



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

OCTOBER 18, 2022

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, John Oimoen, George Hull, Tim Ziethen, Jeff Gordon, Jason Orthner, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Troy Hughes, Troy Hughes also as proxy for Amanda Martin, Kyle Gradinger, Richard Kedzior, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II Support Staff and Colleagues: Steve Hewitt, Dave "Mr. Emeritus/Cone" Warner, Patrick Centolanzi, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Ron Pate, Amanda Martin, Support: Michael Kraft, Rebecca Anger, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Jon Dees

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

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

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

Following the roll call, Steve Hewitt 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 10-18-22.

Industry Participation:

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

2022 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available in both electronic and hard copy.

To date 625 copies have been distributed.

The FASC is beginning to look at updates for the 2023 version to be released by the 2023 NGEC Annual meeting.

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

All Final Design Review (FDR) documents have been submitted by Siemens to Metro-North. The documents are now in the review, comment, and comment resolution stages.

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On the Charger Locomotives:

The new locomotives continue to be commissioned. There are 3 currently at Wilmington numbers 15, 16 and 17 with the balance in service.

On the Acela:

Amtrak continues to work with Alstom on issues with simulation and within the plant.

On the GP38 Switching Locomotives:

The first one is in Wilmington and should be commissioned either late this week or early next week.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-25-22 – during the 12th NGEAC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is posted to the website.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Update-Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt:

On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

Next Update – as appropriate

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 10-4-22 NGEAC Executive Board Meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On a motion by Brian Beeler, for Maine DOT, and a second by Troy Hughes, MODOT the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting held on 10-4-22 were approved as submitted.

5.

Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 10-18-22:

Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly approved, and the Complete Car FAI is scheduled for October 26th.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the Rev B test report has been approved and the emergency egress demonstration is scheduled for October 25. The Cab Car Sample Car Inspection for cab car is tentative for early 2023.

117 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once necessary agreements are in place.

6.

Update: Document Control as of 10-18-22 – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause reported that all Bi-Level Specification document change requests (DCRs) are with the appropriate technical working group team leaders. The October 15th deadline for completing the working group review has been extended until October 31, 2022.

Tammy Krause and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are now in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.

7.

Website Refresh - Status – Ray Hessinger:

Ray Hessinger shared his screen and to provide an overview of the website refresh mock-up web design.

All Board members were asked to review the mock-up web design and provide comments by COB 10-26 -22 to Steve Hewitt and Ray.

Steve Hewitt reviewed the list of items the vendor wanted feedback on and noted that the FASC had reviewed them and felt that it agreed with the recommendation in item 2 that all documents be converted to PDFs for security reasons.

The FASC also felt that the response to item 3 is that the NGENC does not use social media and currently has no plans to do so. Thus, that link can be removed.

Board member agreed.

As part of your approval, please also provide feedback on the following items:

- 1. The existing NGENC website does not have webpage text content as the majority of the content is based on downloadable files. We have added text content in the design mockup to make the website provide context to downloadable files. Please review this text content and let us know if any changes are required.*
- 2. The downloadable files on the existing NGENC website are in multiple formats including PDF, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. For website security, we do not recommend including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) file formats as downloadable files. We recommend all downloadable files be converted into PDF format. If you agree, we will convert all files into PDF as part of the data migration task.*
- 3. We have included links to social media sites in the website footer. Please let us know if you plan to have social media presence so that we can add appropriate social media links. If yes, please provide us with the URLs of the NGENC social media pages. Else, we will remove the social media links from the website footer.*

8. NGEC 20230 Annual Meeting – Ray/Steve:

Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt reminded those on the call that the meeting will be held earlier than usual this year it will be held on **February 3rd**. The location is, once again, the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Capitol Room A/B. The time for the meeting will likely be the same as last year (8:00am Registration – Meeting 8:30am – Noon Eastern).

Steve Hewitt has already sent a "Save the Date" notice out to all NGENC members via Outlook calendar on 8-8-22.

Steve Hewitt has also sent out the hotel room reservation link for the AASHTO rate. It is reprinted below.

Ray Hessinger confirmed that, once again, the meeting will be hybrid, offering virtual meeting capabilities along with in-person attendance. This worked well last year and enabled the meeting to have the largest attendance in many years with over 100 participating.

Steve Hewitt will send a notice to all those who plan to attend to send him an email stating that they are attending and signifying in-person or virtual. This way AASHTO can have an appropriate head count and plan accordingly and can have the appropriate name badges and tent cards printed in advance. Steve would like to have the general attendance (in-person or virtual) registration completed by January 15, 2023. Board members should notify Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger of their intention to participate asap so that we can be assured of a quorum.

In the meantime, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger will begin working on a draft agenda to present to the Executive Board.

Hotel reservation link:

Attendees can begin booking sleeping rooms here - <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RAIL>. Rooms must be booked by Monday, January 9th. Room Rate is \$188 per night plus 14.95% tax.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

Kamasha

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

555 12th St, NW, Suite 1000 *NEW ADDRESS*

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: khendrickson@aaashto.org

9.

FASC Update and Treasurer's Report – Tim Ziethen:

a. Balance and Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.

Expenses Incurred through August 2022: \$1,029,098.11

Balance remaining: \$ 215,629.76

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,568.59

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$26,238.03

The estimated balance will be where the costs for the website refresh will be derived.

b. Annual By-Laws review – Status – Tim/Steve:

The FASC approved proposed changes to the By-laws for submittal to the Executive Board.

The changes are meant to address the advice provided by Amtrak Legal when asked if the NGEC could conduct certain additional activities. The advice was that the activities described would be permissible, if included in the By-Laws.

e. The Executive Board may issue news releases communicating activities or accomplishments of the Committee.

f. The Executive Board may authorize Committee member participation at related meetings, conferences, trade shows, or other similar events to communicate the activities of the Committee or to maintain visibility among stakeholders.

The By-laws changes cannot be brought to the Board for a vote until each Board member has had them in writing for 30 days. Since they were sent to all Board members on 10-13-22, the Board cannot take them up for consideration until the meeting of 11-15-22.

c. Discussion/review - CRISI Grant Draft Application

Status – CRISI Grant application – Tim Ziethen:

(Note: At this point in the call, the FRA reps left the call shortly after the discussion began due to not wanting a conflict of interest to be perceived when the NGEC discusses funding or grant applications that they (FRA) will ultimately be reviewing.)

Tim Ziethen reported that the Grants office at Amtrak has taken the lead in writing the actual grant application. Tim had done a DRAFT narrative which advanced through the Amtrak Leadership Team. This means that the proposed application for an NGEC grant will be a part of Amtrak's grant submittals. Once it advanced through the Leadership team it was sent over to the Grants office. The next step (once the application is completed) would be to submit it to FRA. Tim is in dialogue with Amtrak Legal for clarity as to whether he can share the application with the NGEC Executive Board for review and comment prior to its submittal to FRA.

As the application is submitted, letters in support from the industry and from individual states will be critical. Steve Hewitt agreed to provide Tim Ziethen with the email addresses of the NGEC industry participants and of the NGEC and SPRC state members.

The deadline for submitting the application is December 1, 2022.

d. Other possibilities:

There was nothing new to report on other possible funding options.

**10.
Other – all:**

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm Eastern.

Next meeting – 11-1-22

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer’s Report:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Expenses Incurred through August 2022: \$1,029,098.11
Balance remaining: \$ 215,629.76
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,568.59
Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$26,238.03

The estimated balance will be where the costs for the website refresh will be derived.

2022 NGENC Backgrounder educational document as of 10-18-22:

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available in both electronic and hard copy.

To date 625 copies have been distributed.

The FASC is currently reviewing the document and will propose updates for the 2023 version.

NGEC Website Refresh as of 10-18-22:

A web site refresh mock-up web design has been prepared by iEngineering and was previewed with NGENC Board members on 10-18-22. Board members are asked to provide their comments to Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger by COB 10-25-22

Status – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement:

As of 10-18-22:

The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly approved, and the Complete Car FAI is scheduled for October 26th.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the Rev B test report has been approved and the emergency egress demonstration is scheduled for October 25. The Cab Car Sample Car Inspection for cab car is tentative for early 2023.

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Next Update – 11-1-22

Status: – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

Next Update – as appropriate

Status - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment:

All Final Design Review (FDR) documents have been submitted by Siemens to Metro-North. The documents are now in the review, comment, and comment resolution stages.

Next Update: 11-1-22

Status - Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

As of 10-4-22:

On the Charger Locomotives:

The new locomotives continue to be commissioned. There 3 currently at Wilmington numbers 15, 16 1n3 17 with the balance in service.

On the Acela:

Amtrak continues to work with Alstom on issues with simulation and within the plant.

On the GPR Locomotives:

The first one is in Wilmington and should be commissioned either late this week or early next week.

Next Update: 11-1-22

Status - Document Control Management:

Tammy Krause reported that all Bi-Level Specification document change requests (DCRs) are with the appropriate technical working group team leaders. The October 15th deadline for completing the working group review has been extended until October 31, 2022.

Tammy Krause and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are now in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.

Next Update – 11-1-22

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-25-22 – during the 12th NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is posted to the website.

Following the meeting, Steve Hewitt received an email from Joe DiLiello, VIA Rail thanking him for the invitation to VIA Rail. Although Joe and his colleagues participated virtually, he said it was a great meeting – it had good flow, was timely and all presentations were informative and well done.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Status CRISI Grant Application:

On 10-18-22, Tim Ziethen reported that the Grants office at Amtrak has taken the lead in writing the actual grant application. Tim had done a DRAFT narrative which advanced through the Amtrak Leadership Team. This means that the proposed application for an NGEC grant will be a part of Amtrak's grant submittals. Once it advanced through the Leadership team it was sent over to the Grants office. The next step (once the application is completed) would be to submit it to FRA. Tim is in dialogue with Amtrak Legal for clarity as to whether he can share the application with the NGEC Executive Board for review and comment prior to its submittal to FRA.

As the application is submitted, letters in support from the industry and from individual states will be critical. Steve Hewitt agreed to provide Tim Ziethen with the email addresses of the NGEC industry participants and of the NGEC and SPRC state members.

The deadline for submitting the application is December 1, 2022.

By-Laws Review and change recommendations:

The FASC approved proposed changes to the By-laws for submittal to the Executive Board.

The changes are meant to address the advice provided by Amtrak Legal when asked if the NGEC could conduct certain additional activities. The advice was that the activities described would be permissible, if included in the By-Laws.

e. The Executive Board may issue news releases communicating activities or accomplishments of the Committee.

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The By-laws changes cannot be brought to the Board for a vote until each Board member has had them in writing for 30 days. Since they were sent to all Board members on 10-13-22, the Board cannot take them up for consideration until the meeting of 11-15-22.

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: as appropriate

Status of 2022 Priorities as of 10-18-22:

Priority Area: Review/Update the Bi-level specification currently in Revision C.4. With Amtrak looking at using some of the funding from the new IIJA for its western fleet, it makes sense for the NGEC to review and update the Bi-Level car specification.

Action as of 10-18-22: Bi-Level Car Specification Review/Update is underway. A new DCR form has been adopted and is now being used. As of 8-31-22, 173 DCRs have been received and the process of working group's review has begun. The date for completion of the working group reviews was set for 10-15-22. On 10-18-22, Tammy Krause reported that the deadline was extended to 10-31-22

Priority Area: Review the car body materials issue from a broader perspective for all NGEC equipment not only DMUs. Ray would like to take a look at developing a consistent approach for all of the NGEC vehicle specifications.

Action as of 10-18-22: The Carbody Materials Working Group has about completed its work and will submit its recommendations to the Technical subcommittee in November.

Priority Area: Review "emerging technologies": On the technical subcommittee call of 12-9-21 the topic of emerging technologies for propulsion was raised. Ray Hessinger believed that the technical subcommittee should conduct a scan of the industry regarding emerging technologies for propulsion and how they relate to the NGEC.

Action as of 10-18-22 Dave Warner initially gave a zero emissions presentation during the Annual Meeting and followed that up with a presentation to the Executive Board on APTA's effort to develop Alternate Fuel Safety Standards. Dave continues to monitor these activities and will present updates as appropriate.

Priority Area: Review and consider using the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Specification organizational changes to determine if they should be adopted by the NGEC and applied across the board to all NGEC specifications. This would be an administrative change not impacting technical content of any of the specifications and could be resolved by the Executive Board.

Action as of 10-18-22 -This is included in the DCM action Plan and will likely follow the Bi-Level Car Specification update or may begin simultaneously with making updates to that specification. On 10-18-22, Tammy Krause reported that she and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell, have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are now in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.

Priority Area: Review/update NGECE Reference and Drawings series 305-900 and 305-800.

Action as of 10-18-22: This item is on the DCM action plan for 2022 – no activity on reviewing the reference documents per se, but Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager will be working with Jeff Gordon to create a new reference specification to address the Volpe Center information on CEM.

NGECE 2023 Annual Meeting:

Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt reminded those on the call that the meeting will be held earlier than usual this year it will be held on February 3rd. The location is, once again, the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Capitol Room A/B. The time for the meeting will likely be the same as last year (8:00am Registration – Meeting 8:30am – Noon Eastern).

Steve Hewitt has already sent a “Save the Date” notice out to all NGECE members via Outlook calendar on 8-8-22.

Steve Hewitt has also sent out the hotel room reservation link for the AASHTO rate. It is reprinted below.

Ray Hessinger confirmed that, once again, the meeting will be hybrid, offering virtual meeting capabilities along with in-person attendance. This worked well last year and enabled the meeting to have the largest attendance in many years with over 100 participating.

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Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

Kamasha

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

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Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: khendrickson@aaashto.org

Next Meeting -11-1--22

NGECE Executive Board Meeting

10-18-22

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern

By computer:

<https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

By phone:

1-415-655-0001

Access code:

126-073-1531

Agenda

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 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 10-14-22 | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 7. Website Refresh – Review Vendor Website Design Mock-up | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting | Ray/Steve |
| 9. FASC update and Treasurer’s Report | Tim Ziethen |
| a. Balance and Spend Rate | Tim |
| b. Annual By-Laws Review – status | Tim/Steve |
| c. Amtrak/NGEC CRISI Grant Application | Tim |
| d. Status: Exploring other potential funding options | Tim |
| 10. Other | All |
| 11. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting – 11-1-22