



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: October 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 October 2016, the Executive Board met two times via conference call - on the 11th and the 25th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of October, 2016 included:

- Applying for a new grant for the NGEC – On 10-25-16, Michael Lestingi, FRA, reported that the new Grant Agreement has left FRA and is with Amtrak for its counter signature. He anticipates that it will be signed soon and sent back to FRA. The agreement will be effective October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019.

(Note: On 10-31-16 FRA informed the NGEC that the Grant Agreement had been signed and fully executed on 10-25-16 effective 10-1-16 through 9-30-19. Steve Hewitt forwarded a copy of the signed agreement to NGEC Executive Board and Finance and Administrative subcommittee members on 10-31-16).

- Project Close Out Report: Now that the final invoice for has been processed and submitted to the FRA Darrell Smith, Amtrak, will prepare a first Draft of the report for review by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) on its next call – 11-16-16. The intent is to get the FASC approval on that call, and to send it to the Executive Board for its consideration on 11-22-16, and to send the approved report to FRA by 12-1-16.
- New Grant Quarterly Report Requirements – Milestones: The new Grant agreement calls for a change in reporting requirements in that it includes milestones. In the initial Grant quarterly report, the NGEC activities reports were used as a basis for the quarterly grant report. That will remain the case, with the additional element of including milestones in the report. On 10-25-16 Board members were asked to send suggested milestones for inclusion in the new Grant Quarterly reports, to Darrell Smith and Steve Hewitt. The first report will be due in January, 2017 and will cover the months of October, November and December, 2016.

On 10-25-16 the Board requested IDOT and/or Caltrans to work with the manufacturers (Nippon Sharyo and Siemens) to provide jobs numbers from the two ongoing NGEC procurements to be included as a milestone in the quarterly report. John Oimoen, IDOT, agreed to work on getting jobs numbers from the manufacturers for inclusion as a milestone in the reports.

- 514 Subcommittee update: The 514 subcommittee is getting ready to begin the next CIP update which will be a “major” update which will include policy updates. Executive Board members are asked to review the last three CIP updates and the accompanying transmittal memos. If any Board members have comments or suggestions on how to improve the CIP document, please forward those comments to Brian Beeler or another member of the subcommittee.

Mario Bergeron, Brian Beeler, and Eric Curtit will have a call to further discuss the possibility of having a face to face meeting either in Wilmington or at Beech Grove for either the NGEC or 514 subcommittee.

- Two page educational/outreach document: The new educational/outreach document describing the NGEC’s accomplishments to date was approved, as final, and ready for printing on 10-25-16. Steve Hewitt has distributed the electronic version to all NGEC members and has advised AASHTO as to how many copies to print.

Executive Board members were asked to provide mailing addresses to Steve Hewitt so that two hard copies of the document can be sent to each Board member.

- Status Update – Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement:

On 10-25-16, John Oimoen, IDOT, provided the following update:

- *JPEs continue to receive Siemens’ weekly revised schedule and conduct weekly conference calls. The main basis for revised weekly schedules reflects on-going testing up-dates.*
- *Testing of the first two pilot locomotives is complete at TTCI. All tests have been successful and the locomotives are en-route back to Siemens’ Sacramento factory.*
- *The four MARC cars were used at TTCI for locomotive propulsion tests for the revenue simulation Test and should also be en-route back to Maryland.*
- *Vehicle Qualification Testing on the North-East Corridor, is also complete. All testing went well with no issues noted. During the testing, nearly 1,000 failure-free miles were accumulated on locomotive 4604.*
- *2 IDOT locomotives ready to ship from Siemens and will be released as soon as IDOT and Amtrak are ready.*
- *IDOT has submitted final draft for 238.111(b) test plan to Amtrak for comments, then submittal to FRA. Other JPEs are working with Amtrak for 238.111(a) test plans.*
- *JPEs are working with Siemens for Wi-Tronix application, now required by Amtrak.*
- *All Document Change Requests (DCR) have been distributed to the locomotive sub-team leaders for review.*
- *As-Built weights have been reported at a bit less than 267, 000 lbs. (+/-). This is a little bit better than previously estimated. The calculated P2 force is within specified limits. As other locomotives are weighed, we will report.*

- Status Update Bi-Level Car Procurement:

On 10-25-16, Bruce Roberts, Caltrans, reported that progress continues FAIs and the car shell re-design. The goal is to have the model refinement ready for review in Japan in late January, 2017.

There is a team in Rochelle, Illinois now doing a QAQC FAI review to bring staff on board to ramp up for pre-production for the R&D car.

Reprinted below is the more formal update on other aspects of the procurement as provided to the Technical subcommittee on October 6th:

FAIs – We are now gearing up for the Passenger Seat/Table, Food Service FAIs. The Pre-FAI for the Passenger Seat and Table took place on 9/1. The KSU is in the process of correcting all the workmanship issues they found at the Pre-FAI to prepare for the official customer witness FAI. The drawings for food service are being submitted continuously for the SME's review. NS also submitted an FAI plan to break up the Food Service FAI for more efficient review and approval. The Food Service FAI schedule was submitted by the vendor for customer team's review. Amtrak Public Health group is actively assisting Caltrans in reviewing these system FAIs prior to the official FDA inspection. The sub-supplier for the ATR/UTR will be re-locating to Tennessee from New York. This will cause some delay in scheduling the ATR/UTR FAI, but will still be completed well in advance of the production.

Carshell – We continue to have regular updates from NS to review the progress of the carshell re-design issues, and the schedule for the design activities. Carshell design activities are proceeding in accordance with the schedule requirements of the supplemental design review scheduled in January 2017. We met last week (week of 10-3-16) for a face to face pre-supplemental design review meeting with NS. We will report the progress on the design at the next technical subcommittee conference call.

Testing – The follow up seat dynamic test took place on 9/15 & 16, but has not received official results yet. We have heard that it went well. We completed the Primary Energy Absorber and Fuse Testing in Japan (September 17 through 23.) Our SME reported that these tests also went very well. The coupler test is scheduled for the end of the year in Germany.

Misc. – The face to face Project Management meeting between Caltrans, IDOT and NS/SCOA took place on October 4 in Sacramento, and it was productive. The FAI Plan audit will take place at the end of October. The Manufacturing and QA meeting is scheduled at the same time, at the end of October. NS provided the official copy of the rendering of each of the Caltrans and IDOT cab cars, and Caltrans shared that with the NGENC.

- Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report: the states continue to work on lease and ownership agreements. In October, the states conducted a webinar for MPOs in the Mid-West on intercity passenger rail implementation.
- On 10-25-16, preparations were begun for the 2017 NGENC Annual Meeting:
 - a. Setting the Date: The date of the meeting is: 2-24-17 and location will be: Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.
AASHTO has provided a Save the Date notice for the upcoming SCORT, SPRC, SAIPRC and NGENC meetings to be held in Washington, DC the week of 2-20-17 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill. Steve Hewitt has sent the notice to the full NGENC membership and will also send calendar appointments for the NGENC Annual Meeting.
 - b. Developing a DRAFT agenda
Steve and Eric are beginning to develop the DRAFT agenda for the Annual Meeting and ask that members send any suggestions they may have for items beyond those which are the standard items.
 1. Proposed agenda items to date:
 - A. Chairman's Report
 - B. Subcommittee Progress Reports: Technical SC, FASC, 514 SC

- C. Treasurer's Report
- D. Procurement Updates
- E. Mid-West States – Section 6 Progress report

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 October, 2016, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 6th. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of October, 2016, included:

- Updating ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking – it is anticipated that status updates will take place on every other call.

On 10-6-16, Paul Jamieson provided the following update:

ECP Project Report

Interoperability testing was conducted on September 27th and 28th at New York Air Brake – Watertown, NY. Some action items were identified and will be completed by October 24th. The test committee met via teleconference on September 29th and agreed that the interoperability test was successfully completed and the project will move forward to the static/dynamic train tests which will be conducted on Amtrak NEC.

Training materials for Amtrak operations and maintenance personnel were reviewed on September 29th. The documents were provided to Amtrak so that training can be conducted. Some additional information was identified such as photographs of the final equipment installation which will be added to the training materials. Training must be completed prior to the ECP train entering revenue service.

Loco modification to install the ECP hardware and software was started on October 3rd.

Static and dynamic testing schedule will be reported during future meetings.

- Backgrounder educational document: The Executive Board has approved the document for printing. An electronic version was sent to all NGENC Technical subcommittee members on 10-28-16. Hard copies will be available through Steve Hewitt by request.
- Diesel- Electric Locomotive procurement - On 10-25-16 an update on the Diesel-electric locomotive procurement was provided by IDOT: See Executive Board report above.
- Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – On 10-25-16 an update on the Bi-Level car procurement was provided by Caltrans: See Executive Board report above.
- AAR Committee: AAR is compiling the completed items, with the exception of the VTI section, and will circulate them for review among the committee members.

Next Update: 11-3-16.

- Technical working groups Review/Update of the three PRIIA Single Level Specifications (cars, trainsets, DMUs):

Tammy Krause has compiled the new lists for the Electrical Group and Digital Trainline Group. She has sent the new Interior group members to team leader Andrew Wood, and will be sending the remaining new members to the other groups this week.

All Working Group leaders are asked to provide a list of their members to Tammy Krause and Steve Hewitt for their files and for posting to the website. (ongoing)

- Document Control Update: The Revision C4 version of the Bi-level specification has been completed and is available upon request using the specification request procedures as noted on the NGENC website.

Tammy Krause, Revision Control Coordinator (RCC) for the NGENC has begun to create the Document Change Requests (DCRs) for the next revision of the Single level specification based upon the applicable changes from the Bi-level specification.

- TRB invite to the NGENC Technical subcommittee to participate on a panel session at the TRB Annual Meeting:

The Executive Board, on 9-20-16, agreed this would be a good opportunity and asked Jack Madden to work with Technical subcommittee chair Mario Bergeron to determine who would be the appropriate subcommittee representative to participate on the panel session. On 10-6-16, Technical subcommittee Chairman, Mario Bergeron, requested that Jack Madden inquire of TRB the date for the presentation so that schedules can be confirmed and a Technical subcommittee representative can be named.

- Siemens/All Aboard Florida NGENC specification use – feedback/presentation: On 10-6-16 a presentation on the “Brightline Passenger Coaches and PRIIA-Specification” was provided to Technical subcommittee members by Ray Ginnell, Siemens.

Follow up action items:

Mr. Ginnell will provide the subcommittee with the actual weight of the cars once they have been weighed.

Steve Hewitt will work with Tammy Krause to determine how she wishes to proceed with having the technical working groups review and provide feedback on the Brightline presentation and potential improvements that could be made to the PRIIA specifications based on the All Aboard Experience.

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 October 2016, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) met once – on the 19th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the meeting included:

- Preparing the New Grant SOW and budget for the period beginning 10-1-16 through 9-30-19: On 9-14-16, the FASC accepted as amended, the DRAFT Scope and Budget for submittal to the Executive Board for its consideration on - 9-20-16. This action adheres to the schedule as defined on the last call.

Status: On 9-20-16 the NGENC Executive Board approved the SOW as presented, and previously approved, by the FASC. Amtrak and FRA grants worked together to revise the format, but did not change the scope or budget. On October 14th FRA, informed Amtrak that the Grant application has been filed with the SOW included.

Michael Lestingi was to follow up with the grants office to check on its status. The start date on the application remains 10-1-16.

On 10-25-16, on the Executive Board call, Mr. Lestingi reported that the new Grant agreement had been signed by FRA and had been sent to Amtrak for its counter signature. The Grant Agreement period is from 10-1-16 through 9-30-19.

- Legislative Outreach Task Force – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEC: Each state member and Amtrak is to work with its Government Affairs office and ask that the two pager (currently being finalized) be included in its package during Hill visits to keep the NGEC on Congress' radar even though we are not yet ready to ask for more money.

A “regular update/report card/dash board” will be developed through the NGEC Legislative Task Force with the intent that it be provided to Congress through the states and Amtrak Government Affairs Offices as a means of continuing the outreach and education on the activities of the NGEC.

The first such update is the “two-page” educational/outreach document which has been approved by the NGEC Executive Board approval and an initial order of 300 copies has been submitted to AASHTO publications. Electronic versions have been distributed to all NGEC members with hard copies to be made available upon request.

- Preparing the Project Close Out Report – A close out project report will be due by early to mid-December, 2016, and will be prepared by the FASC for Executive Board review and approval. The form to be used for the project report has been provided to all FASC members.

Darrell Smith will prepare a first Draft of the report for review by the FASC on its next call – 11-16-16. The intent is to get FASC approval on that call and to send it to the Executive Board for its consideration on its call on 11-22-16. This timeline has been presented to the Executive Board and was approved on 10-25-16.

The 514 Subcommittee:

Chair: Brian Beeler II – NNEPRA (Maine DOT)

Vice Chair: Jonathan Dees - NCDOT

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

514 Subcommittee update: Brian Beeler reported that the 514 subcommittee is getting ready for the CIP.

The frequency of conference calls is now once per month. The next call is November 14th and will be a reconciliation call. Brian has asked 514 members and the Board, as well, to think of how to improve the CIP and make it more user friendly.

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 particular specification is re-convened by the Executive Board chair.

In October, 2016, the NGEC Review Panels did not meet.