



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

Monthly Activities Report: March 31, 2015

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 March, 2015, the Executive Board met twice –via conference call - on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Key decisions and action items from the month of March, 2015 included:

- Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item for the Executive Board calls. On March 31<sup>st</sup> it was reported that the RFP for a Fleet Manager is close to being approved. It is currently being reviewed by the Illinois Governor's office.

The Mid-West group continues to work on developing a governance and ownership model. They have a concept document and are in the process of developing a draft MOU.

The RFI for a Fleet Maintainer was successful with a number of responses. Michigan is now in the process of drafting an RFP.

- On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Treasurer Darrell Smith reported that the revised Statement of Work and Budget for a no-cost grant agreement extension through 9-30-17 was submitted to the Amtrak Grants Office and will be sent to FRA Grants within a few days.
- Design of safety cards for insertion in seatbacks of the new bi-level cars: On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved a designation for inclusion on the safety seat card: the NGEC logo along with: multi-state passenger cars will be added to all seat safety cards. AASHTO will be sending the artwork for the NGEC logo to Caltrans.
- Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment: Criteria for new equipment has been developed by the locomotive committee. The committee will brief Jim Grady, AAR on the criteria. Following this – a subgroup will be formed to work with the NGEC after the beginning of the New Year.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Jeff Gordon reported that he has coordinated with TPCI's David Cackovic and it has been determined that for AAR, its Standards Development Committee is the vehicle for this effort. Jeff will coordinate with David as to who the NGEC will participate. Jeff is looking to identify NGEC members.

- NGEC States Letter to the FRA, House and Senate Appropriations: On March 31, Chairman Curtit reported that he has submitted the FRA version of the letter, but not that of the House and Senate as of yet. The House Majority policy has changed and they are not accepting outside testimony but will accept letters from organizations with a specific request. Steve Hewitt will provide Eric with the contact info for the House letter.
- The Finance and Administrative subcommittee has begun developing a proposal for potential funding options to present to the Board for its consideration by October, 2015:

The FASC began discussions on this activity on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Members of the FASC have been asked to bring ideas to the table for discussion.

Exploring options for long term future funding of the NGEC is now the primary focus of the FASC with a due date of submitting recommendations to the Executive Board by October of 2015.

Darrell Smith compiled a list of concepts/ideas for discussion at the Annual meeting. While no conclusions were reached, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee was directed to look into the question of the NGEC's ability to accept money and participate in the receipt of costs.

The list of potential funding concepts has been sent to the FASC as well, and will be a part of the next FASC conference call agenda on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Outreach to All Aboard Florida: On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Eric Curtit reported that he had contacted All Aboard Florida (Dave Ward, Siemens) as requested previously. Dave and Eric discussed the use of the NGEC specification. Dave confirmed that Siemens has been awarded the contract, and that bidders had been asked to meet the NGEC specifications as much as was practically possible. Dave will provide "high level" information only, on changes are made to the specs.
- An updated "backgrounder" educational document was prepared by Steve Hewitt, finalized and printed by AASHTO, and distributed to all those present at the NGEC Annual Meeting. Copies remain available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at [shwitt109@aol.com](mailto:shwitt109@aol.com) with the number of copies requested and a mailing address.
- Developing a policy for public access to NGEC Specs and/or reference documents and drawings: This is a new issue, which was raised by Support Services Manager, Steve Hewitt, on the March 31<sup>st</sup> Board call. Vincent Brotski, Amtrak Legal, will do some research and come back to the Board with his findings as to whether or not there is a reason that the NGEC cannot restrict public access to these documents. At that point the Board may wish to take action on developing a policy and revising the statement that goes out with the automatic email response to limit distribution to only those with legitimate use for the specs.

**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 March, 2015, the Technical subcommittee met twice, via conference call, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>. Key decisions and action items for the month of March included:

- RVAAC: The RVAAC met as a full committee on February 26-27 at the Access Board Head Quarters to review the 4 subcommittee guidance documents. The Final Draft RVAAC report was distributed to the Technical subcommittee on 3-26-15. Comments are due by April 10, 2015. The intent is to have the full RVAAC report with recommendations submitted to the Access Board by July 15, 2015.
- Backgrounder educational document: With the changes to the NGEC organizational structure at the October 24<sup>th</sup> Fall Meeting, the Backgrounder was in need of updating. This has been done and a new version was printed and distributed to all NGEC Annual Meeting attendees. The new Backgrounder is now available upon request. Please contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) if you want to receive Backgrounders. Provide the quantity requested and an address for sending them to.

Steve Hewitt has provided PDF copies, via email, to the NGEC participants list with an offer to send hard copies upon request.

- DEF Working Group: An introductory "kick off" meeting was held in March - and a regular call schedule has been set. Bi-weekly updates will continue to be provided to the Technical subcommittee.
- Document Control update:

On March 26, 2015, Tammy Krause provided the following update:

*"A DCR was received to change the weights of the Bi-Level cars. This DCR is currently being handled by the Carbody group.*

*The changes for the C.2 version of the Bi-level car spec are currently being incorporated into the spec by Camren Cordell.*

*Richard Stegner is compiling the DCRs for the locomotive specs and will be submitting them shortly. The DCR form on the NGEC website is submitted electronically to the Document Control Coordinator. The form was being sent to Dave Warner's Amtrak e-mail. This was corrected this week and now the DCR forms will come to me.*

*I issued a specification number 305-921 for a new specification "NE environmental, operating & wayside conditions" that will be used in the Dual Mode Locomotive specification."*

- Progress Report : Dual Mode Locomotive (DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail) Specification development:

On March 26, 2015, the following update was provided by Jack Madden, NYSDOT:

*"Since the last Technical Subcommittee call on 3/12/15, the VTI Team and the Environmental Team have met twice each and the Mechanical/Carbody Team has met once. All Teams have made progress on the chapters for which they are responsible. The members of the General and Cab and Customer Amenities Teams have worked individually and in small groups on revising their chapters, although those Teams, as a whole, have not met. As noted on the 3/12/15 TSC call, the next Locomotive Working Group call will be held at 10:00AM Eastern on Friday 3/27/15. Based upon Team status reports at the meeting we will decide if we will defer the scheduled date from 4/2/15 to 4/16/15 for completion of final drafts of all chapters and their submission to Amtrak for collation and formatting into a single document for subsequent TSC review."*

- Bi-Level Car procurement – progress report:

On March 26, 2015, the following update report was provided by Sharon Beasley, Caltrans:

There are 147 Design review items remaining open.

8 First Article Inspections (FAIs) are complete. 5 FAIs expected to be completed in April and 8 more slated for May.

QA inspection for readiness at the Nippon Sharyo plant continues – 9 items remain open.

Sal DeAngelo, FRA, is working with the states on developing a status update report and a distribution list to ensure that FRA is kept apprised of progress being made.

9 change orders are pending – none of which will impact the schedule.

- Diesel-electric locomotive – progress report:

On March 26, 2015, The following update report was provided by IDOT:

- "a) The project continues to progress on schedule, within 2 weeks. The original schedule indicated completion of FDR meetings on 3/6/2015 and the FDR meetings were actually completed on 3/20/2015.*
- b) The invoice for milestone 'C' for IDR has been received.*
- c) All review meetings (15 days total) have been completed. Follow-up action items are now being dispositioned.*
- d) The Design Review process is projected has generated 67 RFCs (request for clarification). From these, 10 document change requests (DCRs) will be generated. Since 15 DCRs were previously processed, the locomotive project is expected to have 25 DCRs, reflecting the design review process.*
- e) Ten draft DCRs are being processed (including DCR for the 340 wheel profile). Rich Stegner has contacted Tammy Krause, to coordinate.*
- f) Amtrak has reconfirmed that the APTA 340 profile, per APTA document PR-M-S-015-06 (figure B.8) is to be used for the wheel profile for simulations and vehicle qualification.*
- g) The locomotive weight is holding steady at 270,000 lbs (+/-) and the calculated P2 force is within specified limits."*

#### **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 March, 2015, due to the proximity of the NGEAC Annual Meeting, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee did not hold its monthly conference call.

***At the October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 NGEAC Executive Board Fall Meeting, the Section 209/305 Working Group was formally established as a Subcommittee of the NGEAC – 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 514 Subcommittee:**

**Chair: Ron Pate, Washington State DOT**

**The 514 Subcommittee holds bi-weekly conference calls on Mondays at 4:00PM Eastern.**

During the month of March, 2015, Chairman Ron Pate provided the following updates to the Executive Board:

- The Subcommittee is now moving onto next steps – keeping the plan, which is a living document, updated.
- Amtrak is nearing completion of its 5 year forecast. The next call of the Subcommittee will include a review of the forecast.
- Minor CIP updates were presented by Amtrak on the March 23, 2015 conference call.
- Ron noted that they are awaiting the FY 14 reconciliation from Amtrak
- Cost controls have been a concern of the states – they believe that auditing specific areas of costs will help.
- Overall, 514 is moving forward and making progress.

**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.**

In March, 2015, the Review Panels were inactive.