



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JANUARY 12, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### 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 (1-12-21).

**Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:**

In-depth updates were provided during the 2020 Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: NGEC 2021 Annual Meeting – 2-23-21**

**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**

**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 NGEN technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 10-15-20 (Technical subcommittee meeting) there was nothing new to report – the Access Board seems to be in a holding pattern.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 10-20-20, Ron Bartels, VIA Rail, provided the NGEN Executive Board with an update on the VIA Rail vehicle procurement program.

He gave an overview of an exciting program that will result in 32 trainsets - each with 1 locomotive, 4 coaches and a cab car. Ron provided a general overview of milestones and an anticipated timeline for delivery.

He also described the great level of progress that has taken place, even with a tight schedule and the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Update 1-12-21:**

Steve Hewitt reported that he has confirmed with Mario Bergeron that VIA rail will give a presentation at the Annual Meeting. Presenter will be a combination of Mario Bergeron, Ron Bartels, and Joe Di Liello

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Update: - 12-15-20:

On 12-10-20, Marci Petterson, CtDOT informed Steve Hewitt that Connecticut DOT was in the process of reviewing proposals. There was nothing more to report at this time.

Steve Hewitt was asked to reach out to Marci Petterson to see if she will provide an update at the NGEN Annual Meeting on 2-23-21.

**Update: 1-12-21:**

Steve Hewitt reached out to Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT to determine if she would be able to give an update at the Annual meeting. Marci reported that they will likely still be in the "cone of silence" and unable to say anything. She stated that she will attend the meeting and would offer an update if there was one to give but would not be a formal presenter at this time.

**Next Update – 1-26-21**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:**

On 12 15 20, Ray Hessinger provided the following update on the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive procurement:

The MTA Board will be meeting to consider awarding a contract to Siemens Mobility for a base order of 19 dual mode locomotives with options for a total of 152 for Metro-North, Long Island Railroad, NYSDOT and Connecticut DOT. The base order cost is at \$12.2 million each and the option orders will be at \$10.3 million each.

Ray noted that Siemens Mobility was the only bidder. Two other companies had submitted pre-qualification documents but, in the end, decided not to submit bids.

**Update: 1-12-21:**

Ray Hessinger reported to the Technical subcommittee on 1-7-21, that the MTA Board did approve the awarding of a contract between Metro-North and Siemens Mobility for the production of the Dual Mode Locomotive.

Metro-North and Siemens are in the process of executing the contract.

Ray Hessinger added that Metro North has agreed to give a presentation on the procurement during the NGEN

Annual Meeting and has confirmed that Dwight Sowden will be the speaker.

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 12-15-20 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Brian Beeler II for Maine DOT, the minutes from the 12-15-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

**5.**

**Update: Treasurer’s Report 1-12-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer’s Report:

Balance and Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent: \$681,532.36.

Balance remaining: \$ 568,467.64.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23) - \$486,808.83.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating) - \$13,908.82.

**6.**

**Status: Updated NGENC Two-Pager – 2021 – Steve Hewitt/Troy Hughes:**

The NGENC 2021 two-pager educational document has been formatted as previously agreed to by the Executive Board. A final draft that included approved pictures for page two. Two dates in the NGENC Timeline column remain unknown (DMU Revision B update and the date of release of the Recommended Practices document). MODOT has agreed to simply use February 2021 as place holder for both with the intent of releasing the document during the Annual Meeting – electronically and printing copies once the dates are confirmed.

At this point, February 23, 2021 looks doable for the Recommended Practices document, but the DMU update is being held up by Stadler Rail’s review of the specification and preparation of additional change requests (DCRs) beyond what has already been approved by the Technical subcommittee and sent to the Review Panel. It is looking like the February timeline for release of the DMU specification Revision B will not be ready by the Annual Meeting and the two-pager may need to say update anticipated first quarter 2021 or update in process.

On the call today (1-12-21), it was agreed that the DMU update in the NGENC Timeline column will state “Updated: Spring 2021”. It was also agreed that the two-pager should be tagged with a date - February 2021 - at the top of the document in the green area– right hand side. This is something that should be done from here on out as this document is updated yearly and tagging it with the month and year will affirm it is the most recent and prevent confusion. Additionally, it was agreed that throughout the document whenever a year is identified it should be in 4 digits for consistency.

**7.**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-7-21 –Steve Hewitt for Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

In the absence of Kyle Grading and Momo Tamaoki, Steve Hewitt read into the record what Caltrans had provided to the NGENC Technical subcommittee on 1-7-21:

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens, and FRA. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and the Electrical FDR occurred on December 15. The Galley FDR is expected to be completed by the end of January. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Lighting and Electrical FDR documents have been reviewed and comments returned to Siemens. The FDR meetings will occur January 7 and 8.*

*Workstation table testing for the new economy table has been successfully completed and work is ongoing to address Buy America compliance. Business table testing is scheduled for January 12 in Spain. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report has been submitted to Amtrak. The IDOT 238.111 test runs are tentative for mid-January.*

*65 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs and the Complete Coach FAI are approved for the standard coach. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago.*

**8.  
Update – Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:**

CAF Sleeper cars – two more have been delivered – that leaves 9 left.

Long-Distance Locomotive – on track with the first one anticipated to ship in March 2021.

Amfleet replacement – this procurement is progressing and is in the “cone of silence” stage.

Acela Express 21 – is in testing on the Northeast Corridor and at TTCI.

**9.  
Status Update – TSSSA Primer – Timeline for DRAFT – George Hull:**

George Hull reported that his intent is to have a draft to present on the Technical subcommittee on its call scheduled for 2-4-21.

**10.  
Status: Recommended Practices Document 305-200 – 1-12-21 – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger reported that the working group has reviewed the 4th revision of the document, made changes and reconciled all comments. This took place over the course of two meetings in December (12-8 and 12-15-20).

The Recommended Practices document is now with the technical writer, Cameron Cordell. Cameron is incorporating the working group’s changes and when complete, will send out a final version for a last review (for fatal flaws) by the members of the working group. Once approved by the working group it will be sent to the Executive Board. The intent is to give the Board two weeks to review the document before taking it up at a Board meeting. The plan is still to have it finalized and released by the NGEAC Annual Meeting.

**11.  
Update: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update on 1-12-21:

*The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Document is currently underway. I had a meeting with Camren yesterday and she will have the document to me by Friday. I will send it to Steve to distribute to the WG for final approval.*

*Stadler Rail is continuing their review of the DMU specification and will have comments on Chapters 1 and 4 to me by 1/20. The remaining chapter reviews will be completed by 2/12.*

Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger agreed to connect after the Recommended Practices document has gone to the working group and determine whether a meeting is needed to complete the process and get the document out to the Executive Board. Steve and Ray will also lay out the timeline with the goal being to have it ready for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Ray also reported that he has received the Metro-North - as awarded - Dual Mode Locomotive specification in a redline version that shows where they changed it from the PRIIA spec. He will send it to Tammy Krause for her to begin the process (after the current open items are complete) of comparing and updating the initial specification.

**12.  
NGEAC 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

Overview DRAFT agenda:

Steve provided a brief overview on the Annual Meeting.

Most speakers/presenters have been confirmed. The NGEAC PowerPoint template has been sent to all presenters. A deadline for presentations to be provided to Steve Hewitt has been set for 2-16-21. Oscar Bermudez, AASHTO has agreed to manage/run the presentations throughout the meeting since Dave “PowerPoint” Warner is not available for the full meeting this year. Oscar and Steve will talk off-line as the meeting gets closer to coordinate this effort.

Registration: Currently there are 66 registrants for the Annual Meeting. The most critical need is to confirm that all Board members will be present.

Steve walked through the Board members and support staff on the call today and asked for confirmation of their

participation. All Board members affirmed their attendance with the exception of Michigan. Washington has not determined who will represent them at the meeting, but Jason Biggs confirmed that they will attend.

Tim Ziethen confirmed that a representative from Amtrak Government Affairs will attend and provide an update. As soon as he has confirmed who that representative will be, Tim will let Steve Hewitt know.

**11.  
Other:**

Steve Hewitt raised the issue of the status of Michigan DOT membership.

This is still an unknown. As agreed, on 12-15-20, John Oimoen, IDOT, reached out to Jeff Martin, Michigan DOT on behalf of the NGEC to see if they want to remain on the Board or otherwise involved with the NGEC. Jeff had some questions which John deferred to Steve Hewitt asking him to reach out to Jeff.

Steve reached out, via email, to Jeff and offered to talk with him at any time to answer his questions. Steve also provided an overview of the NGEC as well as information describing the NGEC's structure, its accomplishments, and its meetings schedule. Steve also provided Jeff with the NGEC website information so that he could look further into the work of the NGEC. AS of 1-12-21 There has been no response from Jeff. Steve added that it was just announced that Michigan DOT has named Peter Anastor as their new Rail Director effective 1-25-21.

Ray Hessinger noted that it would be good to let the new rail Director get settled and then reach out at the appropriate time to see if Michigan wants to engage with the NGEC and confirm the status of Michigan's interest in remaining a Board member.

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (1-12-21) at 12:08PM.

**The next conference call will be held on 1-26-21.**

### Decisions/Action Items

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – 1-7-21 – as provided by Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans to the Technical subcommittee and as read into the record by Steve Hewitt on 1-12-21:**

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens, and FRA. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and the Electrical FDR occurred on December 15. The Galley FDR is expected to be completed by the end of January. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Lighting and Electrical FDR documents have been reviewed and comments returned to Siemens. The FDR meetings will occur January 7 and 8.*

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Metro North has agreed to give a presentation on the procurement during the NGEN Annual Meeting and has confirmed that Dwight Sowden will be the speaker.

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Current Spend Rate (as info and used in calculating) - \$13,908.82.

**Status: Updating the NGEC two-pager as of 1-12-21:**

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**Actions/Decisions:**

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**Next Update: as appropriate**

**Developing a template – TSSSA:**

On 1-12-21, George Hull reported that his intent is to have a draft to present on the Technical subcommittee on its call scheduled for 2-4-21.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

**Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:**

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual meeting and were included in the minutes. Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

**Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Update: - 12-15-20:

On 12-10-20, Marci Petterson, CtDOT informed Steve Hewitt that Connecticut DOT was in the process of reviewing proposals. There was nothing more to report at this time.

Steve Hewitt will reach out to Marci Petterson to see if she will provide an update at the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-23-21.

On 1-12-21, Steve Hewitt reached out to Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT, to determine if she would be able to give an update at the NGEC Annual Meeting. Marci reported that they will likely still be in the "cone of silence" and unable to say anything. She stated that she will attend the meeting and would offer an update if there was one to give but would not be a formal presenter at this time.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

**NGEC 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting 2-23-21 11:30AM-2:00PM Eastern:**

As of 1-12-21, most speakers/presenters have been confirmed. The NGEC PowerPoint template has been sent to all presenters.

A deadline for presentations to be provided to Steve Hewitt has been set for 2-16-21. Oscar Bermudez, AASHTO has agreed to manage/run the presentations throughout the meeting since Dave "PowerPoint" Warner is not available for the full meeting this year. Oscar and Steve will talk off-line as the meeting gets closer to coordinate this effort.

Registration: As of the close of the 1-12-21 Executive Board meeting, there are 72 registrants for the Annual Meeting and all members of the Board will be represented with the exception of Michigan DOT.

On 1-12-21, Tim Ziethen confirmed that a representative from Amtrak Government Affairs will attend and provide an update. As soon as he has confirmed who that representative will be, Tim will let Steve Hewitt know.

**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call  
1-12-21  
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 12-15-20 conference call meeting | Ray Hessinger            |
| 5. Treasurer's Report – Balance/Spend Rate                   | Tim Ziethen              |
| 6. Status: Updated NGEC two-pager 2021                       | Steve Hewitt/Troy Hughes |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement                       | Kyle Gradinger           |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements                       | George Hull              |
| 9. Status Update: TSSSA Primer – Timeline for DRAFT          | George Hull              |
| 10. Status: DRAFT Recommended Practices Document 305-200     | Ray Hessinger            |
| 11. Update: Document Control Management                      | Tammy Krause             |

12. NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting

Steve Hewitt

13. Other

All

**Next Meeting – 1-26-21**