



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Charlie King, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

In the absence of Chairman Hessinger Vice Chair Charlie King 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 (9-8-20).

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, around 410 hard copies and electronic copies have been distributed.

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

Steve reminded Board members that it is time to begin updating the two -pager to reflect the progress that the NGEC has made with procurements underway and new equipment going into service soon. Chairman Hessinger will likely ask soon for volunteers to review and update the document.

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.

Next Update 10-6-20:

On 9-8-20, Steve Hewitt reported that he has reached out to VIA Rail about providing an update on the progress made in their equipment procurements. VIA Rail has agreed to present an update to the Executive Board on the 10-6-20 video/audio meeting. Ron Bartels and Jean Phillip Quintell will represent VIA Rail.

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.

Next Update: As appropriate

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 8-11-20 conference call meeting – Charlie King Amtrak:

On a motion by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 8-11-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5.

NGEC Treasurer's Report as of 9-8-20 - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Grant Agreement extension request:

Mike Murray, FRA, reported that the grant agreement extension request approval was completed last week – "all is good to go". Steve Hewitt asked if there were any next steps. Mike said that the grants office (FRA) would be forwarding the documents to Amtrak.

Tim Ziethen concurred that, as he understands it, the extension has been approved and he has seen the unsigned extension agreement – but has not yet seen the formally executed agreement. He noted this is good news that we are approved for a 36-month extension using current funding. All terms and conditions have been agreed to and all T's have been crossed and all i's have been dotted. As soon as he gets confirmation of the signed executed agreement, he will let the Board know officially.

Following the call today, Tim Ziethen submitted the following update:

Balance/Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent: \$643,587.54.
Balance remaining: \$ 606,142.46.
Anticipated spending through the remainder of the current grant period: approximately \$43,899.38.
Estimated balance remaining at the end of the current grant period (9-30-20): \$562,243.08.
Approximate current spend rate: \$14,107.
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: \$22,243.08.

**6.
Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 9-8-20 – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

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

Travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing is still not possible with no known upcoming change, which is affecting the scheduling of some tests. Video and photos continue to be provided for tests that SMEs are unable to witness. NEC testing 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 be performed in September. FAIs for Business Class Seats and Workstation Tables are scheduled for the week of September 21.

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.

**7.
Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 9-8-20 – Steve Hewitt for Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT:**

Steve Hewitt provided the following update on behalf of Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT:

On 9-3-20, Marci Petterson reported to the Technical subcommittee that they continue to finalize answers to the questions (52) received. One was a request for an extension which they are considering.

**8.
Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 9-8-20 – Steve Hewitt for Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On 9-3-20, Ray Hessinger reported to the Technical subcommittee that 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”.

**9.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 9-8-20 – Charlie King, Amtrak:**

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".

10.

Mid-year Progress Report: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following Mid-year progress report to the Executive Board:

Next Generation Trainset – PRIIA Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007

- PRIIA Specification 305-007
- Revision A to Revision B
- 70 Specification Changes
- Requires Extensive Reformat

Next Generation Diesel Multiple Unit - PRIIA DMU Specification 305-009

- PRIIA DMU Specification 305-009
- 81 Specification Changes submitted and reviewed
- Waiting on Final Technical Working Group comments/approvals

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Document – Recommended Practices

- 4th Draft Revision due to Working Group on 9/11/2020

Future Plans

- PRIIA Bi-Level Car Specification 305-001 Revision C.4 – Last Revised August 2016, but no current procurement underway.
- PRIIA Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2 – ConnDoT Procurement is underway
- PRIIA Dual Mode Locomotive Specification 305-011 – Metro North Procurement is underway

Tammy also reported her concerns that the team leader for the Structural working group has not yet provided the results of that teams review of the DCRs for the DMU specification. She has reached out to him to see if he still wanted to remain as the leader of the group (as well as asking him to submit the results of the DMU DCR review).

Tammy asked the Board if there was a process for replacing a team leader. Steve Hewitt responded that all members of the working group are volunteers, devoting their own time to the effort, and that the key would be to call the team leader to see about his interest, and if he decides it is time to step down – talk to other members of the working group and ask for a volunteer to be the team leader. In the past, members have retired and others from within a working group have stepped up to take on the lead role.

Steve will talk to Ray Hessinger about this before the next call and get a sense also of which of the specifications should be next up for review and updating.

11.

Other:

Steve Hewitt reported that one of the requirements of the NGEN grant agreement is that the Executive Board conduct an annual review of its By-Laws. The process normally begins in the Fall and is completed by the end of the calendar year. The Secretary (John Oimoen) and Program Manager (Steve Hewitt) would be assigned by Chairman Hessinger to begin the review and make recommendations to the Executive Board. Steve will talk to Ray Hessinger about this prior to the next call.

Charlie King announced that this is his last NGEN meeting. He is retiring from Amtrak. George Hull, the Acting Amtrak CMO will take on Charlie's role as Vice Chair of the NGEN Executive Board and as Chair of the Technical subcommittee.

Steve Hewitt offered his thanks to Charlie for all of his efforts on behalf of the NGEN and wished him well in retirement.

With no other business forthcoming, Vice Chairman King adjourned today's meeting (9-8-20) at 11:50 am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 9-22-20

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 9-8-20:

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Next update – 10-6-20.

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**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call
9-8-20
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

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Charlie King |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 8-11-20 conference call meeting | Charlie King |
| 5. Status: Treasurer's Report and 36-month No-Cost Grant Extension Request and Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Connecticut Rail Car Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 8. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Charlie King |
| 10. Mid-Year Progress Report: Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| 11. Other | All |

Next Meeting – 9-22-20