

SECTION 305/209 – NGENC – 514 Subcommittee

MINUTES JULY 13, 2015 4:00PM EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Jeremy Jewkes, Subcommittee Co-Chair</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>AASHTO: Bryan Hong; Amtrak: Mario Bergeron, Tom Butler; FRA: Ashok Sundararajan; CCJPA: Tom Clark; NNEPRA: Brian Beeler; NCDOT: Paul Worley; NYSDOT: John Bell; ODOT: Jennifer Sellers; WSDOT: Jason Biggs, Jeremy Jewkes</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Caltrans: Stan Hunter; CTDOT: Marci Petterson; TXDOT: Quentin Huckaby; WisDOT: Arun Rao</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Welcome and Open Meeting:	Jeremy Jewkes began the meeting.
2. Roll Call – Bryan Hong:	Bryan Hong called the roll.
3. Action Item Status Review – Bryan Hong:	
<i>Action Items from 6/29</i>	
1.	<p>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.</p> <p>Tom Butler put together a unit-by-unit list of assigned location and scheduled overhaul dates by fiscal year, which was passed on to Darrell Smith. Jeremy Jewkes mentioned that he received a notice from Darrell saying that while it was not ready for this meeting, it would be distributed soon. A list of examples is explained to provide an idea of what is in the document. Scheduled for overhaul in FY16: 90213 (Rensselaer running to Downeaster service), 90220, 90224, 90200 (Midwest service), 90230 (Los Angeles-Surfliners). The units overhauled in FY13, FY14, and FY15 are also included.</p>
2.	<p>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.</p> <p>Same status as the previous item.</p>
3.	<p>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.</p> <p>Bryan Hong shared that the final letter and survey were sent out to the states on Thursday, July 9th. Shayne Gill sent the materials to the last group of contacts on Monday, July 13th. The deadline for responses is Thursday, July 23rd.</p> <p>Seven responses so far: Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin</p>
4.	<p>Jeremy Jewkes will provide the charge statement and priorities list to AASHTO, which will be sent out to the subcommittee for review and comparison.</p> <p>The charge statement and priorities list were distributed to the subcommittee ahead of today's call.</p>

4. Approval of the Minutes from 06-29-15 – Jeremy Jewkes/All:

On a motion by Paul Worley, and a second from John Bell, the minutes from the June 29, 2015 subcommittee conference call were approved as amended and without exception.

5. Performance Measures WG Update – Equipment Performance – All:

To Jeremy Jewkes's understanding the work is completed as was reported in the last FMCS meeting. Ashok Sundararajan confirmed that the objective of the working group was to develop a high-level framework for the states to implement performance measures. These items included operational performance, station maintenance, and mechanical standards (draft material will be included in the operating contract with Amtrak). The intent was for Amtrak to negotiate with individual states that are interested in implementing the performance measures stipulated in the contract. The last time this working group met was in late February/March.

Jeremy asked that FRA send the document on equipment mechanical standards, explaining how this relates to performance measures, to AASHTO for distribution to the subcommittee. Ashok said he will forward two attachments (Train Equipment Availability and Train Equipment Maintenance) to AASHTO after the call. After this happens, there will be further discussion on this during the next call to see how the charge statement's requirements were met or unmet.

6. Quarterly Reconciliation Question – How does Amtrak deal with units that are in-progress at the end of a quarter/month/year? – All:

Jeremy Jewkes reported this question originated from state financial personnel. As background information, one of the differences they found between the fourth quarter reconciliation user group meeting and the actual reconciliation for the corridor was that the units in progress were included in the final year-end reconciliation, but not in the other. The intent of this clarification is to establish Amtrak's process to set expectations.

Tom Butler answered that when Amtrak does its quarterly reviews with the states (User Group meetings) and the numbers and variances are based on the CIP, he looks at all the units that were released from overhaul during that quarter. For all the cars released during that time frame, he does the actual cost to the vehicle. Therefore, a discussion is possible about why a particular unit either fell outside of the threshold above or below the budgeted cost. At the end of the year, any cost that took place where a car has not been released is not part of the numbers provided in early December for year-end review. However, when Amtrak's accounting group in Philadelphia goes through the numbers, it pulls them specifically from SAP and looks at a quarterly period. When this happens for October 1 through December 31, it gathers work that's in process in December for units that have not been finished. States would also only be receiving partial costs for units in October that were not completed. The numbers during the year are not audited numbers, whereas the final reconciliation is based on audited numbers.

7. Confirm Decision to Split NPCU WBS into Subfleets by Corridor – All:

At this point after substantive discussion during past meetings, the subcommittee considered a way to formally recognize this decision for the group. It was determined that while there was general consensus on moving forward, a formal mechanism would be used to provide affirmation of the decision and prevent surprise from other states or regions. The subcommittee debated requesting decisions from Washington state and Oregon (Cascades), California (Pacific Surfliner, San Joaquin), the Midwest (Hiawathas, Pere Marquette), NNEPRA (Downeaster), and Oklahoma (Heartland Flyer) which would be the impacted entities. However, it was determined that the group will look at a few more steps before this will take place.

Tom Butler agreed to provide a side-by-side numbers comparison and adjusted schedule, looking at it if it was extended out through 2018 for the subcommittee. Jeremy Jewkes mentioned there were at least two sets of interests involved: 1) What is the difference between the current plan and what it looks like split with no other changes and 2) For a third category of items, what does it look like when it is spread out over an additional year (completed in 2018 split out rather than 2017).

8. Discussion of Updated Priority List – All:

Jeremy Jewkes reviewed the content in the "2016-2020 Priorities.20150701.pdf" file and said some of the items are at different stages of progress, with others being complete. Members of the subcommittee were encouraged to inquire with him regarding any questions or comments.

Ashok Sundararajan mentioned that he did not see an action item on the list from the June 2-4, 2015 FMCS meeting:

Amtrak's action to propose contingency values as part of the overhaul estimates. This will likely have an open status to be addressed by the subcommittee in the future. Jeremy confirmed it will be added to the priority list, in addition to tabling the 7.36 G&A and how this relates to the broader 209 discussion.

9. Other Issues

Ashok Sundararajan inquired about the offline conversation Jeremy Jewkes and Darrell Smith had regarding the CIP document and the sections needing updating. Jeremy replied that most of the document will stay as-is. The new processes will be included (ex. contingency suggested dollar/percentage amounts for the future based on Amtrak's research in Chapter 4, any changes to the minor update process based on state feedback, some tables will end up as large sections of information, and updated next steps) with the timing kept in sync with federal fiscal cycles. The plan is to finish in September and gain NGEN approval in early October.

Next call – July 27, 2015 – 4:00PM Eastern

Adjourn –

With no further business to come before the subcommittee today, Jeremy Jewkes adjourned the call at 4:51 PM Eastern.

Next 514 conference call July 27, 2015

Decisions and Action Items

1. Darrell Smith will send Jeremy Jewkes or the subcommittee the unit-by-unit list of assigned location and scheduled overhaul dates by fiscal year document, which Tom Butler created. He will also send revised tables on the CIP.
2. States will answer the Interest in Available Equipment survey by Thursday, July 23rd.
3. Ashok Sundararajan will send two attachments (Train Equipment Availability and Train Equipment Maintenance) to AASHTO, Jeremy Jewkes, and Darrell Smith. AASHTO will then send these to the subcommittee.
4. Tom Butler agreed to provide tables showing a side-by-side numbers comparison and adjusted schedule on NPCU WBS for the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Priorities List: 2016-2020 Priorities.20150701.pdf
- Charge Statement: 2013-10-9_Charge_StatementCapital_Equipment_Investment_Program_Final

Next Generation
Equipment Committee



The NGEN 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
July 13, 2015
4:00pm, Eastern

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 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. Performance Measures WG Update – Equipment Performance | Jeremy Jewkes/All |
| 6. Quarterly Reconciliation Question:
How does Amtrak deal with units that are in-progress at the end of a quarter/month/year? | Jeremy Jewkes/All |
| 7. Confirm Decision to Split NPCU WBS into Subfleets by Corridor | Jeremy Jewkes/All |
| 8. Discussion of Updated Priority List | Jeremy Jewkes/All |
| 9. Other Issues | All |

Next Call: July 27, 2015