



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

**Monthly Activities Report: November 30, 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 November 2016, the Executive Board met twice - via conference call - on the 8th and the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

- Project Close Out Report: On 11-22-16 the NGEC Executive Board approved the Project Close Out Report, as presented by the Finance and Administrative subcommittee on 11-16-16. Following the Board call (11-22-16) Amtrak was to finalize the Report with the required signature and transmit to FRA. This closes action on the original NGEC Grant.
- 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. A list of proposed milestones was submitted by NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit and presented on the 11-8 and 11-22-16 Executive Board calls. Additional suggestions are welcome. 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. This remains an open item.

- Review of NGEC By-Laws: As of 11-22-16, Ray Hessinger, Co-Vice Chair of the FASC, and Steve Hewitt are in the process of doing the annual review of the NGEC By-Laws. The review last year was very comprehensive and it is not anticipated that there will be many (if any) changes recommended following this review. Ray and Steve will review the new Grant Agreement SOW against the By-Laws to ensure consistency. Any changes that may be needed will be recommended to the Board for its consideration consistent with NGEC procedures.
- Syncing contracts with the new grant: Darrell Smith reported on 11-22-16 that because the current Amtrak/AASHTO contract (and AASHTO's contract with its sub-contractors) is in effect through 9-30-17, there is no need for action now. Once the 9-30-17 date draws near there will be an extension consistent with the new grant period and grant amount between Amtrak and AASHTO and AASHTO and its subcontractors as called for in the SOW and budget.
- 514 Subcommittee update: As of 11-8-16, the 514 subcommittee was continuing to gear up for the next CIP update which will be a "major" update and will include policy updates. A 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reconciliation call was scheduled for 11-15-16 with Amtrak.
- Two page educational/outreach document: The new educational/outreach document is being printed by AASHTO Publications. The initial printing request (submitted by Steve Hewitt) is for 300 copies. A distribution of two copies will be made to each Board Member. Additional copies can be requested through Steve Hewitt. Members of the industry and all NGEC members have received electronic versions and hard copies will be available by request through Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).
- Mid-West States – Section 6 Update:
 

The states continue working on lease and testing agreements.

The Fleet Manager position has been filled and that person should be on board "any day now."

The Mid-West states are forming a Fleet Oversight Board to oversee the Fleet Manager.
- Status Update – Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement:
- Arun Rao, WSDOT, provided the following update prepared by IDOT for inclusion in the 11-8-16 minutes:
  - *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 and they are back at Siemens factory. All tests have been successful.*
  - *The four MARC cars were used at TTCI for locomotive propulsion tests and are now returned to Maryland.*
  - *Locomotive 4604 is stored at MARC after the successful completion for Vehicle Qualification Testing on the North-East Corridor.*
  - *IDOT 4608 & 4609 have been shipped to TTCI at Pueblo, CO for 500-mile burn-in testing. The locomotives will next ship to Chicago, when IDOT and Amtrak are ready.*
  - *IDOT will now send a locomotive to WSDOT for 238.111(b) testing on the Cascades route. WSDOT will conduct the 238.111(b) test. 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 11-8-16, Bruce Roberts, Caltrans provided a brief update on the status of the Bi-Level procurement:
- Two key items:
- Caltrans, IDOT and Sumitomo are working on a contract extension to go beyond the ARRA funding deadline.
- The Carshell redesign Final Design Review (FDR) is being planned for the early part of 2017 (Late January or early February, 2017) in Rochelle, Illinois.
- Preparing for the 2017 NGEC Annual Meeting: On 11-22-16, a draft agenda was presented to Board members for review and input. Additional agenda item suggestions are welcome. A DRAFT agenda for use in obtaining travel approval is to be distributed after a further review by the Board on 12-6-16.
  - NCDOT Use of NGEC Bi-Level Car Specification: NCDOT will use the NGEC Bi-level spec as a basis for developing a specification for its purchase of 5 Bi-level cars for its fleet. Modifications will be made to fit the NCDOT's fleet requirements. NCDOT will keep the NGEC apprised of the changes it makes to the spec. Tammy Krause, NGEC Revision Control Coordinator (RCC) has provided an unsecured version of the specification for NCDOT use.

#### **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 November, 2016, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference call, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of November, 2016, included:

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

On 11-17-16, Paul Jamieson provided the following update:

*Cab car, coaches and locomotive were successfully commissioned. Static train was completed on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Dynamic train testing was completed Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The working group is preparing the necessary reports which will be provided to the FRA with the request to grant the waiver for revenue service. The train is scheduled to enter revenue service by late January 2017. The working group will then proceed to finalize the APTA PRESS standards."*

- Backgrounder educational document: The Executive Board has approved the document for printing. An electronic version was sent to all NGEC Technical subcommittee members on 10-28-16. AASHTO is currently preparing printed copies which will be available through Steve Hewitt by request.
- Diesel- Electric Locomotive procurement - On 11-8-16 an update on the Diesel-electric locomotive procurement was provided by IDOT: See Executive Board report above.
- Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – On 11-8-16 an update on the Bi-Level car procurement was provided by Caltrans: See Executive Board report above.

- AAR Committee: As of 11-3-16, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported:

AAR is compiling the completed items - all sections are complete except for VTI.

Brian Marquis, Volpe, and Nick Wilson, TTCL, (for AAR) are leading the VTI effort. Brian has produced a prototype MCAT software approach for consideration for lower track classes (3,4,5 inches). He (Brian) and Nick will be meeting to discuss the prototype and its potential applicability on 11-14-16. Jeff believes this is a logical approach.

At Chairman Bergeron's request, Jeff Gordon agreed to make a presentation on the activities of this AAR committee during the NGEC Annual Meeting in February. Steve Hewitt has added this item to the DRAFT Annual Meeting agenda

Next Update: 12-15-16

- Document Control Update as of 11-17-16:

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

The single level specification upgrade process is beginning. I have sent the chapter headings to the technical subcommittee leaders and requested that they let me know which chapters they want to review changes for. Next I will divide up the DCRs by the subcommittees and request that they review them for approval or denial. After the DCRs are received, we will begin updating the Specification.

Finalizing Technical working group rosters:

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. Tammy has reminded all team leaders to provide their rosters to her asap.

NCDOT use of NGEC Bi-Level Specification: North Carolina DOT has requested permission to use the Bi-level specification as a starting point for their multi-level procurement and on 11-17-16 Tammy Krause provided it to NCDOT. NCDOT has been asked by the NGEC Executive Board to provide feedback on its use of the spec.

Technical working group review of the Brightline specification presentation: Tammy Krause will send this to the appropriate working groups and will follow the same process she is using for the review of the single level specification.

Locomotive Working Group Review of D/E Locomotive Specification DCRs: The locomotive Working Group Review of the Diesel-electric Locomotive DCRS is about complete with only a few yet to be reviewed. Once this process is completed, Tammy will have them compiled, and at that point they will be reviewed per the NGEC Document Control Procedures.

Timeline for completion of the ongoing Document Control Action Items: Tammy Krause will develop a timeline for these action items and provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the Technical subcommittee in advance of the next conference call – 12-1-16.

- TRB invite to the NGEC Technical subcommittee to participate on a panel session at the TRB Annual Meeting: Tammy Krause has been named as the representative from the Technical subcommittee on the TRB Panel.

- AWG Update: On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the AWG met to discuss the draft final review of the accessible seating and restroom layouts. The feedback received were net positive. The next step is for Oregon State University to finalize the draft report for submittal to the TSC for review and comments.

OSU reached out to service providers in Alaska and Canada that operate rail equipment with “elevators”. This was in response to some of the recommendations currently in the RVAAC report for elevators to move passengers to upper level.

As of 11-17-16: Melissa Shurland, FRA, reported that the report is being finalized – there had been format issues which are being resolved. Melissa expected to get the report to Steve Hewitt for distribution to Technical subcommittee members by the end of that week and did so. At the request of Chairman Bergeron, Melissa has prepared a summary presentation which she will be prepared to give, along with a person from OSU, on the next subcommittee call 12-15-16.

### **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 November 2016, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) met on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Key decisions and action item updates from the meeting included:

- Legislative Outreach Task Force – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEC.

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 – The DRAFT Project Close Out Report, as edited, was approved by the FASC for submittal to the NGEC Executive Board for its consideration on – 11-22-16. As noted in the Executive Board section of this report, the Board approved the report as presented and asked Amtrak to finalize for signature and submit to FRA.
- Syncing the new Grant Agreement with ongoing NGEC contracts: Because the current Amtrak and AASHTO contract is in place until 9-30-17, and the current sub-contractor contracts are also in place until 9-30-17, no action is necessary right now. Amtrak and AASHTO have a process in place to extend the Amtrak/AASHTO contract in sync with the grant and effective 10-1-17 through 9-30-19. The subcontractors currently in place will be extended at the same time - effective 10-1-17 through 9-30-19 as anticipated in the new grant agreement SOW and budget.
- Milestones for the new Grant Quarterly Report: Eric Curtit has provided FASC members with recommended milestones. No additional items or changes to Eric’s suggestions have been offered. Members have until

the next FASC meeting (12-14-16) to submit additional suggestions for milestones for inclusion in the quarterly report – the first of which will be submitted at the end of the current quarter (12-31-16).

- Review of NGEN By-Laws: Ray Hessinger, FASC co-Vice Chair for Administrative issues and Steve Hewitt, NGEN Support Services Manager, will review the By-Laws with a special focus on how it complies with the new grant agreement to see if any changes are needed. Ray and Steve will report back to the FASC on their findings on the next call – 12-14-16.

**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.**

As of 11-8-16, the 514 subcommittee was continuing to gear up for the next CIP update which will be a “major” update and will include policy updates. A 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reconciliation call was scheduled for 11-15-16 with Amtrak.

**NGEC 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 specification, is re-convened by the Executive Board chair.

In November, 2016, the NGEN Review Panels did not meet.