



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)

Monthly Activities Report: February 28, 2019

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 February 2019, the Executive Board met twice, once via conference call, on the 12th and once, in person at the 2019 NGEC Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on 2-22-19.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of February 2019 include:

- Equipment Procurement Updates:

Status Update - Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 2-12-19 as provided by Caltrans to the NGEC Executive Board:

Note: A full progress report presentation provided by Caltrans and Siemens was given during the NHEC Annual Meeting on 2-22-19. The presentation has been distributed to NGEC members and is posted on the NGEC website.

Of the three critical Cab Car DCRs, two have been approved by the NGENC subcommittee – Carbody/Cab Construction and Cab Area Floor Height. The pending Car Length Over Couplers DCR has been withdrawn. The Vertical Curve DCR has been approved by the VTI working group and is moving to Technical Subcommittee review and vote. All other DCRs submitted on the project thus far have been approved by the Subcommittee and Executive Committee approval and reporting is in work.

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, Trucks, Exterior Doors, Interior Doors, Gangway and Brakes have been provided to SCOA/Siemens. Actions for Analog Communication System are complete with closure and in queue for concurrence and approval. 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. FDR related CDRLs and other submittals continue through the review and approval process.

The first 12 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility and final assembly continues, along with localized water testing on Carshell #1. Carshell #2 has been turned over for final assembly and is in preparation for build. Passivation rework is complete on Carshell #3 and carshell is in storage. Carshell #4 Car shell remains in storage pending scheduling for rework to passivated surfaces. Carshell #5 has completed passivation and is targeted for inspection next week. Carshells 7 through 12 are in various stages of weld and integration. The expansion of the Sacramento production facility is structurally complete and being equipped with cranes and fixtures. Caltrans, IDOT, SCOA and Siemens will meet with FRA Office of Civil Rights on February 20 to present a comprehensive overview of the ADA features of the new coaches. IDOT plans an additional meeting with the Midwest ADA community next week.

The FAI process is underway and FAIs have occurred for the Carshell Complete, Digital Communication System, Lighting System, Couplers, Sanitary System, Sidewall Lining, FRP Panels, Brake System, Interior Doors, Truck Frame, Flooring and heated panel 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 and High Floor Door Panel is to be conducted in February. The HVAC, Full Truck, Sliding Step, Seats, Electrical Cabinet, Windows, Analog Communications and Electrical Switch Cabinet are also scheduled for February. Some dates might be delayed slightly to ensure preparedness and adequate resource coverage.

Status Update: Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 2-12-19:

Metro-North Railroad received the phase 1 qualification packages and is currently reviewing to make sure submitters are qualified to actually bid.

Note: A full progress report presentation provided by Charlie King, Amtrak, was given during the NGENC Annual Meeting on 2-22-19. The presentation has been distributed to NGENC members and is posted on the NGENC website.

Status Update: Amtrak Locomotive Procurement as of 2-12-19:

On the Locomotives (Chargers):

The Locomotive Notice to Proceed went out to Siemens (as previously reported) and for a few months there will not be much to report on as far as delivery schedule, etc. for this procurement. The Amtrak Chargers are in line behind “our Canadian friends and some others”.

On the trainset RFP:

The amended RFP is out and, Charlie believes that Amtrak has answered the technical questions asked by the states.

On May 1, 2019, vendor proposals are due to Amtrak.

- Document Control Update – 2-12-19:

Note: A full – 2018 progress report on Document Control was provided during the NGENC Annual Meeting 2-22-19 and can be viewed on the NGENC website and in the minutes from the 2-22-19 meeting.

Tammy Krause provided an update on 2-12-19:

The last DCR (3-180) for the single-level car was approved by the VTI working group, and it was also approved by the Technical subcommittee on 2-7-19, and the Review Panel has also included DCR 3-180 in its report.

DCR 3-180 is a request to change a requirement in section 1.4.3.3, track geometry. The original specification requires that "The cars shall be capable of negotiating a 1000 ft radius vertical curve (concave or convex), coupled to other equipment, without damage to any portion of the trucks or suspension, coupler, draft gear, air and electrical connections, carbody, diaphragm or truck". The DCR request that has been accepted is to change the 1000ft radius vertical curve to 2000 ft radius vertical curve.

Review Panel Report and Recommendations on Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2

On 2-12-19, the NGEC executive Board accepted the NGEC Single Level Car Specification Review Panel Report and its recommendations and formally adopted Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2

- Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group update as of 2-12-19:

At the NGEC Annual Meeting, (2-22-19) each Team Leader provided an overview of the status of the of each of the four sections of the report being developed by the working group.

Chairman Eric Curtit described the formation of the NGEC Equipment Acquisition Ownership Best Practices and Lessons Learned Working Group and asked each section leader to provide a brief update on progress made on each section of the report. Eric added that once the report has been developed (all sections) it will be distributed for review and input by NGEC members – including the industry participants. It will be considered a living document and is meant to serve as a guide for future procurements.

a. Implementation – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans

Momo Tamaoki reported that she had parsed out the various segments of the Implementation section and had developed the outline and format for this section of the report. She had assigned the areas to be developed and set deadlines. She is now in the process of reviewing those submittals and compiling the segments into a DRAFT of the Implementation section.

b. Planning – John Oimoen, IDOT

John Oimoen complimented Jennifer Bastian, IDOT for the work she has done on this section of the report and provided a brief overview of the topics contained therein such as Fleet Planning; Fleet management and maintenance facilities.

c. Revenue Service – Dick Bruss – Industry member:

Dick Bruss was unavailable for today's meeting – Dick had completed a great deal of work on the Revenue Service section of the report, and it has been circulated among working group members.

d. Long Term Operation Maintenance – Jason Biggs, WSDOT

Jason Biggs reported that WSDOT has "onboarded Atkins" to develop the Long-Term Operations Maintenance section of the report.

A draft outline has been completed and draft data has been developed.

The target for distribution of a draft of the section to the working group team is late March 2019.

- The Charger Experience States and Amtrak:

Background:

In October 2018, NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit requested summary updates on the Chargers since they had been placed in service. At the NGEC Annual Meeting (2-22-19) states and Amtrak provided updates to their

Charger experience. The full presentations can be found in the Minutes from the Annual Meeting and on line at on the NGECC website.

In summary, the experience has been very positive among all entities, and collaboration and cooperation among the states, Amtrak, FRA and the OEM has been a key factor in the successful implementation of the Charger into service.

- Updated NGECC two-pager and revised vision statement:

On 2-22-19, at the NGECC Annual Meeting, the updated two-page educational document was officially released. Hard copies were provided to all meeting attendees and are available by request through Steve Hewitt – shewitt109@aol.com

- On 2-22-19, the NGECC held its 9th Annual Meeting with around 70 members in attendance. During the meeting, those in attendance received updates from the FRA, Amtrak (governmental affairs perspective) and VIA Rail on its equipment procurement as well as a Treasurer's Report and updates from the standing subcommittees (Technical and Finance and Administrative). Members also received updates on the ongoing equipment procurements, the status of the Charger experience, and a document control progress report as well as a progress report on the work of the NGECC Equipment and Ownership Best Practices and Lessons Learned working group.

All presentations and the DRAFT minutes from the meeting can be found on the NGECC website at: www.ngecc305.org

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 February 2019, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 7th and participated in the 9th Annual NGECC Meeting held in Washington, DC on 2-22-19.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February 2019, included:

- Status of the activities to update ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking. Status as of 2-7-19:

On 1-10-19, Paul Jamieson provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

"The eight APTA PRESS ECP standards have completed the public comment period without any comments being received. The standards will now be subject to the PRESS Policy and Planning Committee review to assure that all the requirements for publication have been satisfied. The standards will be released after the review is completed. Notification will be provided when the standards are available on the APTA website."

- Backgrounder educational document:

On 1-29-19, the NGECC Executive Board adopted updates to the two-page educational/backgrounder document. On 2-22-19, at the NGECC Annual Meeting, the updated two-page educational document was officially released. Hard copies were provided to all meeting attendees and are available by request through Steve Hewitt – shewitt109@aol.com

- AWG/RVACC Update as of 2-7-19:

Background:

At the 2018 annual meeting, Melissa Shurland, FRA, provided an update on the activities of the Accessibility Working Group and on the RVACC effort. The presentation is available on line on the NGECC website at www.ngecc305.org.

The last update provided to the Technical subcommittee was on 10-4-18 when 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 have been provided.

- Document Control Update:

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

Action taken on 2-7-19 - Consideration of approval of DCR-3-180:

Charlie King asked if there were any further comments or discussion on DCR 3-180, and, hearing none, called for a motion to approve DCR 3-180.

Allan Paul, NCDOT offered a motion to approve DCR 3-180, and the motion was seconded by Eric Curtit, MoDOT.

Charlie asked for any further discussion or if there was any dissension or objections. Hearing none, Charlie determined that consensus had been achieved and the motion is approved.

Larry Salci include this DCR in the Review Panel Report and its recommendation and it was sent to the Executive Board in advance of the 2-12-19 conference call. On 2-12-19, as noted in the Executive Board report, this DCR was accepted, as was the full Review Panel Report and Recommendations and Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2 was formally adopted.

Procurement Updates:

- 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 NGENC Vice Chair, Charlie King on a regular basis.

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

- AAR Updates as of 2-7-19:

On 1-24-19, Eric Sherrock, ENSCO, provided the following update on the LED light testing Phase II. ENSCO is supporting the FRA Office Research, Development and Technology and AAR on this effort.

“Phase 2 focused on subjective static field testing of LED lights that were deemed eligible for consideration following Phase 1 laboratory-based testing. Phase 2 field testing was successfully completed in October at the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello, IL. Test personnel are in the process of analyzing and documenting the test results. These should be available in Q1 of 2019. FRA is working with AAR to arrange for Phase 3 testing of the locomotive LED lights in early 2019.”

- University of Nebraska study on High Speed wireless technology as of 2-7-19:

Hamid Sharif-Kashani reported that they are conducting a model and simulation high speed data network study that includes wireless.

Hamid reported that the model has been completed and they have been doing testing in the lab. They are now ready to do field testing but got delayed a bit by the government shutdown. He expects the field testing

to proceed in the coming weeks and he will show the NGEN Technical subcommittee the results once the testing has occurred.

Contact Information:

Hamid Sharif Kashani
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- Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group:

On 2-7-19, Team Leader Tom Sisler, reported that the DRAFT requirements document had been completed and is under review by the working group members for discussion on the next call around the end of this month (February).

Tom referenced the working group's discussion about proceeding with a 305-920 DTL software specification in light of the fact that the FRA/University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study.

Hamid Sharif-Kashani, University of Nebraska, commented that the high-speed wireless study has a basis for the DTL and in some areas it is covered, but it is not clear how "we can have a direct interface" with what the NGEN is doing.

Tom Sisler determined that, at this point his working group will not do any work on the DTL software specification 305-920 on how to use high-speed wireless.

Hamid added that he "would be happy provide model testing in our simulations".

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 February 2019, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee met once, on the 6th.

Key decisions and action item updates from the month of February 2019, included:

- Review: Final DRAFT FASC & Treasurer's Report presentation for the 2019 NGEN Annual Meeting:

On 2-6-19, Chairman Tim Ziethen provided an updated draft of the Annual meeting FASC and Treasurer's report presentation.

Tim reviewed the updated version – and noted the changes. He also identified the numbers as related to total spend rate and current spend rate that were requested to be added to the presentation.

- Overview: Quarterly Grant Progress Report to FRA – submitted 1-31-19 – Tim Ziethen:

Tim Ziethen reported that the Quarterly Grant Progress Report to FRA has been submitted. Tim will provide Steve Hewitt with the submittal for distribution to FASC and Executive Board members.

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 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 Single Level Car Specification Review Panel met on February 7, 2019 to consider the Review Panel Report and Recommendations for Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2 as prepared by consultant Larry Salci. The report was approved on 2-17-19 and submitted to the NGEC executive Board. On 2-12-19, the Executive Board accepted the report and its recommendations and formally adopted the Single Level Car Specification 305-003 Revision B.2.