

SECTION 305/209 – NGENC – 514 Subcommittee

MINUTES AUGUST 31, 2015 4:00PM EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Jeremy Jewkes, Subcommittee Co-Chair</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>AASHTO: Bryan Hong; Amtrak: Darrell Smith, Tom Butler; FRA: Ashok Sundararajan; CTDOT: Marci Petterson; NNEPRA: Brian Beeler; NCDOT: Allan Paul; NYSDOT: John Bell, Ray Hessinger; ODOT: Mike Jenkins; TXDOT: Quentin Huckaby; WSDOT: Jason Biggs, Jeremy Jewkes, Brent Thompson; WisDOT: Arun Rao</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Caltrans: Brian Tsukamoto; CCJPA: David Kutrowsky</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Welcome and Open Meeting:	<p>Jeremy Jewkes began the meeting.</p>
2. Roll Call – Bryan Hong:	<p>Bryan Hong called the roll.</p>
3. Approval of the Minutes from 08-10-15 – Jeremy Jewkes/All:	<p>On a motion by Mike Jenkins, and a second from Arun Rao, the minutes from the August 10th, 2015 subcommittee conference call were approved as amended and without exception.</p>
4. Action Item Status Review – Bryan Hong:	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Action Items from 8/10</i></p> <p>1. Bryan Hong will update the 514 Survey Synopsis document to include the original background text for each question, and distribute it to the subcommittee.</p> <p>Bryan Hong reported that the document was updated and sent to the subcommittee on August 12th, along with the draft minutes from the last conference call.</p> <p>Ray Hessinger reported that the audit staff in New York State expressed interest in participating, which is higher than what he indicated in the survey. Bryan Hong will set up a 30-45 minute call towards the end of the week for the states regarding the audit structure and establishing the actual volunteers who are ready to move forward. He will send a Doodle poll to the states and discuss with Jeremy Jewkes which members will receive the poll.</p>
5. Review: 3rd Quarter User Group Meeting – All:	<p>States were given the chance to provide feedback on the material provided by Amtrak to the subcommittee. Jason Biggs mentioned that beyond understanding what happened in previous quarters, he was interested in looking at projections out for cost expenditures, given his state's two-year budget cycle. One of the tools he looked for is the projected costs for equipment overhauls. Darrell Smith answered that new forecasts for what the program numbers will be from FY16-FY20 were included with the materials from earlier calls. How does current performance relate to projections? Darrell said that Amtrak's mechanical staff is always looking at trends, which is how estimates are revised.</p> <p>Jeremy followed up and inquired about the current fiscal year: what is the total cost going to look like and how close will it be for the budget—in terms of costs for services rendered today, and estimates of costs for services rendered to the state over two years?</p> <p>Tom Butler mentioned that Amtrak can look into this, and referenced the per-unit cost basis perspective used on the numbers in its quarterly reviews. This is used to examine any kind of equipment trends or what each car and/or locomotive is costing. Here you do not see any work in progress, only end results because the units have already been released back into the field. Billing covers what was spent in any given month, which is where differences can emerge between the reconciliation process or the quarterlies, and an actual monthly bill. He mentioned that monthly forecasts</p>

happen, which could potentially be included in the quarterly reconciliation process. Amtrak can look into forecasting on a program and/or project level in terms of its spending, but not a state's units used or the bill. Darrell added that Amtrak does not have an automated system that can bring these things together, but it is thinking through what options exist. Some states are locked into their budgets but others are experiencing changes that lead to moving parts. Michigan is considering changes that would impact units used, as well as new information from California.

Brian Beeler expressed that the need is there for knowing what the number will be going forward. One plan for all costs that states have to generate that they can work on themselves. Amtrak was not sure how the states could figure out their individual units used if they only received the total units used by equipment type. Jeremy wondered if there are ways that Amtrak can produce the "straight dumps" or filtered information on state-supported services that would give good resources to the states without being time intensive. Darrell disagreed and said Amtrak is working on a scoping document for how it would be done and ensure its integrity and accuracy. APT is housed in BTC which has an Excel front end. The interface does not work well with large data sets.

6. Financial Period Spending Reconciliations (Prior to year-end) – All:

Please see Agenda Item #5.

7. Significantly Revised Estimates, SOGR Credit – All:

Jeremy described the gap between the actual condition of the NPCUs and the original estimates used to forecast as well as forecasting the credit from the 2015 period. This would be the subject of a more detailed discussion during the FMCS session at the SCORT meeting. At Amtrak's request, the issue was raised on a conceptual level. There is a certain estimate for what the costs will look like, there is a credit to capture the delta between what a regular overhaul looks like and what it would be when out of a state-of-good-repair, there is an additional delta from what the total estimates were (including those two factors) and including the actual condition of the equipment when it went in for repair. Darrell suggested that it is still a few months ahead of knowing where exactly FY15 ends up before moving forward in the discussion. The "ask" was clarified to be resetting the credit based on FY15 actuals. Amtrak expressed interest in receiving a note from Jeremy with the full request.

8. Final Feedback on Amtrak Update Tables – All:

Jeremy asked the states if there were any final thoughts or questions on the units used in state services documents from Amtrak. Moving forward these items will support the final update to the CIP. The issue of releasing equipment back into the pool and its impacting costs to the states was reviewed. If states cannot definitively say if they will use certain equipment beginning in this year then Amtrak cannot carry the cost of maintaining it in service to hold for another.

9. Draft Lines of Communication among 514 Subcommittee/NGEC/209 SAIPRC – All:

Jeremy mentioned this as an issue that the subcommittee is looking at in order to respond to future inquiries about certain issues. It will come out in the draft CIP as a set of guidelines. This will be formalized soon—the purpose is to avoid duplication between committees because of how the subcommittee is structured under 305. Darrell reminded the subcommittee that 305 has a resource for funding, but 209 does not.

10. Other Issues

Jeremy mentioned that meetings will happen on 9/14, 9/21, and potentially 9/28. There will be no meeting on 9/7 due to Labor Day and to allow for those traveling to the Standing Committee on Rail Transportation's meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Jeremy and Darrell will continue working on the CIP in order to have the subcommittee vote on it by the end of the month, which will then send it to the NGEC in October.

Next call – September 14, 2015 – 4:00PM Eastern

Adjourn –

With no further business to come before the subcommittee today, Jeremy Jewkes adjourned the call at 4:59 PM Eastern.

Next 514 conference call September 14, 2015

Decisions and Action Items

1. Bryan Hong will set up a 30-45 minute call towards the end of the week for the interested states regarding the audit structure and establishing the actual volunteers who are ready to move forward. He will send a Doodle poll to the states.

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: 1 (888) 585-9008
Access code: 423-006-359
August 31, 2015
4:00pm, Eastern

AGENDA

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| 1. Welcome/Open | Jeremy Jewkes |
| 2. Roll Call | Bryan Hong |
| 3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting | Jeremy Jewkes/All |
| 4. Action Item Status Review | Bryan Hong |
| 5. Review: 3rd Quarter User Group Meeting | All |
| 6. Financial period spending reconciliations (Prior to year-end) | All |
| 7. Significantly revised estimates, SOGR Credit | All |
| 8. Final Feedback on Amtrak Update Tables | All |
| 9. Draft lines of communication among 514 Subcommittee/NGEC/SAIPRC | All |
| 10. Other Issues | All |
| a. Reminder about next 514 Conference Call | |

Next Call: September 14, 2015