



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, Charlie King, Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for John Oimoen and Amanda Martin, Tim Ziethen, Michael Lestingi, Kyle Gradinger, Troy Hughes, Jason Orthner, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II Support Staff and Colleagues: Momo Tamaoki, Jon Dees, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Michael Kraft, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Oscar Bermudez, Patrick Centolanzi, Dave "Emeritus" Warner
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Michigan State DOT – which has yet to name its representative to the Board, John Oimoen, Amanda Martin, Ron Pate Support: Strat Cavros, George Hull, Byron Comati

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

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

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

Steve Hewitt called the roll and 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 (6-16-20).

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate

NGEC Two-pager Educational Document 2020:

Steve Hewitt reported that the updated NGEC two-pager remains available in hard copy and PDF. To date, over 400 hard copies and electronic copies have been distributed.

Copies are available in either version by request from Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

This item was tabled until John Oimoen receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement as of 2-21-20:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next update: as appropriate

Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back from the Access Board and there is a Final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGEC DCR process.

Update: On 5-28-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, informed Steve Hewitt that The US Access Board extended the comment period for Recommendations on Access for Rail Vehicles until **7-14-20**. NGEC members were provided with this information and the link (below):

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/transportation/vehicles/update-of-the-guidelines-for-transportation-vehicles/advance-notice-of-proposed-rulemaking-2>

Next Update: As appropriate

Connecticut DOT Rail Car RFP:

The link to the ConnDOT Rail Car RFP and corresponding information as provided on 5-1-20:

https://biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Search/BidDetail.aspx?CID=53056

Of interest to other states as well as carbuilders – while our spec is based on the PRIIA spec, there is no Federal funding in this procurement. However, our scoring gives points to work done in and components supplied from the US and CT. We are open to partnering with other states while maintaining those terms. The car amenities will be somewhere between a traditional commuter car and an intercity car, leaning toward intercity.

This will be listing digitally in Railway Age tomorrow (5-1-20) or Monday (5-4-20).

Next Update: As appropriate

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 5-19-20 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On a motion by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, and a second by Brian Beeler II for Maine DOT, the minutes from the 5-19-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5. NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 6-16-20 - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Balance/Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent: \$596,770.62 (through April 2020)
Balance remaining: \$ 653,229.38
Estimated balance remaining at the end of the current grant period (9-30-20) - \$563,837.45
Actual current spend rate: \$13,878.39
Average Monthly expenditure estimated for the extension period is: \$15,000.00
Amount utilized if the Grant is extended for 36 months at estimated spend rate \$540,000.00
Projected total remaining at the end of the 36-month extension: \$23,837.45

Grant Agreement extension request:

Tim Ziethen reported that Amtrak grants had received feedback from FRA asking to confirm whether the budget distribution was to change in the extension submittal. The FASC discussed this on their last call and determined that no change in distribution within the budget was needed at this time. It is the understanding that, in the

future, within the budget items, the funds can be shifted as needed based on a FASC recommendation and Executive Board approval. Thus, no action is necessary now.

FRA has also noted that the grant performance period (assuming the extension is approved) will be for the full length of the grant – beginning with its inception and running through the extension period which will be 9-30-23.

Tim has reached out to the Amtrak grants office to see if they have heard any further feedback from FRA – and they have not. Tim anticipates that “we” will hear back in the next few weeks.

**6.
Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-16-20 – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The cab car structure FDR is complete, and CEM element testing is currently planned for the week of July 6th, with setup for compression testing to follow later in July. The cab car brake system FDR is tentative for July 13. IDOT galley FDR reviews and releases are ongoing with the next review scheduled for June 16th.

Travel restrictions are being evaluated, with potential travel in July to reviews and test sites. Video and photos continue to be provided for tests that SMEs are unable to witness. NEC testing is complete, and the test car has returned to Sacramento.

49 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs for standard coach are complete with final approvals in work for first car FAI. There are seven cars total at the Stockton facility. Cars 10 through 34 are in final assembly. Cars 11 and 12 are scheduled to be shipped near the end of June. The First IDOT cars are scheduled to ship in July.

The project teams continue to monitor potential production and schedule impacts due to the coronavirus and are receiving frequent updates from SCOA and Siemens.

**7.
Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 6-16-20 – Ray Hessinger:**

The process remains in the procurement “cone of silence” period, but things are moving forward. Getting closer every week to coming out of the “cone of silence”.

**8.
Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurements as of 6-16-20 – Charlie King:**

On the Acela:

The first Trainset is at Pueblo at TTCI for testing. It has reached speeds up to 165 mph on the test track. Charlie also noted that the instrumental wheels are being moved from TTCI to the NEC.

The second Trainset has done a few early runs out of Philly and has reached 125 mph. There are still a few PTC issues that are being worked on.

On the Charger Locomotives:

The locomotive continues to be under construction with little impact from the COVID 19 pandemic. It remains on schedule for February-March (2021) delivery of the first test locomotive on the NEC.

On the Intercity Trainset Procurement:

This procurement is proceeding, but it is at a stage where it remains in the “cone of silence”.

**9.
Update: Developing a TSSSA template/primer as of 6-16-20 – Charlie King:**

Charlie King reported that they continue to work on the development of a TSSSA primer. The OEM has provided permission to use the drawing that had been developed by the manufacturer and Amtrak. Charlie will ramp up the effort to get the proposed primer completed and ready for Tammy Krause to add to the library of NGECD documents.

**10.
Update: Document Control as of 6-16-20 – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of today's call:

The latest draft, Revision 3, of the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Document has been sent to the working group to review. Any comments on the proposed changes should be sent to me.

The DMU changes have been sent to the Working Groups and I have received some comments, and I would like to request that the remaining Working Groups send me their comments by Friday, 6/19/20.

The Trainset specification release has been delayed due to extensive reformatting/ organizing. The PRIIA specifications are supposed to be done to the same pattern. The same chapter titles are used across all the specifications and some chapters are the same across all the specifications. The changes to the train spec that were approved are addressed. Unfortunately, when this spec was written, the author did not use the correct chapters and sub-chapters or the standardized chapters. I can have the trainset complete sooner, and then do an additional revision to organize it correctly and make sure all the standard chapters are the same and in the same order or make all the changes now. Part of the PRIIA structure was the commonality of the specs so this needs to be done at some point. At this point, I am working on getting the entire document correct before release.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that in the interim Steve Hewitt would continue to distribute the previous revision plus the changes incorporated into the Review Panel Report on Revision B upon request. Meanwhile, Tammy Krause and the technical writer will continue to make the format corrections and provide that to Steve when it is ready.

**11.
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (6-16-20) at 11:53am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 6-30-20

Decisions/Action Items

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Next update – 7-14-20.

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Next Update – 7-14-20

VIA Rail Equipment Procurements – 2-21-20

At the Annual Meeting, 2-21-20, Mario Bergeron, Bob Becker and Joe Diliello provided an update on the ongoing VIA Rail equipment procurement and on overview of VIA Rail as a company.

The complete presentation was provided as a PDF file and was not re-printed in the Minutes but is available on the website and was distributed along with other NGEC presentations.

Next Update as appropriate

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 4-21-19:

This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

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We will ask Marci to provide monthly updates on the progress of this procurement on Technical subcommittee calls and Steve Hewitt will provide that update on the following Executive Board call.

Next Update: As appropriate

**S305 NGECE Executive Board Conference Call
6-16-20
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

Agenda

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| 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 5-19-20 conference call meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Status: Treasurer's Report; 36-month No-Cost Grant Extension Request and Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement | Charlie King |
| 9. Update: Developing TSSSA template/Primer | Charlie King |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B | |
| - Status: DMU Spec update – timeline | |
| - Status: Updating list of Technical working group members | |
| - Status: Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Document | |
| 11. Other | All |

Next Meeting – 6-30-20