



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

MAY 18, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, Tim Ziethen, John Oimoen, John Oimoen for Arun Rao, Jeff Gordon, Amanda Martin, Troy Hughes, Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Kyle Gradinger, Brian Beeler II Support Staff and Colleagues: Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Oscar Bermudez, Strat Cavros, Joe Paul, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Dave "Emeritus" Warner
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Ron Pate, Arun Rao, Jason Orthner, George Hull Support: Momo Tamaoki, Larry Salci, Patrick Centolanzi

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

Chairman Hessinger, NYSDOT, 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 (5-18-21).

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document is available electronically or in hard copy by request - contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. Thus far over 500 electronic copies have been distributed.

If you would like to receive hard copies, contact Steve with the quantity and where to mail them.

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the 2020 Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-23-21).

The PowerPoint presentation was 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.

On 4-6-21, Steve Hewitt stated that he will follow up with John Oimoen to see if he would be able to give an update on this procurement.

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 NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 5-18-21 – the Access Board continues in its holding pattern.

Next Update: As appropriate

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate (possibly a 6-month update – 8-2021)

CtDOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 4-15-21, Marci Petterson reported to Steve Hewitt that this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update: 6-15-21

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 4-20-21 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 4-20-21 meeting were approved as presented.

5.

Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 5-18-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Balance and Spend Rate

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

Amount Spent through March 2021: \$748,062.38

Balance remaining: \$ 496,665.49.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$418,519.17.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,950.64.

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$78,146.32

6.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 5-18-21 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

Caltrans provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (5-18-21):

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. The FDR meeting for cab car Interiors is scheduled for May 25. FDR meetings for the Caltrans Vending Car Water/Waste system and Electrical Systems occurred in April. IDOT Café Car FDR releases are ongoing, FAIs are being planned and open items are being addressed.

The Cab Car Compression Test setup is in process in Sacramento with testing planned for July. Cab Car Collision and Corner Post testing is tentative for August in Germany. 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 and FRA. IDOT 238.11 testing is complete, and the test report has also been provided to FRA.

80 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Car deliveries are ongoing to Chicago and Beech Grove for IDOT, and Stockton for Caltrans. The initial consists for Caltrans and IDOT are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are addressed.

7.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

George Hull was not available for the call on 5-18-21. Below, is the last update provided to the Technical subcommittee on 4-29-21:

On the Charger Locomotives: The first Unit #300 was delayed for 4 weeks due to issues with the fuel system. The problem has been identified and rectified. They will likely wait until the second unit is ready and ship them both together.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset – Siemens has been announced as the provider and has entered into negotiations with Amtrak.

CAF: Nothing new to report on 4-29-21

8.

Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Siemens is submitting system descriptions for initial design review, focusing initially on systems which remain unchanged from the conventional Charger.

9.

Overview: TSSSA Primer – George Hull, Amtrak:

George Hull was not available for today's call (5-18-21). Steve Hewitt reported that the DRAFT primer was approved by the Technical subcommittee (5-13-21) for submittal to the NGEN Executive Board. Steve Hewitt distributed the approved DRAFT to all Board members on 5-13-21.

Ray Hessinger asked all Board members to review the DRAFT document and send any comments to Steve Hewitt, Ray Hessinger and George Hull by COB 6-8-21. Discussion of the document and any suggested changes will take place on the 6-15-21 NGEN Executive Board call.

10.

Update: Document Control Management – as of 5-18-21 - Tammy Krause:

The rewrite of the trainset specification continues. All the chapters have been reviewed. No technical changes are being made yet, just rearranged to match the other PRIIA specifications. Camren and I have identified sections that need to be added to the specifications. I will be reaching out to a few WG leaders to get their input on missing sections. There will be some new DCRs required for these sections.

Three DCRs for the single level specification were approved last week.

I have asked that the WGs that are working on the DCRs for the DMU have their comments back to me by 5/25. I will then put them together and send it to Steve to pass on to the Technical Subcommittee.

Steve Hewitt asked AASHTO (Strat Cavros) if he had received a revised SOW to the DMU Review Task order from Larry Salci. Strat said he had not. Steve advised that Larry will be submitting one in the near future based on the fact that the scope has changed with the inclusion of the many Stadler DCRs which Larry will be required to include in his review.

11.

Summary: NGEN Presentation to RSAC's Passenger Rail Safety Working Group – 5-4-21:

Ray Hessinger provided a brief summary of a presentation he gave on 5-4-21 to the RSAC Passenger Rail Safety Working Group on the NGEN – what it is, what it does and what it has accomplished. The presentation was distributed to all Board members along with the meeting materials for this call.

The presentation went well and was a great opportunity to provide the working group of a basic understanding of the NGEN and how it is structured. The presentation has (or will be) been sent to the House T&I committee staff (Frances

Bourne) as a follow up to her discussion with SPRC's chair Arun Rao about the NGEC and the need to reauthorize it.

This presentation is yet another educational tool that can and should be used to further educate and convey the message of value added by the work of the Committee.

12.

Update: Reauthorization of the NGEC – as of 5-18-21 - Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reported that since the last Executive Board call held on 4-20-21, the Midwest Intercity Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) has submitted its Principles for Federal Surface Transportation Authorization and has also (along with others such as the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC) and AASHTO) included the reauthorization of the NGEC. The wording is consistent with what others have said and also includes funding as a part of the request.

As noted earlier, Arun Rao, Chair of SPRC, is following up with the House T&I Committee to provide additional information, including the presentation given to the RSAC Passenger Safety Working Group on 5-4-21 by Ray Hessinger. The presentation was sent out to all with today's meeting materials. This presentation along with the SPRC letter and the NGEC 2021 two-pager, the MIPRC and AASHTO Principles, are all valuable tools that can/should be utilized to educate congressional staff/members on the value of the NGEC and the need to reauthorize it with funding.

Steve also noted that SPRC is working with staff from Senate Commerce on getting language in its version of the bill that would reauthorize the NGEC with funding.

13.

Other:

Ray Hessinger reported that FRA Deputy Administrator Amit Bose has requested a meeting with the NGEC Executive Board to discuss the Administration's American Jobs Plan and get input from the Board.

Steve Hewitt has reached out to the Deputy Administrator's staff (Perrin Bradley) to coordinate scheduling the meeting. Ray Hessinger suggested that the easiest way to get it scheduled is to hold it on the date and time of one of the NGEC Board calls with the full agenda being dedicated to the discussion with Amit Bose. This would work well because the meetings are already on the Board members calendars.

Steve Hewitt has contacted Perrin Bradley and offered the dates of 6-1 or 6-15-21 as potential slots for the meeting, with a willingness to work with the Administrator's calendar. Perrin Bradley responded to Steve (and Ray) and promised to look at the Administrator's schedule and "circle back" with Steve with what will work.

This is a great opportunity for the NGEC to hear about the American Jobs Plan and to provide input.

Steve Hewitt emphasized that the request from Amit Bose was to meet with the NGEC Executive Board. Steve will contact Perrin Bradley to confirm that this is understood and that the meeting will be with the Board and its support staff only and will be solely dedicated to the discussion with the Deputy Administrator. – no other NGEC business will be on the agenda.

Kyle Gradinger suggested a pre-meeting be held if possible. Ray Hessinger noted that, while that would be a good idea, it may be difficult to do if the meeting ends up being scheduled for 6-1-21.

Following today's call (5-18-21) the Deputy Administrator's office confirmed that the meeting will take place on 6-1-21 and Steve Hewitt sent a calendar appointment out to that effect.

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (5-18-21) at 12:06pm.

Next meeting – 6-1-21.

This meeting will be with Amit Bose – no other business will be on the agenda. The purpose of the meeting will be for the Deputy Administrator to discuss the America Jobs Plan and receive input from the NGEC Executive Board.

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 5-18-21:

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. The FDR meeting for cab car Interiors is scheduled for May 25. FDR meetings for the Caltrans Vending Car Water/Waste system and Electrical Systems occurred in April. IDOT Café Car FDR releases are ongoing, FAIs are being planned and open items are being addressed.

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Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 5-18-21:

Siemens is submitting system descriptions for initial design review, focusing initially on systems which remain unchanged from the conventional Charger.

Next Update: 6-15-21

Update: Document Control Management 5-18-21:

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Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 5-18-21:

George Hull was not available for the call on 5-18-21. Below, is the last update provided to the Technical subcommittee on 4-29-21:

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Next Update: As appropriate (possibly a 6-month update – 8-2021)

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve

<p>Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.</p> <p>Next Update: As appropriate</p>
<p>NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 5-18-21:</p> <p>Balance and Spend Rate</p> <p>Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000. Amount Spent through March 2021: \$748,062.38 Balance remaining: \$ 496,665.49. Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$418,519.17. Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,950.64. Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$78,146.32</p>
<p>2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:</p> <p>The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document has been released and is available electronically or in hard copy by request - contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.</p> <p>If you would like to receive hard copies, contact Steve with the quantity and where to mail them.</p>
<p>Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Next Update: as appropriate</p>
<p>DRAFT TSSSA Primer – Executive Board review/consideration:</p> <p>George Hull was not available for today’s call (5-18-21). Steve Hewitt reported that the DRAFT primer was approved by the Technical subcommittee (5-13-21) for submittal to the NGEC Executive Board. Steve Hewitt distributed the approved DRAFT to all Board members on 5-13-21.</p> <p>Ray Hessinger asked all Board members to review the DRAFT document and send any comments to Steve Hewitt, Ray Hessinger and George Hull by COB 6-8-21. Discussion of the document and any suggested changes will take place on the 6-15-21 NGEC Executive Board call.</p>
<p>Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:</p> <p>In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.</p> <p>The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.</p> <p>Next Update: as appropriate</p>
<p>Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:</p> <p>As of 4-15-21, this procurement continues to be in the “cone of silence” phase.</p> <p>Next Update – as appropriate</p>
<p>Reauthorizing the NGEC:</p> <p>On 5-18-21, Steve Hewitt reported that since the last Executive Board call held on 4-20-21, the Midwest Intercity</p>

Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) has submitted its Principles for Federal Surface Transportation Authorization and has also (along with others such as the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC) and AASHTO) included the reauthorization of the NGECC. The wording is consistent with what others have said and also includes funding as a part of the request.

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Steve also noted that SPRC is working with staff from Senate Commerce on getting language in its version of the bill that would reauthorize the NGECC with funding.

Scheduling a meeting with FRA Deputy Administrator Amit Bose:

Steve Hewitt has contacted Perrin Bradley and offered the dates of 6-1 or 6-15-21 as potential slots for the meeting, with a willingness to work with the Administrator's calendar. Perrin Bradley responded to Steve (and Ray) and promised to look at the Administrator's schedule and "circle back" with Steve with what will work.

Following the call today (5-18-21), FRA confirmed 6-1-21 from 11:30-Noon Eastern for Deputy Administrator Amit Bose to meet with the NGECC Executive Board.

Steve Hewitt sent calendar notices to all Board members and to the Deputy Administrator's office.

**S305 NGECC Executive Board Conference Call
5-18-21
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 4-20-21 Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Treasurer's Report/FASC update – Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 8. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 9. Update: Status - DRAFT TSSSA Primer | George Hull |
| 10. Update: Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| 11. Summary: NGECC Presentation to RSAC's Passenger Safety Working Group 5-4-21 | Ray Hessinger |

12. Update: Reauthorization of the NGECC

Steve Hewitt

13. Other

All

Next call/meeting – 6-1-21
Special Meeting with FRA Deputy Administrator Amit Bose