



Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: December 31, 2014

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 December, 2014, the Executive Board met twice - via conference call – on the 9th and the 23rd. Key decisions and activities reported for the month of December, 2014 included:

- Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: An RFP for a Fleet Manager is being finalized, and an RFI for a Fleet Maintainer has recently been released.
- 514 Subcommittee update: The subcommittee is working on the FMCS implementation comments.
- On December, 9, 2014, the Executive Board accepted the recommendation of the D-E Locomotive Review Panel and adopted Specification Revision A.1.

- NGECE Annual Meeting – 2015: The meeting will take place in Washington, DC on February 20, 2015. Logistical information has been provided as has a DRAFT agenda. Comments/changes to the agenda are requested to be submitted to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt. A revised draft will be reviewed on the January 6th 2015 Board call.
- NGECE Future: The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) has several assignments which are to be the first steps taken towards establishing the NGECE future – short term and long term. On December 23, 2014, Darrell Smith provided an update on the activities of the FASC:

On behalf of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee, Darrell Smith has begun to develop a revised Statement of Work and budget for a no-cost extension of the current grant agreement through September 30, 2017. The intent is to present a draft to the subcommittee on the next call 12-17-14 and have a final version to the Board for its consideration by the Annual Meeting.

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee will begin developing a proposal for potential funding options to present to the Board for its consideration by October, 2015.

- Determining the NGECE Future: This topic will remain as a standing agenda item on all future Executive Board calls – currently as a focus of the FASC. On December 23, 2014, the FRA asked that discussions with regard to developing funding options be a priority and emphasized the need to have time for implementation of whatever options are selected before the anticipated grant agreement extension ends (9-30-17).
- Letter to the FRA: the NGECE will formally ask the FRA for a FY2016 budget request for funding for the development and maintenance of specification standards. Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt will draft a proposed letter, for Board review, to be submitted to the FRA. This is not meant to be the funding options solution for sustaining the NGECE in the long term, but is seen as one potential future resource which would mirror funding provided to some of the other transportation modal administrations. Eric and Steve have drafted a proposed letter and have sent it to Shayne Gill for his input. Following his comments/edits it will be sent to all Board members for review.
- On December 23, 2014, a revised Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3rd Rail) requirements document and supporting material, as approved by the Technical subcommittee on December 18th, was introduced by Ray Hessinger and Jack Madden. Comments from Board members are requested by COB on January 2, 2015. (Comments were to go to Ray Hessinger, Jack Madden and Steve Hewitt by CC) This will be an agenda item for January 6, 2015 for discussion and possible Board consideration.

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 December, 2014, the Technical subcommittee met once – on the 4th and the 18th. Some of the key decisions and activities of the Technical subcommittee during the month of December 2014 included:

- On the 18th, the revised Dual Mode requirements document (DC 3rd rail) was approved by the Technical subcommittee:

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, offered a motion requesting that the Technical Subcommittee approve the revised Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3rd Rail) Requirements Document, (11- 6-14), and the Section A.4 (12-18-14) as well as the DEIS mentioned in the discussion as additional reference materials, for submittal to the NGECE Executive Board for its consideration.

With a quorum having been confirmed and all members voting in the affirmative, Chairman Bergeron determined that consensus has been achieved and the motion is approved.

Jack Madden will finalize the submittal package as approved, and provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the Executive Board by Friday, 12-19-14. This item will be placed on the Executive Board's agenda for 12-23-14 for an introductory discussion. Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, with support from Jack Madden, will introduce the topic to the Board.

The revised document was forwarded to the NGEC Executive Board on December 19th and was introduced on December 23rd. The Board will discuss it further on January 6th and determine when to consider it for approval.

- Planning for Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) / UREA in new Diesel-Electric Locomotive: This topic was introduced on the December 18th call, and will be an ongoing agenda item for future calls. Chairman Bergeron asked Steve Hewitt to add it to the next call agenda - January 15, 2015.
- NGEC Procurements as of December 18th:

Diesel-Electric Locomotive:

- a) CDRL #10 for maintenance manual plan will likely be closed-out this week. Invoice for Milestone 'A' will likely follow [next week](#).
- a) Follow-up action items to close IDR are on-going for closure.
- b) Long-range planning for Final Design Review (FDR) is underway for February and March 2015. The location for FDR has been confirmed for Seattle by WSDOT.
- c) Mock-up reviews for the machine rooms were held last week in Sacramento, CA and Munich Germany. The Mock-up reviews held in Sacramento covered machine room #1 & #4 on the ACS-64 locomotive, as they are so very close in configuration to the multi-state locomotive. For machine room #2 & #3 (diesel engine compartment and cooling plant), Siemens' full scale 3D Reality Lab was used in Germany. The results were very impressive.
- d) After the 3D lab in Munich, the team traveled by train to Linz, Austria to review Buy-America manufacturing technology transfer with Hitzinger for the traction alternator; as well as the same items with Siemens in Graz Austria for Buy-America and transfer of the manufacturing of the truck frames in Sacramento, CA.
- e) Four more draft DCRs are being processed. Rich Stegner will contact Tammy Krause to coordinate."

Bi-Level Car Procurement:

First Article Inspections are underway on a number of items. Good progress is being made.

The next set of FAIs will take place in February, 2015 and will include a multitude of items such as manual doors, wheel axles and mechanical and functional communications system.

The first undertrain FAI will take place on Monday, 12-22-14 in Rochelle, Illinois at the Nippon Sharyo plant.

Nippon Sharyo is recertifying its Rochelle plant to ISO 9001.

QA/QC audits have begun and are ongoing.

Option assignments and delivery schedule have still not been finalized. FRA has taken the lead in those negotiations.

The On Board Information System (OBIS) agreement with Amtrak has not yet been completed.

Early in 2015 functional testing of DTL for adequate through put will take place.

Stan noted that he has received the “new wheel profile information” from Dale Engelhardt.

The weight management issue is being finalized.

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.

Key decisions and action items from the December conference call meeting (December 17, 2014) of the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee included:

- Darrell Smith will continue to reach out to WMATA about a possible presentation from a multi-state organizational perspective. Other Finance subcommittee members who may have a contact at WMATA are asked to reach out or provide that contact information to Darrell Smith. (Ongoing)

WMATA is undergoing organizational changes which will make it difficult, in the near term, to find a contact for making a presentation.

- Developing a DRAFT SOW for a no-cost Grant Extension through 9-30-17:

The intended timeline for action is as follows:

Comments due to Darrell Smith by COB on January 7, 2015

Consideration of approval by the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee on January 14, 2015

If approved, transmittal to the NGEC Executive Board – January 15, 2015.

Executive Board discussion of the proposed revised SOW on January 20, 2015

Further discussion and finalization of the SOW by the Board on February 2, 2015

Formal adoption of the revised SOW by the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting – February 20, 2015

- Revision/updating NGEC By-Laws:

The timeline for finalizing the revised By-Laws is basically the same as that of the SOW:

Consideration of approval by the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee on January 14, 2015

If approved, transmittal to the NGEC Executive Board – January 15, 2015.

Executive Board discussion of the proposed By-Law revisions on January 20, 2015

Further discussion and finalization of the By-Laws by the Board on February 2, 2015

Formal adoption of the revised By-Laws by the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting – February 20, 2015

- Developing Funding Option recommendations for continuing the NGEC:

By the January 14, 2015 conference call, FASC members are asked to think about and be ready to discuss any potential models of a type of consortium similar to the NGEC that could be used as examples for going forward.

This will be a focus of the Subcommittee in the New Year and will be an agenda item for January 14th as a starting point.

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.

On December, 9, 2014, the Executive Board accepted the recommendation of the D-E Locomotive Review Panel and adopted Specification Revision A.1.

At the October 24th, 2014 NGEC Executive Board Fall Meeting, the Section 209/305 Working Group was formally established as a Subcommittee of the NGEC – known as the 514 Subcommittee. The group is chaired by Ron Pate, Washington State DOT and meets on a bi-weekly basis. Status updates are provided to the Board on its bi-weekly calls.

The latest update of the Subcommittee was provided to the Board on December 23, 2014:

The 514 subcommittee continues moving forward. Jeremy Jewkes is serving as Ron Pate's lead on the effort.

Ron emphasized the need to make sure "we have the right people from the executive Board involved."

The first "user group" meeting was a success.

State equipment forecasts are due to Amtrak by January 15, 2015.

Ron Pate is emphasizing the "bigger picture" perspective that needs to be addressed – and that it will be necessary to manage expectations.