

# SECTION 305/209 – NGENC – 514 Subcommittee

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28,  
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, Brandon White; CCJPA: David Kutrowsky, Dean Shepherd; Caltrans: Brian Tsukamoto; CTDOT: Marci Petterson; NNEPRA: Brian Beeler; NCDOT: Allan Paul; NYSDOT: John Bell; ODOT: Mike Jenkins; TXDOT: Quentin Huckaby; WSDOT: Jeremy Jewkes, Jason Biggs, Brent Thompson; WisDOT: Arun Rao</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

### 1. Welcome and Open Meeting:

Jeremy Jewkes began the meeting.

### 2. Roll Call – Bryan Hong:

Bryan Hong called the roll.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes from 09-21-15 – Jeremy Jewkes/All:

Due to the amount of material for discussion during the day's call, the minutes from the September 21, 2015 subcommittee conference call will be approved at the start of the next meeting.

### 4. Action Item Status Review – Bryan Hong:

*Action Items from 9/21*

1. States and FRA will extend the previous timeline and further review the CIP draft, submitting comments to both Darrell Smith ([darrell.smith@amtrak.com](mailto:darrell.smith@amtrak.com)) and Bryan Hong ([bhong@aaashto.org](mailto:bhong@aaashto.org)) by Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. These will be discussed during the meeting next Monday. October 5 is still the targeted date for approval.

Darrell Smith and Bryan Hong collected comments. Bryan Hong will send out a summary and compiled document to the subcommittee on Wednesday.

2. The subcommittee will present the CIP draft for full NGENC review on Tuesday, October 13 during the Executive Board's regular meeting.

This deadline remains in place.

### 5. Discuss State Comments on Draft CIP and Amtrak Responses – Darrell Smith:

The subcommittee resumed the conversation from last week's meeting about the draft CIP document. Darrell Smith provided an overview of the comments and Amtrak's responses.

He first raised two tangible comments from California and Wisconsin on correcting assumed equipment deployment in the outer years. He incorporated Wisconsin's change and intends to include California's by the end of the day. This will move current Amtrak equipment in state service into the 'to-be-determined' category, which changes some numbers between FY18 and FY20, but not any state's units used bill for those not being changed.

Darrell then went through the comments received from the states and FRA, saying he appreciated the amount of input and the amount of minor fixes that were caught.

#### Washington State

- Notice of changes: need for cooperation and communication between parties over changes in scope or overhauls, earlier notification of decisions made. Amtrak has worked to solicit more feedback from states during user groups and after calls, but often does not receive responses. He encouraged user group participants to engage in future discussions.
- Acknowledgments: these will be updated and an invitation for participation by other states will be included. The purpose within the introduction will also be updated to include the refined charge and next steps.
- Reconciliation process: In Chapter Five a bullet will be added saying that the relevant materials still need to be worked through, whether in this group or another kind of forum.
- Contingency section: the language refinements that were suggested were good. He mentioned envisioning a future dichotomy between states on a biennial versus those on a year-to-year budget (like Amtrak).
- SOGR credit: there is room for discussion on this. Darrell said there appears to be a consensus that any change to what was accepted before in the May 2014 framework agreement belong to the SAIPRC setting. A placeholder stating that it exists will be in the CIP. He clarified that anytime Amtrak makes a credit it has to redirect federal capital to fill in that financial hole, which means it cannot do something else.
- Next steps: adding more details and accomplishments to the reconciliation section, along with additional items from the Priority List.

#### New York State

- The maps will be redone to incorporate the changes from California and Wisconsin.
- The overhaul descriptions can seem repetitive depending on the reader. The decision was made among the whole group to move forward as things are and refine these areas during the next version of the CIP.
- The diagrams will be incorporated as much as possible before the deadline, because they help clarify things and provide context for future conversations.
- Reconciliation process was mentioned (scope, cost overhauls), which was previously addressed.
- The relationship between equipment capital and equipment maintenance activities is a good reminder.

#### Wisconsin

- Incorporate that Hiawatha will be operating with state service equipment and Amtrak locomotives will be removed. This has already been built in to the revisions.

#### CCJPA

- Same issue as Wisconsin, with locomotives moving from Amtrak to 'to-be-determined.'

#### Connecticut

- Asked about states that split the cost. Darrell answered it is a negotiation between the funding states. Different cost-sharing models exist between multi-state partners, which means they can change, as one is this year.

#### FRA

- Many points were already addressed through other states (SOGR, reconciliation, scope similarity)
- Cost transparency: something that should be handled through the next steps of the reconciliation process. He thought some things were addressed last year through the compendium, which stated that there are items Amtrak does not want in a public document in order to maintain its competitiveness. Others would be shared on a view/site-visit basis.
- Potential 209 policy changes: starting on page 6, at the end of the FRA section before the CIP plan period section, a section for SAIPRC will be added with policy changes.

#### NNEPRA

- Variance reporting threshold: Darrell said it was not the intent for the section to be viewed as the states bearing any additional costs. The language refers to a user group, not a specific state, leaving open where supplemental or additional funding comes from. Brian agreed this was another interpretation as he was looking for clarification on the definition of 'state user group'. Darrell will double check that one exists and will add one if it does not.

Jeremy opened up the conversation for states to further reaction to Darrell's responses or other comments.

#### **6. SAIPRC Meeting Logistics – All:**

Jason Biggs mentioned that there have been questions regarding the workflow approval path for the CIP. He said it is currently moving through the NGEAC for acceptance. WSDOT, CCJPA, and Amtrak mapped out a proposed flow path, with a remaining question about SAIPRC 'final' action. It is a similar flow path except for policy actions, which will go to SAIPRC and a potential sub-working group for consideration. He said that the overlap in participants will minimize any

additional layers in the process.

David Kutrowsky agreed but said he was not sure that item was on the agenda. Rather, the focus planned to be on stations and the SRM. However, he will get back to Jason by Tuesday evening. Jason agreed and mentioned it would be beneficial to have a small amount of time to discuss while the group is together.

**7. Draft CIP Production Schedule Update – Darrell Smith:**

Darrell said he is multitasking between the draft CIP and the upcoming SAIPRC meetings this week. He said he is confident about having it distributed by the end of the day on Thursday. If not, he will send out what is finished with a clarifying note. Subcommittee members will have Friday and most of Monday to review the version. On next Monday's meeting the subcommittee will vote to approve the document just like a regular CIP update, specifically on sending it to the NGEC Executive Board for its action in October.

**8. Other Issues**

There were no additional issues raised by the subcommittee.

**Next call – October 5, 2015 – 4:00PM Eastern**

**Adjourn –**

With no further business to come before the subcommittee today, Jeremy Jewkes adjourned the call at 4:56 PM Eastern.

**Next 514 conference call October 5, 2015**

**Decisions and Action Items**

1. Darrell Smith can have the updated CIP document distributed by the end of the day on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Subcommittee members will have Friday and Monday to review the version.
2. The Subcommittee will review and approve the minutes from 9/21/15 during the next meeting, in addition to those from 9/28/15.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Next 514 Conference Call  
October 5, 2015**