



## Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: October 31, 2017

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: Mario Bergeron, 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 October 2017, the Executive Board met on the 10th and the 24th.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of September 2017 include:

- Leadership changes:

On 10-24-17, NGEC Executive Board Chairman Eric Curtit appointed Charles King, Amtrak as Vice Chair of the NGEC Executive Board and as Chair of the Technical subcommittee. These appointments will take effect at the close of business on 11-3-17 upon the retirement from Amtrak of current CMO Mario Bergeron.

On 10-24-17, Tim Ziethen, Amtrak was appointed as Treasurer of the NGEC Executive Board and as Chair of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee. These appointments were effective immediately and filled the vacancies that occurred with the departure from Amtrak by Darrell Smith.

- Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

As of 10-24-17, the Section 6 plan is in its final draft stages and is currently going back and forth between IDOT and the FRA. John Oimoen, IDOT, expects that it will be finalized and ready to go within the month of November 2017.

- Finance and Administrative Subcommittee and Grant Activities:

Filling the Vacant Chair position:

On 10-24-17, to fill the vacancy at Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC), Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, was appointed by the NGEN Executive Board as NGEN Treasurer and Chair of the FASC.

Completing the Grant Progress Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter due to FRA 10-30-17:

Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, reported on 10-24-17, that he is working on completing the quarterly grant agreement progress report to FRA and expects to have that done on time (due 10-30-17)

Moving 514 to SAIPRC:

The FASC is preparing By-Law revisions that will remove 514 from the B-Laws and Operating procedures of the NGEN.

On the last call, held on 9-27-17, the FASC agreed to begin a review of the grant agreement SOW and will propose amendments for moving 514. Also, at the suggestion of Amtrak's Grants office, the subcommittee will review the SOW for possible revisions, beyond just the move of 514 to SAIPRC, to reflect current NGEN activities and/or needs.

Contract Extensions:

The support services contract between AASHTO and Amtrak has been extended to run through the life of the grant agreement - 9-30-19. AASHTO has executed an extension to the contract of the NGEN Program Manager also through 9-30-19 and is in the process of extending the other sub-contractor contracts.

- Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group:

On 10-24-17, Eric Curtit reported that the "kick off" meeting of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices and Lessons Learned Working Group has been scheduled for Noon Eastern on 11-2-17. Steve Hewitt has sent out the call-in information and a calendar appointment to all working group volunteers. He also provided the approved memo previously submitted by Chairman Curtit, describing the purpose of the working group. An agenda for 11-2-17 went to all members on 10-30-17.

#### **Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group Members:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair - [Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov)

Sal DeAngelo, FRA [Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov](mailto:Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov)

Joe Paul – Amtrak – [joseph.paul@amtrak.com](mailto:joseph.paul@amtrak.com)

Tim Hoeffner - Michigan DOT - [Hoeffnert@michigan.gov](mailto:Hoeffnert@michigan.gov)

Michael Jenkins – Oregon DOT - [Michael.l.jenkins@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Michael.l.jenkins@odot.state.or.us)

John Oimoen - Illinois DOT- [john.oimeon@illinois.gov](mailto:john.oimeon@illinois.gov)

Jennifer Bastian – Illinois DOT – Designated Alternate – [Jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov](mailto:Jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov)

Jason Biggs – Washington State DOT – Designated Alternate – [biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov)

Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans – [momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov](mailto:momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov)

Paul Jamieson – Industry Member – SNC-Lavalin - [Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com](mailto:Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com)

Dick Bruss – Industry Member – NARP - [rjembruss@gmail.com](mailto:rjembruss@gmail.com)

Steve Hewitt - NGEN Support: Steve Hewitt - [Shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:Shewitt109@aol.com)

Larry Salci – Consultant - [larry@salciconsult.com](mailto:larry@salciconsult.com)

- Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State):

As of 10-24-17, *“Contract Negotiations are still underway to determine if proposed substitute subcontractor is able to fulfill SCOA’s contractual obligations.”*

- Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement:

As of 10-24-17 (provided by Illinois DOT):

a) *All locomotives have completed required testing and all reports have been submitted and received. 110 mph hour testing in MI and the Chicago/St. Louis line will take place when all PTC logistics and software are up and in place. There may be a window of opportunity to do this testing next month when the UP turns off cab signal in that territory.*

b) *IDOT and Siemens have signed conditional and final acceptance on 27 IDOT units.*

c) *IDOT Revenue service started 7/27/2017, with units placed in trailing position. IDOT locomotives began revenue service in Lead Position as of 8/24/2017, but that was suspended, due to a forward-facing camera download problem with Wabtec LDRS-V. This is the data storage for the video recorder. Wabtec, Siemens and Amtrak are addressing. Units continue to operate in trailing position. A new software update was installed last week. We are advised by Amtrak that an issue remains. Siemens and Wabtec are working to resolve the remaining problem. One unit continues in Lead position, others are being used run in trailing position.*

d) *IDOT locomotives 4616 - 4630 have completed burn-in testing at TTCL. Locomotive 4631 experienced a component failure (first locomotive in 30) and will be completed this week. Locomotives 4632 and 4633 will go to TTCL next month. These are the last units of the order that are shipping from Siemens.*

e) *The locomotives stored at TTCL will ship to Chicago, as soon as storage space becomes available. Storage space in Chicago is limited, until the P-42 locomotives are re-deployed by Amtrak.*

f) *All WSDOT Locomotives have been delivered and have completed pre-revenue testing and are ready for revenue service.*

g) *WSDOT is finalizing their lease with Amtrak; they are down to one last item that they are working on.*

h) *All Caltrans Locomotives have been delivered and are operating in revenue service in trailing position.*

i) *The Failure Review Board has been established, with two meetings taking place so far with all JPE’s included and Siemens. The meeting for October was held in Wilmington Del and included a visit to Siemen’s customer service facility. Amtrak representatives were added and are participating in the meetings. The first Bi-weekly warranty meeting was held by Siemens, they are working on setting this up as a recurring meeting with the JPE’s.*

- 514 Subcommittee progress report as of 10-24-17:

On 10-24-17, subcommittee chair, Brian Beeler II, reported that he was unable to give a date for completion of the CIP as he was waiting for Amtrak to add the FRA edits to the document, and was unsure where that was in the process.

Tim Ziethen and Bill Auve, Amtrak, reported that Eric Smith has updated the document with the FRA comments and is formatting it. It is very close to complete and it should be sent to Brian Beeler soon.

Brian commented that, it is possible, that he will be able to get it submitted to the NGEN Executive Board by its next call or the one after that.

Moving 514 to SAIPRC – The FASC subcommittee has begun its review of the By-Laws and the grant agreement SOW and budget and will provide recommendations to the Executive Board of the changes needed to make the move.

The Technical subcommittee update as of 10-24-17:

Filling the upcoming vacancy at Chair:

With the impending retirement of NGEC Vice Chair and Technical subcommittee chair Mario Bergeron, Amtrak, on 10-24-17, Charles King, Amtrak's incoming CMO, was appointed by NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit as Chair of the Technical subcommittee and as Vice Chair of the NGEC Executive Board. Both appointments are effective COB 11-3-17.

Document Management:

A DCR for car weight in the single level car specification is under review and it is expected to be voted on during the 11-2-17 Technical subcommittee call. Following that vote, if approved, it will be submitted for review and recommendation by the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel.

On 10-24-17, NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit formally re-convened the Review Panel and requested that Technical specification consultant Larry Salci be ready to conduct a review for compliance with the requirements document, once the DCR has been approved by the subcommittee.

A SOW and budget has been submitted to AASHTO for extending the Technical consultant (spec writer) through the life of the grant agreement – 9-30-19.

### **Technical Subcommittee:**

**Chair: Mario Bergeron, 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 October 2017, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of October 2017, included:

- Updating ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking.

There was no report/update provided during the month of October.

Update as of 8-24-17:

*The revenue service demonstration test train has accumulated 338,196 train miles in ECP mode and 1,671,788 train miles in Emulation mode. Total train mileage to date is 2,009,984 miles sent the project started in June 2014. One ECP control portion fault occurred which resulted in a loss of 7,560 ECP lost train miles. The fault has been successfully resolved.*

*The bi-annual FRA report of the revenue service demonstration will be prepared after the August mileage is reported in early September.*

*The technical working group will meet on August 28 - 29, 2017 to develop the remaining APTA PRESS ECP standards and draft 49CFR238 language which is required. The draft language will be presented at the FRA RSAC ETF meeting scheduled on August 30 – 31, 2017. The draft language is being prepared for NPRM2.*

- Backgrounder educational document:

Copies remain available, and subcommittee members (core team and industry) who would like a hard copy (copies) should contact Steve at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) with the number requested and an address to send them to. Revisions to this document are under review by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee with expectations being that the changes will be approved by the subcommittee and submitted to the Executive Board by late October/early November. Missouri DOT graphic arts staff will be making the design revisions.

The intent is to have an updated document ready for distribution by the NGEN Annual Meeting in February 2018.

- AWG Update: Previously, Melissa Shurland, FRA, had provided the following update to the Technical subcommittee:

*The contract to Oregon State U to continue the accessibility research was awarded. I will be meeting with the principal investigator from OSU and Volpe today at 2PM to discuss simulation of the interior environment of a passenger in a large power-based wheeled mobility device under normal load profile and accident loadings, 8g longitudinal. We will be looking at some of the scenarios we developed for including 2 wheeled mobility devices on-board that resulted in one accessible space with limited containment. Any industry members from the TSC willing to provide support for our simulations should contact me at 202-493-1316. We hope to focus on simulation at first before going to sled tests.*

No update was received during the month of October.

- Document Control Update as of 10-31-17:

On 10-5-17, Revision Control Coordinator, Tammy Krause reported that she had provided a scope of work to AASHTO to continue the technical writer services of Camren Cordell (Kasamar).

On 10-5-17, Tammy Krause reported that she had received an additional DCR for the Single-level specification. Currently there have been 11 DCRs received for Revision B. Of those, 2 are under evaluation, 5 were accepted, 2 were rejected and 2 were accepted as amended. Accepted as amended means that the working group made some changes to the proposed change.

On 10-18-17, Tammy Krause provided Steve Hewitt with the DCR for weight change to the Single Level Car Specification, and asked that it be sent to all Technical subcommittee members (including industry participants) for review and comment. Tammy also requested that the DCR be sent to the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel and that it be reconvened in preparation for a review of the DCR for compliance with the requirements document.

On 10-30-17, Tammy Krause called for a conference call (11-1-17) of all Technical subcommittee members (including industry participants) to review and discuss comments received on the proposed DCR. The intent is for the Technical subcommittee to consider approval of the DCR on its net call - 11-2-17.

Procurement Updates:

- Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement: Progress reports from the lead state on the PRIIA multi-state locomotive procurement is provided on each technical subcommittee call.

Please see the report, as provided to the Executive Board on 10-24-17, and included in this report under the Executive Board section.

- Multi-State Car Procurement - Caltrans (Lead State): *"Contract Negotiations are still underway to determine if proposed substitute subcontractor is able to fulfill SCOA's contractual obligations."*
- Progress Report: The Future of Electronics on Trains Working Group:

Electronics on Trains Working Group – Tom Sisler, SNC-Lavalin:

Working Group Chair, Tom Sisler provided the following update for inclusion in today's (9-7-17) Minutes:

*Bi-Weekly Update for September 7, 2017  
Electronics on Trains Working Group  
By Thomas Sisler*

1. *Held 8 meetings so far on alternate weeks with this meeting. The next meeting in on 9/12 at 3 pm.*

2. *Cindy Dietz is taking a new position at MPI in Boise and can no longer be the Chairperson. She nominated Tom Sisler in the last meeting and consensus was obtained to make him the Chairperson.*
3. *A requirements document is under construction. We are in the brainstorming phase where we try to think of everything a future electronic system could do. Then we'll vet all the ideas versus the constraints of the DTL hardware being specified and finish the requirements document. A very preliminary draft exists that is being reviewed by team members.*
4. *The PRIIA DTL group has joined this committee so that the DTL specifications are finished together with the specification this committee was tasked to create. Action items exist to get a presentation about hardware and plans the AAR might have for using Ethernet to replace MU trainlines.*

In October, no update /progress report was provided. The next update is scheduled for 11-2-17.

- AAR Committee Update:

On 9-7-17, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that, as noted in his last update (8-10-17) the AAR has put this committee in hiatus for the time being. The hiatus continues, so Jeff suggested this item be removed from the standing agenda until the committee has resumed activities.

Jason Biggs, WSDOT, asked about the status of AAR looking at issues related to LED Headlights, Jeff commented that AAR had decided to look at LED Headlights separately from the other Tag items covered by the Equipment committee. That being the case, Mario Bergeron asked if it would make sense to have an update on this issue specifically. Jeff Gordon agreed that it would make sense to do so and recommended that the AAR update agenda item remain, and said that he would ask the FRA point of contact, Tarek Omar, to provide a monthly update on that item for now. If and when the AAR committee resumes its overall activities, Jeff will provide an update on that. Chairman Bergeron agreed, and asked Steve Hewitt to keep the agenda item as a monthly update on AAR activities for the time being.

The first update from Tarek Omar on the AAR TAG committee on LED Headlights took place on the 10-5-17 Technical subcommittee call:

Tarek Omar, FRA, provided a brief update on the activities of the TAG committee on LED Headlights. He provided some of the history and background on how the effort began (in July) with an SOW – for phase 1 for testing for LED to ensure compliance with FRA requirements. ENSCO was granted the contract, and brought in ESI as a sub-contractor. ESI has an excellent record in testing.

There was a meeting in early September (including LED suppliers) at which testing protocols were established. Two weeks later – mid-September – one of the LED suppliers sent additional elements to be considered. The chair of the LED TAG committee revised the LED testing specs to include those submitted by the OEM. On October 9<sup>th</sup> all LED TAG committee members will meet to discuss this revised version.

Asked what would be a reasonable timeline for providing the NGENC Technical subcommittee with status updates, Tarek said that he thought monthly updates would be about right.

Steve Hewitt will add this as a standing agenda item for every other bi-weekly call – for now. The next update will take place on 11-2-17.

- DEF-UREA Update:

On 10-5-17, Chairman Bergeron asked that an update on the implementation of DEF-UREA be provided by IDOT on the next subcommittee call – 11-2-17.

### **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 holds a conference call every four weeks on Wednesdays at 3:00pm Eastern.**

During the Month of October 2017, due to leadership transition - filling the Chair vacancy, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee did not meet as scheduled on 10-18-17. The next call will take place with the new Chair, Tim Ziethen convening the meeting on 11-15-17.

**The 514 Subcommittee:**

**Chair: Brian Beeler II – NNEPRA (Maine DOT)**

**Vice Chair: Jonathan Dees - NCDOT**

**The 514 Subcommittee holds a bi-weekly conference calls:**

On 10-24-17 the following subcommittee update was provided to the NGEC Executive Board was:

Brian Beeler reported that he was unable to give a date for completion of the CIP as he was waiting for Amtrak to add the FRA edits to the document, and was unsure where that was in the process.

Tim Ziethen and Bill Auve, Amtrak, reported that Eric Smith has updated the document with the FRA comments and is formatting it. It is very close to complete and it should be sent to Brian Beeler soon.

Brian commented that, it is possible, that he will be able to get it submitted to the NGEC Executive Board by its next call or the one after that.

**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.**

In October 2017, there were no Review Panel meetings, but, on 10-24-17, Chairman Eric Curtit re-convened the PRIIA Single Level Car Specification Review Panel and asked that consultant Larry Salci begin a review of the DCR for weight change as soon as the Technical subcommittee has approved it. (A Technical subcommittee vote is scheduled for 11-2-17.)

**Special Note:**

***On behalf of NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit, and all members of the NGEC, I would like to congratulate NGEC Vice Chair (a legacy member) and Technical Subcommittee Chair, Mario Bergeron on his retirement (November 3, 2017) from Amtrak. Mario has been an incredible asset to the NGEC from the very beginning (January 2010). Mario's dedication, support and hard work as Vice Chair of the NGEC Executive Board and as Chair of the Technical subcommittee has been invaluable to the success of the NGEC. Mario has clearly been a driving force for the NGEC and his tireless efforts have truly made a difference in not only the success of the NGEC, but also in advancing passenger rail in the U.S. Mario, we wish you all the best as you take on your new role with VIA Rail, Canada, and we want you to know that you will be missed greatly.***

***Also, on behalf of Chairman Curtit and the members of the NGEC Executive Board, I would like to extend our thanks to Darrell Smith, former NGEC Treasurer and Chair of the NGEC Finance and Administrative***

*subcommittee, for his dedication and service to the NGEN. Darrell, you too made a difference and your efforts contributed greatly to the success of the NGEN. You will be missed. We wish you all the best!*