



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

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 (9-22-20).

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

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.

Next Update: As appropriate

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

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.

Steve Hewitt has contacted VIA Rail to see if they would provide a status update on their vehicle

procurements. Ron Bartels and Jean-Phillippe Quintal, VIA Rail, have agreed (thank you) to present an update on the 10-20-20 meeting of the Executive Board.

Next Update: 10-20-20

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.

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland reported to the Technical subcommittee, that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

Next Update: As appropriate

Update: TSSSA Primer/Template development as of 7-14-20:

The Amtrak team continues to work on the development of the TSSSA primer. They are developing the verbiage after having received permission to use some of the diagrams. This effort has been put on the back burner due to other workload issues facing the same team including the California venture cars and other issues related to VSIP etc.

Next Update: As appropriate

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 9-8-20:

On 9-8-20, Steve Hewitt provided the following update on behalf of Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT:

CtDOT continues to finalize answers to the questions (52) received. One was a request for an extension which they are considering.

Next Update: 10-20-20

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 9-8-20:

As of 9-8-20, Metro North continued to be in the "cone of silence" period while reviewing proposals.

Next Update: 10-20-20

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 9-8-20:

On the Acela:

The first two "prototypes" continue in different phases of testing.

There may be some delays, but the opportunity to make up some time is there.

On the Locomotives (ACL 42):

Great progress has been made – they are actually beginning to look like locomotives.

The 11th unit is being assembled with the fuel tank as the first item. This is the 11th of a total of 75 units to be built.

On the Intercity Passenger Car procurement:

This procurement remains in the "cone of silence".

Next Update: 10-20-20

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 9-8-20 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT and a second by Troy Hughes, MODOT, the minutes from the 9-8-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5. Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Treasurer's Report: Balance/Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent: \$645,579.00.

Balance remaining: \$ 604,421.00

Anticipated spending through the remainder of the current grant period: approximately \$28,068.65.

Estimated balance remaining at the end of the current grant period (9-30-20): \$576,352.35.

Estimated spend at current rate for the next 36 months (9-30-23) - \$505,235.74.

Approximate current spend rate: \$14,034.33.

Estimated Balance at the end of the extension period (Contingency) - \$71,116.61

The 36 month no-cost NGEC Grant Agreement Extension has been approved/executed and the Treasurer's report includes that period going forward.

Strat Cavros, AASHTO, asked Tim Ziethen to ask Amtrak to issue a 36 month extension to the AASHTO to continue its support services so that AASHTO can, in turn, extend the contracts of subcontractors - Steve Hewitt, Casamar (Cameron Cordell), Tammy Krause, and Larry Salci.

Tim said he would get on it right away and make it a priority.

Updating the NGEC two-page handout:

On the 9-16-20 FASC call a sub-group (Steve Hewitt, Ray Hessinger Troy Hughes, and Tim Ziethen) was established to begin reviewing and updating the two-pager to make it more current. The expectation is that the group will have some initial recommendations to report to the FASC on its next call on 10-14-20. Troy Hughes has agreed to check with MODOT graphics to see if they would, once again, format and print it for the NGEC.

Annual By-Laws Review:

On the 10-16-20 FASC call, Chairman Ziethen tasked NGEC Secretary John Oimoen, IDOT and NGEC Manager with beginning the annual review of the NGEC By-laws and providing recommendations on the next FASC call – 10-14-20.

NGEC Reauthorization:

Due to concern over the fact that the proposed House reauthorization bill did not include the NGEC, the FASC discussed on the last few calls the fact that, although the NGEC cannot advocate as a group, its state members AASHTO, other organizations such as the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC) and Amtrak are able to include requests for reauthorizing the NGEC and have done so.

To reiterate and emphasize the importance of getting the NGEC authorized in the successor to the FAST Act, and get the word to Senate Commerce which has not completed its proposal, SPRC, submitted DRAFT language scope and funding (based on the information provided previously by the NGEC, and included the NGEC two-pager as well as SPRC's previously submitted principles which had included a simple request without details to reauthorize the NGEC. Amtrak Government Affairs is also going to re-emphasize the need for authorizing the NGEC and AASHTO is as well. It will be included as one of its programs which needs to be continued.

The SPRC materials were submitted on Friday 9-18-20 to Senate Commerce and to the House T&I as well.

6 Next Steps – Following the Execution of the 36 month no-cost NGEC Grant Agreement extension - Ray Hessinger:

Syncing all NGEC contracts/subcontracts with the grant agreement term – (Amtrak/AASHTO; AASHTO/Subcontractors):

Ray Hessinger followed up a bit the subject of contract extensions. He stressed the importance of Amtrak and AASHTO

extending their contract and AASHTO, in turn, extending the contracts of Steve Hewitt, Tammy Krause, Cameron Cordell and Larry Salci so that they are in sync with the 36-month grant agreement extension.

Tim agreed, and reiterated that he will make it a priority to get the Amtrak/AASHTO contract extended and get the ball rolling so AASHTO can extend the contracts of the aforementioned subcontractors.

7. Update: Technical subcommittee – Chair and Vice Chair – George Hull, Amtrak:

Charlie King has officially retired from Amtrak (9-18-20) and George Hull has taken on the role of Chair of the Technical subcommittee and Vice Chair of the NGECC. George, in turn, has appointed Joe Paul, Amtrak, as the Technical subcommittee vice chair.

8. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 9-22-20 – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans have been reviewed and are in revision. Reviews for Vending Cars, Cab Car Interiors, Diagnostic Systems and Safety Appliances are scheduled for the week of September 28 in Sacramento. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing with design reviews continuing through September. The Café Car IDR has been approved.

Travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing is being investigated in order to support workstation table testing. The first Maintainability Demonstration took place in Stockton last week. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and comments to the report are being clarified with FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report is in work. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to begin end of September or early October.

54 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs and the Complete Coach FAI are now approved for the standard coach. There are nine cars delivered to the Stockton facility. The first IDOT cars shipped end of July and the second shipment occurred August 28.

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

9. Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause was unavailable for today's call (9-22-20) and provided the following update which Steve Hewitt presented:

Last week I was off for my daughter's wedding and nothing happened in Document Control. Happily, I have now heard from Anand Prabhakaran. He provided me with the Structural Group comments on the DMU specification and the group member list. He did not express any interest in being replaced as group lead. I will be sending the complete list of proposed changes to the DMU out to the entire Technical Subcommittee this week, and I will also be sending all the group member lists to Steve. I have no update on the Trainset, I was not able to get back to Camren last week with additional needed information.

Steve Hewitt added an explanation of the NGECC process and next steps once the DMU DCRs have been compiled. He also emphasized the need for moving some of these document control items forward to completion and will require follow-up by Tammy as Document Control Manager.

Steve also noted that the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership document (Recommended Practices) is also with the Technical writer and Tammy will need to follow up on that as well. The 4th, and hopefully, final revision was expected to be completed and sent out to working group members on 9-11-20.

Ray Hessinger agreed with Steve's comments and added that until these various items go through the document control process – the others (Technical subcommittee, Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group, and the Executive Board) are on hold in advancing them to completion.

10. Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (9-22-20) at 11:50 am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 10-20-20

Decisions/Action Items

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Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 9-8-20:

Metro North continues to be in the “cone of silence” period while Metro-North continues reviewing proposals. He added – “there is light at the end of the tunnel”.

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Next Update: As appropriate

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

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Next Update: as appropriate

Updating the NGEN two-pager:

The updated NGEN two-pager remains available in hard copy and PDF. To date around 425 hard copies and electronic copies have been distributed.

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

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Next Update: 10-6-20

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S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call

9-22-20

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern

By computer:

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

By phone:

1-415-655-0001

Access code:

126-073-1531

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 9-8-20 conference call meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. | Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee activities | Tim Ziethen |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Treasurer's Report – Balance/Spend rate- 36 month – No-cost Grant Agreement Extension Executed- Updating NGEC two-page handout/backgrounder- Annual By-Laws Review – process/timeline- NGEC Reauthorization | |
| 6. | Next Steps – Following the Execution of the 36 month no-cost NGEC Grant Agreement extension | Ray Hessinger |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Syncing all NGEC contracts/subcontracts with the grant agreement term – (Amtrak/AASHTO; AASHTO/Subcontractors) | |
| 7. | Update: Technical subcommittee – Chair and Vice Chair | George Hull |
| 8. | Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 9. | Update: Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Status: DMU Specification Update:- Updating the member list of each of the technical working groups:- Status/Timeline Updating the DRAFT Recommended Practices Document:- Finalizing the Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B:- Update: Working with the Electronics on Trains working group to ensure NGEC document change procedures are followed. | |
| 10. | Other | All |

Next Meeting – 10-20-20