



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### 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 (4-20-21).

**2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:**

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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

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 3-31-21 – 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: 5-18-21**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 4-6-21 Meeting -Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Troy Hughes, Missouri DOT, the minutes from the 4-6-21 Meeting were approved as presented.

**5.**

**Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 4-20-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Balance and Spend Rate

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

Amount Spent through February 2021: \$741,394.50

Balance remaining: \$ 508,605.50.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$433,645.84.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,988.58.

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$74,959.66

Tim asked Steve Hewitt to update the Board on the FRA's consideration of whether the NGEC would be able to continue to use the existing grant funding till expended or if it stops if the NGEC is not reauthorized.

Steve said he did not think this has yet been determined.

Jeff Gordon, FRA, confirmed that "**FRA has not resolved it yet**". He will report back to the Board or the FASC once he has an answer.

**6.**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 4-20-21 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

Caltrans was not represented on the call today (4-20-21)– and no report was submitted. This item was tabled until the next call (5-4-21).

**7.**

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

Ray Hessinger reported that Siemens and Metro-North have “jumped” into the initial design review with a focus on systems that remain unchanged from the Charger s and ALC 42’s. Metro-North will review and provide any comments they may have.

While it is early in the process, it is moving along well and is on schedule.

**8.**

**Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:**

CAF – Progress continues – moving along well.

Charger Locomotives – on track for the first unit to be complete by early summer.

AmFleet – getting close on this one – with an announcement anticipated in the near future.

**9.**

**Status: TSSSA Primer – George Hull, Amtrak:**

George Hull reported that the DRAFT primer has been distributed to the Technical subcommittee for review and comment. Comments will likely be sent to Steve Hewitt (and George and Tammy Krause). Thus far few comments have been received. The last call of the subcommittee was canceled so this will be a topic of discussion on the next call 4-29-21.

It will be up to the Technical subcommittee to determine its process for approving the primer for submittal to the Executive Board for its consideration.

**10.**

**Federal Surface Transportation Authorization – NGEC Re-Authorization – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger asked Steve Hewitt to follow up on activities that have taken place since the last Board call (4-6-21) regarding NGEC Reauthorization.

Steve reported that on 4-12-21, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc (SPRC) sent a letter to congressional staff specifically requesting that the NGEC be reauthorized in the successor to the FAST Act, and provided suggested language, scope, and funding in its request.

This letter was provided to Steve Morrison in a follow up to an earlier discussion Steve Hewitt had with him. Steve Morrison had asked for the letter to be sent to him once it had been submitted to congressional staff. After receiving the SPRC letter and proposed language, Steve Morrison agreed that Siemens would lend it support of NGEC reauthorization.

Steve Hewitt also noted that he plans to distribute the SPRC letter to all NGEC industry members prior to the next Technical subcommittee call to advise of the situation and make them aware that the NGEC cannot, as body, lobby for itself, but states (who have now weighed in through SPRC) and industry members are able to do so.

**11.**

**Update: Document Control Management – as of 4-20-21 - Tammy Krause:**

*The only update I have for Document Control is that all the Stadler DMU proposed changes have been sent to the WG leaders. The changes involve the Mechanical, Interiors and Propulsion groups.*

When asked by Steve Hewitt the status of completing re-formatting the Single Level Trainset Specification, and did it also have DCRS as a result?

Tammy responded:

*The rewrite of the trainset specification continues. No technical changes are being made, just rearranged to match the other PRIIA specifications.*

No timeline was provided, but Steve Hewitt did express a sense of urgency to complete this process which, he noted,

"has been hanging out there a long time".

Larry Salci asked Tammy how many DCRs were generated by the Stadler submittals and asked Tammy to provide him with the list of those DCRs. Larry needs this information to provide an updated scope of work and budget for a supplement to his initial task order (November 2020) with AASHTO to conduct a review and prepare the Review Panel Report with recommendations for ultimate Executive Board consideration.

Tammy agreed to send the list and reported that there were over 120 changes (DCRs).

As a heads up, Larry also reported to Tammy that there will be a few DCRs for single level cars coming from Caltrans relating to testing.

**12.  
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (4-20-21) at 11:51am.

**Next meeting – 5-4-21.**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 4-6-21:**

*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 Cab Car IDR phase is complete and FDR meetings are scheduled to resume in April. FDR meetings for the Caltrans Vending Car Electrical and Water/Waste are scheduled for April 7 and 14. IDOT Café Car reviews are nearly complete and open items are being addressed.*

*The Cab Car Compression Test setup will begin late April in Sacramento. 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 is under review.*

*75 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and twenty-six IDOT cars delivered to Chicago and Indiana. Additional cars are scheduled to ship in April. The initial consists for Caltrans and IDOT are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service.*

No update was provided on 4-20-21.

**Next Update: 5-4-21**

**Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 4-20-21:**

Siemens and Metro-North have "jumped" into the initial design review with a focus on systems that remain unchanged from the Charger s and ALC 42's. Metro-North will review and provide any comments they may have.

While it is early in the process, it is moving along well and is on schedule.

**Next Update: 5-18-21**

**Update: Document Control Management 4-20-21:**

All Stadler DMU proposed changes have been sent to the Working Group leaders. The changes involve the Mechanical, Interiors and Propulsion groups.

The rewrite of the trainset specification continues. No technical changes are being made, just rearranged to match the other PRIIA specifications.

Larry Salci asked Tammy how many DCRs were generated by the Stadler submittals and asked Tammy to provide him with the list of those DCRs. Larry needs this information to provide an updated scope of work and budget for a supplement to his initial task order (November 2020) with AASHTO to conduct a review and prepare the Review Panel Report with recommendations for ultimate Executive Board consideration.

Tammy agreed to send the list and reported that there were over 120 changes (DCRs).

**Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 4-20-21:**

CAF – Progress continues – moving along well.

Charger Locomotives – on track for the first unit to be complete by early summer.

AmFleet – getting close on this one – with an announcement anticipated in the near future.

**Next Update – 5-18-21**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEN 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)**

**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 Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 4-20-21:**

Balance and Spend Rate

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

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Balance remaining: \$ 508,605.50.

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

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**Next Update: as appropriate**

**Developing a template – TSSSA:**

The DRAFT primer has been distributed to the Technical subcommittee for review and comment. Comments will likely

be sent to Steve Hewitt (and George and Tammy Krause). Thus far few comments have been received. The last call of the subcommittee was canceled so this will be a topic of discussion on the next call 4-29-21.

It will be up to the Technical subcommittee to determine its process for approving the primer for submittal to the Executive Board for its consideration.

**Next Update: 5-4-21**

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

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: as appropriate**

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

As of 4-15-21, this procurement continues to be in the “cone of silence” phase.

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Reauthorizing the NGEC:**

On 4-12-21, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc (SPRC) sent a letter to congressional staff specifically requesting that the NGEC be reauthorized in the successor to the FAST Act, and provided suggested language, scope, and funding in its request.

This letter was provided to Steve Morrison in a follow up to an earlier discussion Steve Hewitt had with him. Steve Morrison had asked for the letter to be sent to him once it had been submitted to congressional staff. After receiving the SPRC letter and proposed language, Steve Morrison agreed that Siemens would lend it support of NGEC reauthorization.

Steve Hewitt plans to distribute the SPRC letter to all NGEC industry members prior to the next Technical subcommittee call and to advise of the situation.

**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call**

**4-20-21**

**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 4-6-21 Meeting              | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Treasurer’s Report – Balance/Spend Rate              | Tim Ziethen    |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement                  | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger  |

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| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements                                   | George Hull   |
| 9. Status: TSSSA Primer  | George Hull   |
| 10. Federal Surface Transportation Authorization – NGEC Re-Authorization | Ray Hessinger |
| 11. Update: Document Control Management                                  | Tammy Krause  |
| 12. Other  | All           |

**Next call/meeting – 5-4-21**