



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 11 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### 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 (8-11-20).

**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, over 400 hard copies and electronic copies have been distributed.

Copies are available in either version by request from Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com)

**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: 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.

Update: On 5-28-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, informed Steve Hewitt that The US Access Board extended the comment period for Recommendations on Access for Rail Vehicles until **7-14-20**. NGEC members were provided with this information and the link (below):

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/transportation/vehicles/update-of-the-guidelines-for-transportation-vehicles/advance-notice-of-proposed-rulemaking-2>

7-14-20 was the deadline for submitting comments to the docket.

**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 7-14-20 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by, and a second by, the minutes from the 7-14-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

**5.**

**NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 8-11-20 - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Balance/Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent: \$620,739.77

Balance remaining: \$ 629,260.23

Anticipated spending through the remainder of the current grant period: approximately \$76,430.89.

Estimated balance remaining at the end of the current grant period (9-30-20): \$552,829.34.

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: \$12,829.34.

Grant Agreement extension request:

Tim Ziethen reported that he believes that Amtrak and FRA have agreed in principle to everything in the grant extension request (GARF). It is in final internal review by FRA and Tim anticipates hearing from FRA this week or by next week (week of 8-17-20) at the latest.

**6.**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-11-20 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete. The Cab Car brake system*

FDR occurred on July 9<sup>th</sup>. IDOT galley FDR reviews and releases are ongoing, and the latest galley review occurred on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Travel restrictions are being evaluated, but travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing has not been possible with no known upcoming change. Video and photos continue to be provided for tests that SMEs are unable to witness and this has been successfully demonstrated using remote live video for cab car CEM element testing in July. NEC testing is complete, and the test report is under review by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete as of last week. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to be performed in September.

51 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs for standard coach are now approved with final open items in work to complete first car overall FAI. The complete car FAI for IDOT and a follow-up FRA Sample Car Inspection occurred June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The Maintainability Demonstration for standard coach is tentative for late August. There are nine cars delivered to the Stockton facility. The first IDOT cars shipped on July 31 and are expected to arrive in Chicago this week.

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 8-11-20 – Steve Hewitt for Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT:**

Steve Hewitt read the following update provided by Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT for inclusion in today's (8-11-20) minutes:

*We are finalizing answers to the 82 questions/requests for clarification received on our RFP. Those are due to be posted as an addendum on our procurement site on Friday 8-7-20.*

#### **8.**

##### **Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 8-11-20 – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger reported Metro North continues to be in the "cone of silence" period while Metro-North continues reviewing proposals.

#### **9.**

##### **Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 8-11-20 – Charlie King, Amtrak:**

On the Acela:

Trainsets 1 and 2 continue in the testing phase and are progressing with the support of FRA to increase the speed on the NEC for Trainset 2. Trainset 1 continues testing at Pueblo.

On the Locomotives:

Amtrak published picture and colors of the new locomotives with progress moving forward on the 7 that are in the manufacturing stage. Delivery of the first locomotive is anticipated in February 2021. It will undergo further testing before being put into service hopefully before summer 2021.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail cars:

This procurement currently remains in the "cone of silence" period as Amtrak progresses through the procurement steps before an announcement is made.

#### **10.**

##### **Update: Document Control as of 8-11-20 – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause was unavailable for this call but provided an update for inclusion in the minutes. Steve Hewitt provided the update for the minutes:

Status: DMU Specification Update:

Tammy is still waiting on one WG for their comments on the DMU DCRs, but they hope to have their meeting this week and will then get their results back to her.

Updating the member list of each of the technical working groups:

Tammy is now waiting on two of the technical working groups to provide their member lists.

Status/Timeline Updating the DRAFT Recommended Practices Document:

Tammy has sent the proposed changes to the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership's Recommended Practices document to the Technical Writer (Camren Cordell). She expects to have those changes back this week.

Finalizing the Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B:

Tammy has started sending the technical writer the chapter changes for the Trainset specification. Tammy is sending the chapters individually to give Camren time to make the changes and she should have all the changes to her by the end of this week.

## 11.

### Other:

**NOTE: This call is the last one using the current call in number and service.**

**Steve Hewitt was asked by AASHTO to contract with a new service provider as they are transitioning away from the current provider – Open Voice – Steve has contracted with WebEx through his consulting firm and will host all NGEN calls.**

**The new service will have additional features including; access by phone and/or computer and audio/video/presentation capabilities.**

**The new call in information is:**

**By computer:**

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

**By phone:**

**1-415-655-0001**

**Access code:**

**126-073-1531**

**A new calendar appointment will be sent out via Outlook for all NGEN calls.**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (8-11-20) at 11:52 am Eastern.

**The next conference call will be 8-25-20**

## Decisions/Action Items

### Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-11-20:

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete. The Cab Car brake system FDR occurred on July 9<sup>th</sup>. IDOT galley FDR reviews and releases are ongoing, and the latest galley review occurred on June 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*Travel restrictions are being evaluated, but travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing has not been possible with no known upcoming change. Video and photos continue to be provided for tests that SMEs are unable to witness and this has been successfully demonstrated using remote live video for cab car CEM element testing in July. NEC testing is complete, and the test report is under review by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete as of last week. The IDOT 238.111 test runs on the IDOT corridors are expected to be performed in September.*

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

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 8-11-20:**

Ray Hessinger reported that while the procurement effort remains under the “cone of silence” as Metro-North continues to review proposals.

**Next update – 9-8-20.**

**Document Control Update – 8-11-20:**

Tammy Krause was unavailable for this call but provided an update for inclusion in the minutes. Steve Hewitt provided the update for the minutes:

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**Next Update – 9-8-20**

**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.

**On 8-11-20, Steve Hewitt noted that he plans to reach out to Mario Bergeron, VIA Rail, to see if he or his colleagues would be able to provide an update on these procurements on the next call of the Executive Board (either 8-25-20 or 9-8-20).**

**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.

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**Next Update: as appropriate**

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**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call**

**8-11-20**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern**

**Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

**Agenda**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 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 7-14-20 conference call meeting                                       | Ray Hessinger |
| 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  | Momo Tamaoki  |
| 7. Update: Ct DOT Rail Car Procurement  | Steve Hewitt  |
| 8. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement   | Ray Hessinger |
| 9. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements  | Charlie King  |
| 10. Update: Document Control  | Tammy Krause  |
- Status: Finalizing Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B
  - Status: DMU Spec update – timeline for completion
  - Status: Updating list of Technical working group members
  - Status/timeline: Updating DRAFT "Recommended Practices" document for working group review

11. Other

All

**Next Meeting – 8-25-20**