



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: January 31, 2019

Submitted by: Steven J Hewitt, Program Manager, S305 NGEC

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: Charles King, Amtrak

Secretary: Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT

Treasurer: Tim Ziethen, Amtrak

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

During the month of January 2019, the Executive Board met twice, via conference call, on the 15th and 29th.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of January 2019 include:

- Procurement Updates:

Status Update - Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-29-19 as provided by Caltrans to the NGEC Executive Board:

Of the three critical Cab Car DCRs, two have been approved by the NGENC subcommittee – Carbody/Cab Construction and Cab Area Floor Height. The pending Car Length Over Couplers DCR has been withdrawn. Caltrans discussed issues with Charlie and Eric, and both are aware of our request to withdraw. A DCR regarding the PRIIA vertical curve requirements has been submitted to NGENC. DCRs for HVAC testing are in work to align the PRIIA testing section with the system requirements section.

System-level FDR approvals of the Carbody & Clearance, Water & Waste, HVAC, Gap Filler, Digital Communications, Diagnostic System, Double Sliding Step, Accessible Toilet Room, Safety Appliances, Lighting Systems, Semi-Permanent and H-type couplers, Trucks, Exterior Doors, Interior Doors, Gangway and Brakes have been provided to SCOA/Siemens. Actions for Analog Communication System are complete with closure and system level approval expected soon. Caltrans submittals to FRA for Safety Appliance and Carbody are complete and under review. The package containing the Clearance Envelopes have been submitted to Amtrak for review and approval. Virtual 3D mockups were presented to Caltrans and IDOT to showcase updates to the vestibule area including the End Doors and Trap Doors.

The first 12 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility and final assembly has begun on Carshell #1. Carshell #2 was presented for inspection, initial issues were re-worked and the carshell was accepted after re-inspection. Passivation rework is complete on Carshell #3 and carshell is in storage. Carshell #4 Car shell remains in storage pending scheduling for rework to passivated surfaces. Carshell #5 has completed passivation and carshells 5 through 10 are in various stages of weld and integration. The expansion of the Sacramento production facility is structurally complete and being equipped with cranes and fixtures.

Caltrans met with the ADA community on January 15 to present updates to the Café Car and Cab concepts and discuss the placement of the accessible toilet rooms. A meeting with the Midwest ADA community is in planning. Thank you SJJPA, Duncan & Marie for providing feedback on the revised café car layout. We will compile everyone's comments and send it to Siemens for review and considerations.

The FAI process is underway and FAIs have occurred for the Carshell Complete, Digital Communication System, Lighting System, Couplers, Sanitary System, Sidewall Lining, FRP Panels, Brake System, Interior Doors, Truck Frame, Flooring and heated panel and Battery Charger. Open items are being addressed and the FAIs are revisited for closure by the customer team as needed. FAI for the Low Floor and High Floor Door Panel is to be conducted in early February. The HVAC, Full Truck, Sliding Step, Seats, Electrical Cabinet and Window FAI's are also scheduled for February.

Status Update: Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 1-29-19:

Metro-North has reissued its Dual Mode Locomotive RFP as a federally funded endeavor. They are following the same process as before – a two phase approach – pre-qualification and technical proposals. The due date for prequalification statements was reported as 1-29-19.

Status Update: Amtrak Locomotive Procurement as of 1-29 -19:

Locomotives:

Charlie King reported that a Notice to Proceed has been issued to Siemens for the Charger Locomotives. The current order is for 75. There are options for more, but, for now 75 seems to be the right number.

Single Level Trainset/cars:

An RFP for the Amfleet 1 replacement program for the aging NEC fleet has been issued. It is an RFP that is quite open on the specification. As it did with the Locomotive RFP, Amtrak wants to see what is out there and what options it may have.

- Document Control Update – 1-29-19:

Tammy Krause provided an update on 1-29-19:

There were four outstanding DCRs and one drawing for the Single level Specification. One of the DCRs 003-0177 has been withdrawn; two of the DCRs, 003-0178 and 003-0179 are waiting approval by the Executive Board and DCR 003-180 is currently under review by the VTI group. The drawing is waiting until it can be approved by the Technical Subcommittee. The 92 trainset DCRs are still with the working groups.

Discussion:

Larry Salci, tasked to prepare the Single Level Car Review Panel Report, commented that, with the withdrawal of the car length DCR, he is proceeding with the report on the other approved DCRs. He had one question regarding the status of the DCR having to with vertical curve. Tammy noted that the VTI technical working group has that DCR for adjudication. Brian Marquis is the team leader and has just gotten back to work following the government shutdown. Tammy will contact Brian to see where this DCR stands. Meanwhile, Larry Salci will proceed with completion of the Review Panel Report without the inclusion of the vertical curve DCR unless told otherwise.

Larry noted that he intends to have the report (DRAFT) done by the end of this week (2-1-19) and will send it to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the Review Panel members. Steve Hewitt polled the panel members on 1-29-19 and scheduled a call for the Review Panel to meet on 2-7-19 to review and consider for approval, the DRAFT report and recommendations.

The intent is to have the report and its recommendations finalized in advance of the Executive Board call scheduled for 2-12-19. At that time, it will be presented for Board consideration of adoption.

- Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group update as of 1-29-19:

The working group last met on 1-24-19.

Status reports were provided by 2 of the 4 section team leaders (Revenue Service – Industry member, Dick Bruss and Planning – Jennifer Bastian, IDOT). 2 team leaders (Implementation – Caltrans, Momo Tamaoki, and Long-Term Operation Maintenance – Jason Biggs/Curt Massie, WSDOT) were not available for the call.

All team leaders have been asked to continue to work on their section DRAFTS and to send out whatever they have (completed DRAFT if possible) for review by the next scheduled working group call which will take place on 2-7-19.

The goal has been to have a DRAFT full report ready for presentation at the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-22-19. Each section, to date, is in varying stages of completion, so a full draft by 2-22-19 may not be feasible.

There will, however, be a status update on progress made on each section of the report at the annual meeting. The plan is to ask each section leader to provide a progress report and an overview description of their report section. If there is enough drafted material ready to be compiled and distributed at the meeting, that will be done as well.

- Charger Updates from States and Amtrak:

Background:

In October 2018, NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit requested summary updates on the Chargers since they had been placed in service.

Updates were provided on 10-23-18 – (see below) - the next updates will be provided at the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-22-19:

a. Illinois/Mid-West States:

Jennifer Bastian reported that the overall equipment delivery and performance of the new Charger Locomotives has been the best she has seen. She noted that it is her understanding that it has exceeded Amtrak's expectations.

Operationally, it has been a good procurement.

One area of concern, however, is warrantee support and parts availability. The Mid-West states are working with Siemens to correct this situation.

b. California:

Kyle Gradinger agreed with Jennifer that the procurement has been a good one operationally. Caltrans' concerns are similar to those noted by IDOT – warrantee support – and parts availability. Overall, Kyle commented, - “operationally, when they are running, they work great”. He added that engineers enjoy the cab and the acceleration is great – “overall we are very happy with the operation.”

Kyle did mention that there are some glitches with the design of the snow plow – noting that California doesn't need a snow plow and it is ultimately used for shopping carts and tumble weed which can be problematic under the current design.

c. Amtrak:

Charlie King, Amtrak, echoed the comments made by California and IDOT and noted that Amtrak is measuring the information closely and looking at availability of parts and overall warranty support.

Charlie added that “we need robust part support from Siemens and technical support as well...we need to partner with Siemens and need a good and tight relationship between the states and Siemens and Amtrak, the states and Siemens.”

- Executive Board approval - updated NGEC two-pager and revised vision statement 1-29-19:

Background:

On 12-12-18, the NGEC Finance and Administration subcommittee approved a change to the NGEC vision statement included in the two-page educational document and recommended adoption of this change by the Executive Board. This change will also be made to the NGEC vision statement, itself, from which the two-pager statement was derived.

The FASC also agreed to ask the Document Control Manager to provide updated information on the two-pager section pertaining to the NGEC specifications latest revision updates.

The new two-pager statement, as proposed by the FASC, reads:

"As the national leader in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment, the NGEC is delivering results."

This would pertain also to the general vision statement which would read:

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

On the 1-15-19 Executive Board call, the recommendations for changes to the two-pager and vision statement were discussed with no action taken due to the lack of a quorum.

The Document Control Manager has provided updated information on the specification revisions.

The intent, today (1-29-19), is to ask Board members to approve the revisions to the two-pager and vision statement so MoDOT graphic arts can update and print copies for distribution at the annual meeting.

A motion to approve the recommended changes to the two-pager and the NGEC vision statement was offered by John Oimoen, IDOT and seconded by Allan Paul, NCDOT.

With no further discussion forthcoming, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus had been achieved and the motion is approved. Eric will ask Missouri DOT's graphic arts department to make the changes and print copies for distribution during the NGEC annual meeting. Steve Hewitt will make the change to the NGEC Vision statement on all correspondence effective immediately.

- Preparing for the 2019 NGEC Annual Meeting – Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill, Washington DC – 2-22-19 – Steve Hewitt:

Update: 1-29-19:

Room Block Information – Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC:

The Room Block cut-off date has been extended due to the partial government shutdown. Attendees have until **February 5, 2019** to reserve their room at the group rate.

Hyatt Regency Washington On Capitol Hill

400 New Jersey Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20001

https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/washington-dc/hyatt-regency-washington-on-capitol-hill/wasrw?corp_id=G-AHT9

DRAFT Agenda:

Steve Hewitt provided the Executive Board with a brief overview of the revised DRAFT agenda sent to all Board members on 1-25-19.

All speakers have been asked to confirm their availability with Steve Hewitt.

All speakers are asked to use the NGENC power point template and to submit the presentation to Steve Hewitt electronically by 2-16-19.

Several speakers still need to be identified and confirmed.

As of 1-29-19 all Executive Board members, other than Oklahoma, have confirmed their attendance or have designated a representative to act on their behalf at the meeting.

Registration: All those expecting to attend the meeting should register with Steve Hewitt, via email, asap so that an accurate head count can be provided to AASHTO and so that name badges can be printed.

As of 1-30-19, there are 58 registrants for the meeting. FRA, due to the just ended shutdown, has not provided information on who will be attending the meeting other than Executive Board designee Michael Lestingi.

Beth Nachreiner, FRA, will check with Michael Lestingi to confirm that he will give the FRA update at the annual meeting, and she will confirm additional FRA attendance and provide the names to Steve Hewitt.

Technical Subcommittee:

Chair: Charles King, Amtrak

Vice Chair: George Hull, Amtrak

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

During the month of January 2019, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference call, on the 10th and the 24th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of January 2019, included:

- Status of the activities to update ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking. Status as of 1-24-19:

On 1-10-19, Paul Jamieson provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

“The eight APTA PRESS ECP standards have completed the public comment period without any comments being received. The standards will now be subject to the PRESS Policy and Planning Committee review to assure that all the requirements for publication have been satisfied. The standards will be released after the review is completed. Notification will be provided when the standards are available on the APTA website.”

- Backgrounder educational document:

On 1-29-19, the NGEC Executive Board adopted updates to the two-page educational/backgrounder document. The changes included a revision to the NGEC vision statement and updating of the dates of revisions made to the NGEC specifications. Copies of the new two pager will be distributed at the annual meeting on 2-22-19 and will be available thereafter by request. Contact Steve Hewitt: shewitt109@aol.com

- AWG/RVACC Update as of 1-24-19:

Background:

At the 2018 annual meeting, Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided an update on the activities of the Accessibility Working Group and on the RVACC effort. The presentation is available on line on the NGEC website at www.ngec305.org.

The last update provided to the Technical subcommittee was on 10-4-18 when Melissa Shurland reported that there still has been no word from the RVACC on the possible release of a rule for accessibility on Rail Vehicles.

No further updates have been provided.

- Document Control Update:

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

Procurement Updates:

- Multi-State Car Procurement - Caltrans (Lead State): Progress reports from the lead state on the PRIIA multi-state car procurement is provided on each Technical subcommittee call and each Executive Board call.

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

- Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

- Amtrak Equipment Procurement Updates: Progress reports are provided by AMTRAK CMO and NGEC Vice Chair, Charlie King on a regular basis.

See the update provided in the Executive Board section of this report.

- AAR Updates:

On 1-24-19, Eric Sherrock, ENSCO, provided the following update on the LED light testing Phase II. ENSCO is supporting the FRA Office Research, Development and Technology and AAR on this effort.

“Phase 2 focused on subjective static field testing of LED lights that were deemed eligible for consideration following Phase 1 laboratory-based testing. Phase 2 field testing was successfully completed in October at the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello, IL. Test personnel are in the process of analyzing and documenting the test results. These should be available in Q1 of 2019. FRA is working with AAR to arrange for Phase 3 testing of the locomotive LED lights in early 2019.”

- DEF-UREA Implementation Update as of 1-24-19:

The last update was provided on 11-15-18 by Art Peterson for IDOT:

The DEF update is very straight-forward – there have been no issues in the supply of DEF at any of the locations on the Midwest “Hub” network. It is all working very smoothly.

The next update will be requested as appropriate.

- University of Nebraska study on High Speed wireless technology as of 1-24-19:

On 1-10-19, Hamid Sharif-Kashani reported that they have been working on modeling and simulation to evaluate data traffic and wireless technology for high speed. The modeling tool is complete and is being evaluated for different scenarios.

The next phase is testing and evaluating in the field vs. simulation tools.

On 1-10-19, asked by Steve Hewitt if Hamid still wanted to give a presentation along with Tarek Omar, FRA, at the NGEN Annual Meeting on 2-22-19, as requested, Hamid responded that he would check and get back to Steve. Steve noted that it is on the current DRAFT agenda, as a placeholder.

Hamid has since informed Steve Hewitt that he has a schedule conflict and will not be able to present at the NGEN Annual Meeting. This item has been removed from the DRAFT agenda. Steve Hewitt will work with Hamid and NGEN Chairman Eric Curtit to provide time on an upcoming Board call for a brief overview of the study.

Contact Information:

Hamid Sharif Kashani
Phone: 402-554-3628
Email: hsharif@unl.edu

- Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group:

On 1-24-19, Tom Sisler (Working Group Leader) provided the following update:

"We just distributed a new draft of our requirements specification for the working group to review for our meeting next month (February 2019)."

- 2019 NGEN Annual Meeting – 2-22-19 Washington DC – Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill:

On 1-24-19, Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of the DRAFT agenda for the Annual Meeting. It has been tentatively approved as DRAFT and is subject to change. The agenda has been sent to all NGEN members.

Registering for the meeting:

In order to be registered for the NGEN meeting, please send an email separately to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. There is no registration fee for the NGEN meeting. Registering with Steve is important for head count and for printing name badges and putting together meeting packets.

Further details can be found in the Executive Board section of this report.

The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee

Chair: Tim Ziethen, Amtrak

Vice Chair: Brent Thompson, Washington State DOT

Vice Chair: Ray Hessinger, New York State DOT

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

During the Month of January 2019, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met once, on the 9th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of January 2019, included:

- Review: FASC & Treasurer's Report presentation for the 2019 NGEC Annual Meeting – Tim Ziethen,

On 1-9-19, Tim Ziethen provided an updated draft of the Annual meeting FASC and Treasurer's report presentation.

On the FASC call of 1-9-19, Tim gave an overview of the presentation with a focus on slides related to the Treasurer's report and the level of detail contained therein.

In general, there were few comments from FASC members on the presentation. NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit requested that the report include the spend rate for not only the current grant, but over the life of the NGEC. Eric noted that in the early years with specification development, the spend rate was higher, and it is important to understand that the current rate is reflective of the activities undertaken at this time. He pointed out that going forward, depending on what is asked of the NGEC, there may be a need to develop additional specification or undertake other activities that would increase the spend rate.

Tim Ziethen agreed with Eric's suggestion and will include the overall spend rate as well as the current rate in the next draft.

Tim will also update the numbers in the final draft to include the most recent expenditures.

Tim also agreed to provide the "Final" draft a few days prior to the next FASC call (2-6-19) for review and comment by the subcommittee members.

NGEC Specification Review Panel(s):

For each PRIIA NGEC 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 NGEC specification must go through the Review Panel process as well. At such times, the Review Panel, previously established for a specification, is re-convened by the Executive Board chair.

The Review Panels for the NGEC did not meet during the month of January 2019, but the Single Level Car Specification Panel has been re-convened and provided with DCRs approved by the Technical subcommittee. As of 1-30-19 Consultant Larry Salci is completing a DRAFT report with recommendations for Review Panel members review and consideration. The report will be completed and distributed to members by 2-1-19, and the panel will meet, via conference call, to review and consider approval of the report and its recommendations on 2-7-19. Once approved by the panel, the report will be sent to the NGEC executive Board for its consideration. This is expected to take place on 2-12-19.