal is to have them finished and approved by the end of the Federal fiscal year—either the end of September or in October like last year. At the very least it will be out of committee by the close of September. Given its multi-year nature this will be put in a proposal in the letter, rather than an open question.

Darrell and Jeremy confirmed that they will go through the CIP on a separate call.

#### **8. Refreshing the Priority List from FMCS – All:**

Jeremy will send a slightly updated version, and the updated charter to the members of the subcommittee.

**9. Recognizing where the Subcommittee Stands Relating to 209 and 305 – All:**

As the subcommittee moves through the formal documentation process, Jeremy Jewkes said there is recognition that if things continued under the current structure, an understanding exists that the Equipment Capital Working Group approval is contingent on the expertise of the NGEC. This would be how the required collaboration is accomplished under 209 policy. A natural path forward would be to continue as things are.

Ashok Sundararajan brought up the question: since the 209 governance committee is going to be active starting next week (July 9 during the FMCS web meeting), once it is set up will this subcommittee continue to be part of the 305 committee, or will it move under the 209 committee, or a joint arm of both? This would influence which bylaws apply to the subcommittee, along with its decision and review processes if it ends up not sitting under the 209 committee. FRA then requested that the subcommittee establish an initial position on July 9 during the discussion about setting up the working group under the 209 committee. Darrell Smith mentioned that this group was just incorporated as a full subcommittee of the NGEC, which was approved and accepted by FRA in a revised statement of work—extending grant funding through September 30, 2017. This funding also came with AASHTO administrative support. There is not a substantial travel budget for meetings, though there has been for other subcommittees. He did not think that anything with 209 had this kind of funding or associated administrative support, which was a concern.

Ron Pate agreed and said that it was determined long ago that the subcommittee would go under the 305 committee. For instance the CIP was approved out of the 305 committee because of its expertise. If there is no agreement, maybe it could go under the 209 structure, but other than that he did not envision much of a change. Mario Bergeron commented that this was an indication of the subcommittee's effectiveness in moving items forward. He thought it was in the group's best interest to keep things as they are, and then in the future either merge with 209 or envision a new arrangement. Ron Pate suggested taking this issue to the NGEC board once the new governance structure is established. That group could examine it and then report to the board how that structure could be used for the subcommittee, if needed. Jeremy brought the discussion back to Ashok's question, and said for July 9 things will remain under the current committee while remaining observant for transition to the 209 committee in the future. Ron mentioned maybe examining how the subcommittee fits in with the bigger 209 group, while also keeping others informed of the tasks in progress according to the charge statement. Jeremy said this would be distributed to the members of the subcommittee.

**10. Other Issues**

Ron Pate mentioned that his supervisor will be taking a period of extended leave, and he will be filling in as assistant secretary while trying to stay involved with his current duties as much as possible. Some tasks will be delegated to others in his team.

**Next call – July 13, 2015 – 4:00PM Eastern**

**Adjourn –**

With no further business to come before the subcommittee today, Jeremy Jewkes adjourned the call at 4:54 PM Eastern.

**Next 514 conference call July 13, 2015**

**Decisions and Action Items**

1. Tom Butler will look at units as they stand today, what services they run in, and put together a table that shows where Amtrak is in overhauling each of those units and what the amount of investment is to date. It will also include when each unit scheduled for their next overhaul according to the plan for 2016-2017. The subcommittee will then comment and make a decision.
2. Darrell Smith will distribute revised tables on the CIP prior to the next meeting once the Amfleet/Horizon review is formalized and incorporated. The new version will also reflect an increased number of units used for the Wolverine service and eliminate any units used related to the Hoosier State.
3. Ron Pate will discuss with Jeremy Jewkes and Darrell Smith how to distribute the Interest in Available Equipment survey and a notice to the states about contribution through AASHTO. Bryan Hong said he would coordinate sending out the language and materials with Shayne Gill.

4. Jeremy Jewkes will provide the charge statement and priorities list to AASHTO, which will be sent out to the subcommittee for review and comparison.

#### ATTACHMENTS



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

### SECTION 305/209 – 514 Subcommittee

**Conference call**  
**Call in number: 888 585-9008**  
**Access code: 423-006-359**  
**June 29, 2015**  
**4:00pm, Eastern**

#### AGENDA

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|--|-------------------|
| 1. Welcome/Open  | Jeremy Jewkes     |
| 2. Roll Call   | Bryan Hong        |
| 3. Action Item Status Review   | Bryan Hong        |
| 4. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting                     | Jeremy Jewkes/All |
| 5. Closing the Loop on Interest in Available Equipment 2018-2020     | All               |
| 6. Enhancements to the Minor Update Process                          | All               |
| 7. Timeline for Completing the 2016-2020 Major Update                | All               |
| 8. Refreshing the Priority List from FMCS                            | All               |
| 9. Recognizing where the Subcommittee Stands Relating to 209 and 305 | All               |
| 10. Other Issues   | All               |

**Next Call: July 13, 2015**