



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: January 31, 2016

Submitted by: Steven J Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGEC Support Services

Public law 110-432 required Amtrak to:

...establish a Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee, comprised of representatives of Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, host freight railroad companies, passenger railroad equipment manufacturers, interested States, and, as appropriate, other passenger railroad operators.

"The purpose of the Committee shall be to design, develop specifications for, and procure standardized next-generation corridor equipment.

(b) Functions – the Committee may –

1) Determine the number of different types of equipment required, taking into account variations in operational needs and corridor infrastructure.

2) Establish a pool of equipment to be used on corridor routes funded by participating states; and

3) Subject agreements between Amtrak and States, utilize services provided by Amtrak to design, maintain and remanufacture equipment."

Executive Board

Chair: Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT

Vice Chair: Mario Bergeron, Amtrak

Secretary: Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT

Treasurer: Darrell Smith, Amtrak

The Executive Board holds bi-weekly conference calls – Tuesday's at 11:30am Eastern

During the month of January, 2016, the Executive Board met twice –via conference call - on the 5th and on the 19th. Key decisions and action items from the month of January, 2016 included:

- Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report: the group anticipates having the ownership agreements executed by the participating states by late January or early February, 2016.
- Finance and Administrative subcommittee activities:

Revising/updating the NGEC Bylaws and Operating Procedures: Proposed Revisions have been approved out of the subcommittee and submitted to the NGEC Executive Board. The changes were primarily in three categories: typo/punctuation corrections; incorporating FAST Act language into the document; and formally incorporating the 514 Subcommittee into the Bylaws.

Steve Hewitt confirmed that the revised DRAFT, as approved by the FASC, was transmitted to the NGEC Board members on 1-16-16, in compliance with the Bylaws requirements that changes to the Bylaws be submitted in writing to all Board members at least 30 days prior to the meeting during which a vote is to be taken. The intent is to consider approval of the changes at the NGEC Annual Meeting – 2-19-16

Legislative Outreach Task Force Activities: The Legislative Outreach task force met on 1-15-16. The task force reviewed a draft two page “message” document prepared by MoDOT. The document is under review with recommended changes being incorporated.

Website Review: A meeting was held among Darrell Smith, Amtrak, Steve Hewitt, NGEC, Bryan Hong, AASHTO, Shayne Gill, AASHTO, to discuss updates to the NGEC website to refresh its look and make it more user friendly. Bryan Hong had reformatted the 514 subcommittee page, and is now in the process of using that same format to update and format the Executive Board and all other subcommittee pages for consistency and ease of use. Other changes such as adding a link to the opening page that will provide information on how to join the NGEC have been or are in the process of being implemented. These updates are next steps towards improving the site in the near term. Long term changes include the possibility of making the NGEC website a standalone site as opposed to being a part of the AAASHTO High Speed Rail website. The NGEC does have its own URL so the transition can be accomplished relatively easily.

Specification User Fee task force: The task force met on 1-20-16 and will report its findings to the Board in February.

Outreach to SAIPRC re: proposed 209 like membership fee: Darrell Smith and Eric Curtit have not been able to connect on a call with David Kutrosky, SAIPRC Chair, and need to “circle” back to get it scheduled. Darrell asked Steve Hewitt to assist in getting a call scheduled.

- The “backgrounder” educational document remains available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at shwitt109@aol.com with the number of copies requested and a mailing address.
- 514 Subcommittee update: The Policy Memo from the NGEC to SAIPRC was approved out of the 514 subcommittee and submitted to NGEC Chair Eric Curtit and NGEC Support Manager Steve Hewitt this morning (1-19-16). A clean (no track changes) version of the memo will be sent to Steve Hewitt following today’s call, and he will transmit it to Chairman Curtit, and the Executive Board members for their review. The memo will be considered for approval on the 2-2-16 Executive Board conference call.
- Bi-Level Car Procurement status as of January 19-16: Nippon Sharyo continues the process of revising the schedule; a QA update is under review; the car shell re-design effort continues, and two days of meetings were to take place in Chicago among the states, FRA and the manufacturers on 1-20-21-2016
- Diesel-electric Locomotive Procurement status as of December, 2015: The multi-state locomotive procurement continues to progress well and on time.
- GAO Study: Members of a GAO project team have begun to conduct interviews with members of the Technical subcommittee working group team leaders and industry participants.

The team has continued to participate on Technical subcommittee calls (on a monthly basis) to listen and to provide periodic updates on as the project progresses. On 1-14-16, the team provided its most recent update, and is scheduled to give its next update on 2-11-16. Steve Hewitt provides a status update to the NGEC Executive Board each month.

- Adoption of the Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3rd Rail) specification – status as of -31-16: Larry Salci completed is review of the specification against the requirements document, and of 1-28-16, the Review Panel met to consider the report with recommendations. On 2-2-16, the Executive Board is anticipating consideration of approval of the report with recommendations and subsequent adoption of the Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Locomotive Specification.
- 2016 NGEC Annual Meeting: The NGEC’s 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on 2-19-16 at the Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill. Steve Hewitt sent an appointment notice to all NGEC members to hold the date. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the AASHTO SCORT Washington DC meeting taking place on 2-17-18-2016. As of 1-31-16 there were 57 registered attendees for the Annual Meeting.

Technical Subcommittee:

Chair: Mario Bergeron, Amtrak

Vice Chair: Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak

The Technical subcommittee holds bi-weekly conference calls on Thursday's at 3:00pm Eastern

During the month of January, 2016, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference calls on the 14th and 28th. Key decisions and action items for the month of January, 2016, included:

- RVAAC: RVAAC presented its recommendations for improved access on rail vehicles to the Access Board on July 29, 2015. On October 8, 2015, Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that she has learned that because the report was produced by an advisory committee, the Access Board is not bound by its recommendations and will probably not be making any statement about approving or disapproving the report. The next step is for the Access Board to review the report and then decide how to proceed. There is a backlog in rulemaking projects, and so it was not decided how and when to proceed with those recommendations. Melissa will keep the subcommittee apprised.
- Accessibility Working Group Update: Progress continues on the restroom drawings. On 12-17-15, Melissa Shurland reported that the Accessibility Working Group had a meeting during the week with participants from Amtrak, FRA, manufacturers and the Access Board, to review Oregon State University's (OSU) preliminary work on accessibility restrooms. Good feedback was received and OSU will go back and incorporate the comments received accordingly. Melissa will provide a status report at the NGEN Annual Meeting on 2-19-16.
- The PRIIA Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Passenger Locomotive Technical Specification adoption: On January 28, 2016, Larry Salci reported that he had completed his review of the specification and the Review Panel met earlier on the 28th and approved the report and its recommendations. It has been submitted (1-29-16) to the Executive Board for its consideration on 2-2-16.
- Backgrounder educational document: The 2015 version of the "Backgrounder" remains available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com if you want to receive "Backgrounders".
- DEF Working Group: On 1-28-16, during the Technical subcommittee call, Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, provided the following, detailed, DEF working group update and noted that it precedes a PowerPoint presentation that will be given by IDOT (John Oimoen) at the NGEN Annual Meeting:

Presentation highlights:

Fuel and DEF needs estimated for the Mid-West routes have favorably compared to the fuel needs of the P42's currently in use – thus additional fueling locations should not be required. The comparison estimates were made with regard to both the Bi-level cars and the current cars in service.

Short and Long term plans for delivering of the fuel have been developed. Short term – delivery by trucks; long term - storage facilities.

Fuel filling points have been identified.

Meetings have been held with DEF suppliers on nozzle styles and availability.

Schedule highlights:

Service locations – July, 2016

Contract with Amtrak for DEF by the first quarter 2016.

Amtrak is looking at procurement of DEF – working with the suppliers on this.

Vendors to be in place by the 3rd quarter, 2016

Testing by the 4th quarter, 2016.

Next steps:

IDOT agreement with Amtrak so that Amtrak can secure the vendors.

Resolving short and long term needs.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 2-1-16.

- Diesel- Electric Locomotive procurement update as of 1-28-16 (provided by IDOT):

The invoice RI-149363C for the option order was paid on December 28th.

The invoice for milestone E (Invoice #10 for the base order), associated with FDR has been paid by IDOT, as well.

All of the vendor factory FAIs are complete. The remaining FAIs will take place at Siemens' factory in Sacramento.

The monthly QA review was held in Sacramento on January 13th in Sacramento. The next meeting will be scheduled for mid-February.

A planning meeting with Siemens, Amtrak, MARC and IDOT, for 125 mph testing on the NEC, was held on January 22, in Philadelphia.

The carbody compression and other structural tests are planned for next month (February 2016).

Rich Stegner will begin to send draft DCRs to Tammy Krause, within the next couple of weeks. The list re-capping the DCRs has been sent to Tammy. Camren Cordell will assist. Rich Stegner apologizes that this activity has not happened quicker.

Follow up Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) continue working on an on-going basis for the action items from the AAR Standard vehicle qualification testing and acceptance. AAR's David Cackovic is the facilitator.

The Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) planning team is reviewing logistics for fueling locations. The next meeting is planned for 2/1/2016.

The locomotive weight was reported in December 2015, at 271,711 lbs (+/-), due to actual component weights coming in a bit better than expected. The contractor has verbally indicated that the weight report will reduce a few hundred pounds with the next report. The calculated P2 force is within specified limits. Weight is being closely monitored, each month."

- Bi-Level Car Procurement Update provided by Caltrans, as of 1-28-16:

There was a car shell update meeting held on 1-12-16 – the next update meeting will take place in the beginning of February.

The target for car shell re-design review meeting is May, 2016.

The project schedule remains under review – as of yet "it has not met our expectations". A new proposed schedule is expected to be submitted for consideration in mid-February.

A Bi-level report/presentation is planned for the NGEC Annual Meeting – 2-19-16 in Washington, DC.

- AAR Committee Update: The committee was formed to establish standards to address the new passenger equipment that will coming on line in the near future. The committee will develop a list of standards most of which are related to VTI and shunting. The standards will not apply to the PRIIA procurements but will be used as a comparison against them as they are underway to see if they work. Next update – 2-11-16
- GAO/NGEC project: Maria Wallace, GAO, provided an update on the GAO study to the Technical subcommittee on 1-14-16. She reported that the GAO team is continuing its review of FRA's performance

with regard to grant management, including the NGEC, and that they (GAO) are beginning to write a draft report, Maria anticipates a draft being sent to the agency for comment in an April timeframe.

Excerpts relating to the NGEC will be sent to Steve Hewitt for his review.

Next GAO update to the Technical subcommittee: 2-11-16.

The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee

Chair: Darrell Smith, Amtrak CFO

Vice Chair: Brent Thompson, Washington State DOT

Vice Chair: Ray Hessinger, New York State DOT

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee holds a conference call every four weeks on Wednesdays at 3:00pm Eastern.

During the Month of January, 2016, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) held its monthly meeting on the 13th:

- Membership Fee recommendation/outreach to SAIPRC: Darrell Smith will reach out to David Kutrosky, Chair of SAIPRC, to schedule a call to discuss the FASC proposed 209 like membership fee for NGEC States. Participating on the proposed call will be Darrell, David K and Eric Curtit.
- Website review: Agreed upon updates will be incorporated into the website by Bryan Hong, AASHTO. The goal is to have consistency in format throughout the site. Members are welcome to provide additional suggestions to improve the site.
- NGEC Bylaws review: The FASC review is complete, and the FASC, via electronic vote, approved the revisions as presented. On 1-19-16, the revised Bylaws were transmitted to the Executive Board for its review and consideration of approval at the 2-19-16 NGEC Annual Meeting.
- Specification User Fee Task Force: The task force met on 1-20-16. During the call it reviewed its charge from the FASC:

Recommendation 1: Consider a Specification Use Fee as a supplement to funding provided through a continuing federal grant and/or a PRIIA 209 support fee. Narrow the scope of a Specification Use Fee to the following two components:

- a. Parts Suppliers, being the primary requestors of the specifications, charged a nominal fee to be recommended by the FASC by March 31, 2016.*
- b. Non-NGEC Members using a full specification for purchasing rolling stock charged a significant fee, on the order of \$250,000 per equipment-type specification, mechanics of which are to be recommended by the FASC by March 31, 2016. The mechanics include but are not limited to determining who is considered a NGEC Member for this purpose, developing the method of fee collection, and establishing the specification use rights of the purchaser.*

On Part A.:

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed:

The task force should report back to the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) that it has reviewed Recommendation 1 and has determined the following:

1. Part A. – the task force agreed to not pursue Part A.
2. Part B. - The task force has reviewed and discussed the market, and has determined that there is not sufficient enough right now to bear the administrative burden of charging a fee as described in Part B.

There may be further opportunities to explore the potential, in the future, for individual funding of specification updates.

- Legislative Outreach Task Force – is charged with developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEN. The task force met on 1-15-16 and reviewed a draft two-page educational document. The document, as drafted, was subsequently submitted to the full FASC for its review on 2-10-16.
- Interpreting NGEN related provisions contained in the FAST Act: Jeff Gordon will ask FRA staff to review the NGEN related FAST Act provisions and provide its interpretation of its impacts and implementation. Darrell Smith, Amtrak will ask Amtrak legal for an interpretation as well. This will be carried as an action item with a status update scheduled for the next FASC call (2-10-16)

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Ron Pate, Washington State DOT

The 514 Subcommittee holds monthly conference calls on Mondays at 4:00PM Eastern.

On January 19, 2016, the following subcommittee progress report was provided to the Executive Board:

Unit used forecasts for all states have been received for the 2017-2021 minor update.

The schedule calls for a DRAFT of the minor update from Amtrak on March 31, 2016.

The Policy Memo from the NGEN to SAIPRC was approved out of the 514 subcommittee and submitted to NGEN Chair Eric Curtit and NGEN Support Manager Steve Hewitt this morning (1-19-16).

NGEN Specification Review Panel(s):

For each PRIIA NGEN specification a Review Panel has been established to compare the specification (as developed by the Technical subcommittee) against a requirements document previously adopted by the Executive Board. As the Review Panel completes its work, it prepares a report with recommendations. This report is submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration. Once accepted by the Board, the specification is subsequently formally adopted by the Executive Board. As part of the Document Control process, any proposed revisions to a PRIIA NGEN specification must go through the Review Panel process as well. At such times, the Review Panel previously established for a particular specification is re-convened by the Executive Board chair.

On January 28, 2016, the Executive Board's Locomotive Review Panel approved the Dual Mode (DC 3rd Rail) Locomotive Specification Review Panel Report with recommendations prepared by consultant Larry Salci. The report recommends adoption of the specification as approved previously by the NGEN Technical subcommittee. The adoption of the specification is expected to take place on 2-2-16. Once approved this will be the 6th PRIIA Vehicle Specification developed and adopted by the NGEN.