



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

**Monthly Activities Report: November 30, 2018**

**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 November 2018, the Executive Board met twice via conference call, on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of October 2018 include:

- Procurement Updates:
  - Status Update - Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 11-20-18:

Of the three critical Cab Car DCRs, two have been approved by the NGEC subcommittee – Carbody/Cab Construction and Cab Area Floor Height. The pending Car Length Over Couplers DCR would be an allowed exception to the PRIIA specification pending approval of an NGEC rule change. The PRIIA specification text would not be changed.

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, Exterior Doors and Brakes have been provided to SCOA/Siemens. Trucks and Seats are currently in queue for approval. Remaining actions for Gangway and Interior Doors are complete with 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.

The first 8 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility and carshell #1 has passed its FAI and associated rework has been completed. Carshell #2 is in queue for passivation. Carshell #3 has completed the integration and associated inspection. Carshells 4 through 8 are in various stages of weld integration and Carshells 9 through 12 are in the initial stages of construction with center sills completed. The expansion of the Sacramento production facility is in process and on target for a November completion.

The FAI process is underway and FAIs have occurred for the Carshell Complete, Digital Communication System, Lighting System, Couplers, Sanitary System, Sidewall Lining, Flooring 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 Door Panel is to be conducted in December.

The Virtual Reality Door Mock Up is scheduled on November 28 in Caltrans Sacramento Office.

Status Update: The Charger - Diesel-Electric Locomotive Update and Section 6 Plan as of 11-20-18:

The Section 6 Plan was accepted by FRA in July 2018 – nothing new to report during the month of October 2018.

Status Update: Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 11-20-18:

Metro-North has canceled its Dual Mode Locomotive procurement for now. When it went on the street, it was assumed that the purchase of the new equipment was to be with 100% state funding. Circumstances have changes and Metro-North will re-issue the RFP with appropriate federal clauses and with the use of federal funds.

Status Update: Amtrak Locomotive Procurement – 11-20-18:

Amtrak is still working on the process to make the selection on the Locomotive procurement and is continuing to work on developing the RFP for cars.

- Adoption of By-Laws changes:

On 11-20-18, the changes to the NGEC By-Laws, as approved by the FASC on 10-17-18, were formally adopted by the NGEC executive Board. Steve Hewitt will finalize the document with the adopted changes and date of adoption. It will be sent to all Board members and to AASHTO for posting to the NGEC website. It will also be included in the handout packet at the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting 2-22-19

- Document Control Update – 11-20-18:

The single level car specification DCRs that have been received are all addressed or in process. Larry Salci is currently reviewing Six DCRs that have been approved by the Technical Subcommittee. There is a 7<sup>th</sup> DCR that is waiting on a process change before it can be considered. Jeff Gordon, FRA, is working on this process change. After the change is submitted and if it is approved, the last DCR (length change of the Cab Car) will be addressed.

Tammy Krause is currently putting together DCRs required to update the NGEC Trainset specification to reflect approved changes to other car specs. The Trainset spec was last updated to Revision A on August 2, 2011. Tammy hopes to have the DCRs distributed to the working groups in early December. The goal is to get

the update to the Board for consideration by the NGENC 2019 Annual Meeting. Following that, Tammy will begin review of the DMU specification which is in its initial release version.

- Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group update as of 11-29-18:

The group last met on 11-29-18

Team Leaders provided status updates on their sections of the report - most have made significant progress, but more work remains to be done.

The intent is to have a draft of the document completed in advance of the NGENC Annual Meeting. Summary presentation to the Board then for input.

The next call of the working group is scheduled for 12-11-18.

- **Charger Updates from States and Amtrak – In October**, Chairman Curtit requested summary updates on the Chargers now that they have been placed in service.

**Updates provided on 10-23-18:**

- 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 warranty 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 – warranty 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."

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

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

The room rate is \$181 per night plus tax which is the per diem rate for DC. Attendees have until January 29, 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](https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/washington-dc/hyatt-regency-washington-on-capitol-hill/wasrw?corp_id=G-AHT9)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kamasha

Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP  
Senior Meeting Planner  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)  
444 North Capitol St. NW, Suite 249  
Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: 202-624-5403  
E-mail: [khendrickson@aaashto.org](mailto:khendrickson@aaashto.org)

DRAFT Agenda:

Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of the DRAFT agenda sent to all Board members prior to this call (draft is attached to these minutes)

Confirming Speakers – Steve asked that all speakers confirm their availability to participate. Michael Lestingi, FRA, noted that he will likely give the FRA update, but will see if the Deputy FRA Administrator is available. Michael confirmed he will attend the meeting, and Steve Hewitt will leave him on the agenda for the FRA presentation unless notified otherwise. Tim Ziethen agreed to confirm who will provide the update on behalf of Amtrak Government Affairs.

Timeline for Presentations (if using Power Point – optional) – to Steve Hewitt by 2-15-18 (COB)  
Request for additional Agenda Topics – one request received thus far – to present the FRA/University of Nebraska Study on High Speed Wireless – Hamid Sharif-Kashani and Tarek Omar, FRA.

Travel Reimbursement for states – all state member travel expenses are reimbursed by the NGEC (through AASHTO). Steve Hewitt will be sending a travel expense reimbursement form with updated for GSA per diem and personal mileage amounts for 2019.

Registering with Steve Hewitt for the meeting – please send Steve Hewitt an email of your intentions to attend the Annual Meeting as soon as possible for ensuring a quorum and for a head count for name badges, tent cards, handout packets etc. To date only a few members of the Board or support staff have submitted their intentions and about 10 members of the industry have registered with Steve.

With the Chairman's approval, the current DRAFT agenda will be circulated, subject to change, to NGEC members to assist them with obtaining travel approvals.

A DRAFT agenda was made available for states to use in submitting travel requests.

#### **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 November 2018, the Technical subcommittee met here times via conference calls, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of November 2018, included:

- Status of the activities to update ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking. Status as of 11-29-18:

On 11-1-18, Paul Jamieson provided the following update:

"The car overhauls (non-ECP related) were completed and the demonstration train was placed back into service accumulating 35,898 miles through October 5, 2018. The next mileage report will be issued after November 5, 2018. The total ECP mileage is 735,024 and total emulation mileage is 2,004,782. The combined mileage is 2,739,786.

The eight ECP standards were voted on and comments received by the APTA PRESS ECP working group. The comments were discussed at the meeting held on October 23, 2018 and resolved. The standards are being updated and will be posted for public comment. It is anticipated that the standards will be issued by the end of December 2018 or early January 2019.

The APTA ECP project will be closed and transferred to Amtrak after the final FRA report is issued. Again, this transfer should occur in January 2019 pending report acceptance by the FRA safety board which includes the waiver closeout."

Periodic Brake Maintenance:

From May 2018: The FRA has requested APTA PRESS Mechanical to support the codification of various existing waivers regarding brake periodic maintenance as covered under 49 CFR 238.309. Electronic air brake (NYAB and Wabtec), 26C, 26L and other types of brake equipment will potentially be lengthened under this review. The FRA has a short time window to prepare these updates for internal review and then be published in the Federal Register later this year.

- Backgrounder educational document:

The 2018 version of the NGENC Backgrounder is available electronically or by hard copy. Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) for copies; if you desire hard copies, please tell Steve how many you need and provide a mailing address. As of 11-29-18, Steve Hewitt reported that the Finance and Administrative subcommittee is currently updating the two-pager to make it more current. An updated version will be distributed at the NGENC Annual Meeting in DC 2-22-19.

- AWG/RVACC Update as of 11-29-18:

Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided an update on the activities of the Accessibility Working Group and on the RVACC effort during the NGENC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on line on the NGENC website at [www.ngec305.org](http://www.ngec305.org).

On 10-4-18 – 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 provided

- Document Control Update:

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

Procurement Updates:

- Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement: See the Executive Board section of this report for the latest update.
- 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 NGEN Vice Chair, Charlie King on a regular basis.

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

- AAR Updates:

TAG committee on LED Headlights as of 11-29-18:

On 7-25-18, Tarek Omar, FRA, reported that the committee is preparing for Phase two (Phase One having been completed). Once underway, Tarek will provide status updates as he did with Phase One. As of 10-18-18, Phase II had not yet begun.

- DEF-UREA Implementation Update as of 11-29-18:

On 11-15-18, Art Peterson provided the following brief update on DEF-UREA implementation:

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.

- University of Nebraska study on High Speed wireless technology as of 11-29-18:

As of 11-1-18, the model was reported to be almost complete with verification anticipated to occur by the end of this year and the “tool” will then be done. The next step would be field testing.

Contact Information:

Hamid Sharif Kashani  
Phone: 402-554-3628  
Email: [hsharif@unl.edu](mailto:hsharif@unl.edu)

- Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group:

On 11-15-18, Tom Sisler was unavailable but provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

The status is that we’ve met and reviewed our draft requirements document over several meetings. The ball is in my (Tom’s) court to start turning meeting notes into requirements text and create a new draft to be reviewed by the committee which does include UNL. After getting all feedback on that future draft, we’ll be able to release a draft for Industry review.

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

Steve Hewitt reported that the 2019 NGEN Annual Meeting will be held on 2-22-18 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. More information will follow in the coming months. Steve has sent a calendar notice for members to save this date and will continue to provide updates as details are forthcoming and an agenda is developed. This item will be carried as an open action item on the Technical subcommittee agenda to make sure members are aware of the Annual Meeting, time, date, place and all other details as they move forward.

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 November 2018, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met once, on the 14th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of November 2018, included:

Treasurer's Status Updates as of 11-14-18:

- Treasurer's Report – spend rate/balance - Tim Ziethen:

Tim Ziethen reported that the amount spent to date against the Grant is \$327, 939.12. This includes an estimate of \$45,000 for the Quarter ending 9-30-18. This amount may change slightly once the invoice from AASHTO has been received. The total grant amount was \$1,250,000 and with the estimate for the last quarter the balance is approximately \$922,260.88.

The grant, as previously reported, has been extended for 12 months with no additional funding and should be in "good shape" since the spend rate continues to be lower than initially anticipated.

- Annual NGEC By-Laws Review:

On 11-20-18, the NGEC Executive Board adopted the changes to the By-Laws as approved by the FASC on 10-17-18.

- Developing a strategy for "making the case" for future federal funding for the NGEC – beyond 9-30-20:

On 11-14-18, Eric Curtit led a brief discussion on the two-page educational document to see if it should be updated for distribution at the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-22-19. The general view was that the specification change timelines should be updated, and at the suggestion of Jeff Gordon, Eric Curtit, and Ray Hessinger, the "vision" statement partially contained in the document and fully contained in all emails and correspondence sent from Steve Hewitt, should be reviewed and potentially "tweaked" to keep it consistent with the FAST Act as pertaining to Section 305.

Eric Curtit will review the "vision" statement and discussion of any changes will take place on the next FASC call 12-12-18. Suggested changes/updates to the educational document and/or the "vision" statement should be sent to Steve Hewitt, Eric Curtit, and Tim Ziethen in advance of the next call.

- Preparing the FASC & Treasurer's Report presentation for the 2019 NGEC Annual Meeting:

On 11-14-18, it was agreed that Tim Ziethen will begin preparing the FASC activities update and the Treasurer's report for the NGEC Annual Meeting. It was generally agreed that the format would remain the same as last year. SC members are asked to provide suggested changes or forward- looking input to the presentation to Steve Hewitt and Tim Ziethen. Tim will have a draft presentation available for the FASC call scheduled for 1-9-19.

#### **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 November 2018, but the Single Level Car Specification Panel has been re-convened and provided with DCRs approved by the Technical subcommittee. Consultant Larry Salci will prepare a Review Panel Report with recommendations for Panel consideration likely in December 2018.