



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

Monthly Activities Report: April 28, 2017

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 April 2017, the Executive Board met twice on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Highlights, decisions, and action items from the month of April 2017 include:

- Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

The Mid-West States have completed the DRAFT Section 6 report for the new locomotives and submitted it to FRA. Section 6 compliance is a requirement before the new locomotives can be put into service. The Section 6 report is meant to be a living document.

Most of the lease agreements with Amtrak are very close to being finalized.

The Mid-West ownership board will be holding its first meeting very soon and will be developing By-Laws and operating procedures.

- Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Task Force:

In March 2017, Chairman Curtit formally established the Acquisition and Best Practices Task Force. Eric Curtit will serve as Chair. Members include: Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT, and Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT, Ron Pate/Jason Biggs, WSDOT, John Oimoen/Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, Joe Paul, Amtrak, Sal DeAngelo, FRA, Larry Salci, NGEC Consultant, Paul Jamieson, SNC-Lavalin, and Dick Bruss, NARP. Steve Hewitt has agreed to provide NGEC support.

As of 4-25-17, Members have been identified. The Chair will sketch out a DRAFT charge statement and an organizational call will be scheduled. The first call will be held after the completion of the more immediate efforts to complete the lease agreements. An email to all members will go out in advance of the first meeting calling for topics and issues.

- Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement:

On April 25, 2017, John Oimoen, IDOT, provided the following update:

- *IDOT Locomotives 4604 and 4611 are in Chicago.*
- *Six Caltrans units have been delivered to Oakland*
- *IDOT and Siemens have signed conditional acceptance on IDOT units: 4603- 4611. These units have all completed the 500 mile burn in.*
- *Caltrans has signed conditional acceptance on their six units; WSDOT has also conditionally accepted 2 units, and IDOT has conditionally accepted 9.*
- *All Maintenance Demonstrations have been successfully completed.*
- *238.111(b) testing is complete at WSDOT. 238.111(a) testing is complete at Caltrans. 238.111(a) testing has begun at IDOT, all yard tests are complete and corridor road testing began on 4/19.*
- *IDOT and Amtrak have signed agreements for storage, testing and commissioning the locomotives.*
- *WSDOT and IDOT continue to meet with Amtrak to finalize their respective leases. Caltrans is working with Amtrak on updating its agreement.*
- *Amtrak/JPE insurance issues have been resolved and the insurance is progress.*
- *JPE's are working with Amtrak and the FRA on a list of final items that need to be resolved before the locomotives go into revenue service.*
- *WSDOT units 1400-1401 have been delivered to TTCL and 1400 has completed the 500-mile burn in and 1401, 1402 and 1403 finished testing at TTCL this week.*
- *Siemens warranty service locations are now established with the JPE's.*
- *Wi-Tronix application, as required by Amtrak, is being applied by FMI. One Caltrans unit has been equipped and IDOT units at TTCL are being equipped. Siemens projects Wi-Tronix will complete software in June.*
- *All Document Change Requests (DCR) have been processed to conform the technical specification for as-built configuration.*
- *IDOT and its' Fleet Manager Contractor is now functioning in Chicago on a daily basis.*

- 514 subcommittee update 4-25-17:

On 4-25-17, Brian Beeler II provided the following update on the activities of the 514 subcommittee:

The 514 subcommittee is making good progress as it begins its "major update" of the CIP.

Amtrak has provided updates for equipment charges in the number of new locomotives fleets – the numbers could be different along the corridors - reflective of fleet types for each state using them.

The subcommittee continues the discussion on the CIP and how it can be improved in how it looks, and how it works.

On the last subcommittee call, there was a discussion about a potential refresh of Amfleet I. Amtrak has some money to potentially use for a refresh, and raised the possibility to the subcommittee members. More details will be forthcoming. There is no set resolution on this as to when it will happen or what the impacts will be.

- Technical subcommittee update:

On April 25, 2017, Mario Bergeron provided the following update on the activities of the Technical subcommittee:

On April 20, 2017, the Technical subcommittee unanimously approved the DCRS for the D-E Locomotive Specification as presented.

In approving the DCRs, the Technical subcommittee asked Steve Hewitt to transmit the summary spreadsheet to Chairman Curtit and the Executive Board, and has requested that the Board begin the process for review and approval. Once adopted, the changes will be incorporated into the specification as Revision B.

Status: Update of Single Level Car Specification – Tammy Krause is compiling the applicable changes from the Bi-Level specification (Revision C.4) to the Single Level specification, and will be sending them out to subcommittee members in the next few weeks. Tammy will also be revising the Timeline for completion, and will send that out as well.

Status: Establishment of a technical working group re: Future of Electronics on Trains - following the NGEN Annual Meeting, Dale Engelhardt reprised his presentation on the Future of Electronics on Trains. Establishing a technical working group (within the Technical subcommittee) to address this topic is under consideration. Good response with volunteers have come forward to participate on the working group. More to come...

- Finance and Administrative subcommittee update:

On 4-11-17, Darrell Smith provided the following update on the activities of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC):

The priority focus of the subcommittee is the development of a strategy and implementation plan for successfully requesting future federal funding beyond the current grant agreement which expires on 9-30-19. Initial discussions took place on 4-5-17, with follow up discussions scheduled for the next call – 5-3-17.

- Re-convening the Locomotive Review Panel and directing its review of the Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification DCR summary sheet for Revision B:

Eric Curtit reported on 4-25-17, that with the DCRs for the Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification having been received as approved by the Technical subcommittee, he would now begin the process for Executive Board adoption of what will be Revision B

The next steps are to:

- a. Confirm members of the panel (current listing – below):

**Locomotive Review Panel:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chairman  
 Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT  
 Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT  
 Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
 Kevin Kesler, FRA  
 Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel

Tammy Krause, Amtrak – technical support  
 Steve Hewitt – NGENC support

- b. Request Consultant Larry Salci to begin a review of the changes and prepare a Review Panel Report, and ask Mr. Salci to provide AASHTO with an SOW specific to this effort.

Eric reported that Larry Salci has been contacted and has accepted the request to review the DCRs and prepare the DRAFT report with recommendations for Review Panel consideration, and ultimately, for Executive Board approval. Steve Hewitt has contact Larry to request that he submit an SOW to AASHTO and a timeline for completion.

### **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 April 2017, the Technical subcommittee met once, via conference call, on the 20th. Key decisions and action item updates from the month of April 2017, included:

- Updating ECP Standards: This is an ongoing item which the Technical subcommittee is tracking.
- Backgrounder educational document: The new educational document has been printed and remains available, by request, through Steve Hewitt.
- AWG Update: Melissa Shurland, FRA, made a presentation of the FRA/Oregon State University report: Inclusive Universal Design Guidelines for HSR Passenger Cars: Safety and Feasibility Review of Accessibility. The full report and the PowerPoint presentation have been distributed.

On 2-9-17, Melissa Shurland reported that she had received one set of comments and they were being reviewed and considered for possible inclusion in the report. After some discussion, it was agreed that, once the review is complete, and a decision on whether to include the comments in the report is made, Melissa will inform Steve Hewitt and Chairman Bergeron, and a decision will be made to either provide a summary of the changes on a subcommittee call, or wait until the Annual Meeting and include this as a part of the overall presentation of the Accessibility report.

Melissa Shurland reported that the comments received had to do with maneuverability of the 64-inch scooter. The comments include diagrams and a request that there be a 3D mock up for clarity. Once these comments are incorporated into the report, Melissa will send a revised report to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the subcommittee members.

As of 4-20-17, Melissa had not received any additional comments on the Accessibility Report.

- Document Control Update as of 4-20-17:
  - a. Status: Single Level Specification Review/update:
 

Tammy Krause has informed Steve Hewitt that the initial timeline for completion (June 2017) of the review of the Bi-Level Specification Revisions for applicability to the Single Level Specification has slipped a bit. Tammy is now in the process of putting together the DCRS for the Single Level Specification, and intends to have them out in the next several weeks. Tammy will develop an updated/revised timeline for completion of the review and updating of the single-level specification.
  - b. Review and respond to comments on D/E Loco DCRs:
 

Tammy had informed Steve Hewitt that she has received no comments on the Diesel-Electric Locomotive DCR spreadsheet, as approved by the Locomotive working group, and distributed to the Technical subcommittee members prior to the last call (3-23-17). With no comments received or

changes requested, it was recommended that the changes be considered for approval by the subcommittee today.

- Consider for Approval – D-E Locomotive Specification DCRs Revision A.1- Dale Engelhardt:

On 4-20-17, Dale Engelhardt, chairing the meeting on behalf of Mario Bergeron, called for a motion to approve the Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification as presented:

A motion to approve was offered by Charlie Poltenson, NYSDOT, and seconded by Allan Paul, NCDOT.

With no further discussion forthcoming, Dale Engelhardt asked Steve Hewitt to poll the voting members of the subcommittee on the motion:

Dale Engelhardt, Amtrak – aye  
 Melissa Shurland, FRA, for Jeff Gordon - aye  
 Allan Paul, NCDOT - aye  
 Allan Paul as proxy for Phil Meraz, Iowa DOT – aye  
 Jennifer Bastian, IDOT – aye  
 Jennifer Bastian as proxy for Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans – aye  
 Marci Petterson, Conn DOT - aye  
 Charlie Poltenson, NYSDOT – aye  
 Jason Biggs, WSDOT – aye  
 Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT -aye

With a quorum having been confirmed, and all votes having been cast in the affirmative, Dale Engelhardt determined that consensus has been achieved and the motion is approved.

Steve Hewitt will transmit the DCR spreadsheet to Chairman Eric Curtit with a recommendation that he reconvene the Locomotive Review Panel to begin its review and make recommendations to the Executive Board per the NGEC procedures.

#### Procurement Updates:

- Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement: Progress reports from the lead state on the PRIIA multi-state locomotive procurement is provided on each technical subcommittee call. (Please see the summary update provided by IDOT on 4-25-17 to the Executive Board)
- Bi-Level Car Procurement: As Caltrans and IDOT are working out some contract issues with the contractor there will be nothing to report for now. As this is expected to be the status for a while, on the last call (1-12-17) Chairman Bergeron asked that this item be removed from the bi-weekly agenda until such time that Caltrans feels that it has an update to provide to the subcommittee. Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, will contact Steve Hewitt and the Chair when there will be something to report and an agenda item will be added to the subsequent conference call.
- AAR Committee Update – Nothing new on this item was reported on 4-20-17.
- Future of Electronics on Trains:

On 4-20-17 Dale Engelhardt reported that he has not yet gotten confirmation from Mario Bergeron as to whether the proposed working group will be established, but he anticipates that it will.

Dale also reported that he has done some follow up with Amtrak folks on this concept, many of whom are working on it from Amtrak's end. Dale noted that the airlines provide similar service on flights and it is called In Flight Entertainment (IFE). Dale is recommending that, on trains it would be identified as On Board Entertainment (OBE).

Dale believes the concept and the anticipated working group offers a great opportunity for the future of passenger rail and he hopes to bring it from "discussion to reality".

Steve Hewitt announced the following as members who have volunteered to serve on the working group. Others are welcome to join. If interested, please let Steve Hewitt know and he will inform Mario Bergeron and Dale Engelhardt.

**Volunteers to date:**

Dale Engelhardt – Amtrak – [engelhd@amtrak.com](mailto:engelhd@amtrak.com)  
 David Yogev – Oran Safety Glass – [david@oran.co.il](mailto:david@oran.co.il)  
 Dick Bruss – NARP – [rjembruss@gmail.com](mailto:rjembruss@gmail.com)  
 Tom Sisler – [thomas.sisler@snclavalin.com](mailto:thomas.sisler@snclavalin.com)  
 Robert Dyk – [Robert.dyk@snclavalin.com](mailto:Robert.dyk@snclavalin.com)  
 Matthew Ercolino – [matthew.ercolino@snclavalin.com](mailto:matthew.ercolino@snclavalin.com)  
 Robert Fauvelle – [robert.fauvelle@snclavalin.com](mailto:robert.fauvelle@snclavalin.com)  
 Victor Kelley – [victor.kelley@snclavalin.com](mailto:victor.kelley@snclavalin.com)

**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 April 2017, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) held its monthly meeting on 4-5-17

- Legislative Outreach Task Force – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEC: Each state member and Amtrak is to work with its Government Affairs office and ask that the two-pager (currently being finalized) be included in its package during Hill visits to keep the NGEC on Congress' radar even though we are not yet ready to ask for more money.

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 was the “two-page” educational document being finalized for Executive Board approval.

As of 4-5-17, the education and outreach document has been printed and is available upon request through Steve Hewitt. Board members have each received 2 copies. Additional copies were distributed at the NGEC Annual Meeting. Distribution has been proceeding well – additional printed copies (on top of the original 300 copies) have been ordered through AASHTO.

On 4-5-17, after much discussion about the message going forward, FASC members were asked to think more about the strategy and an implementation plan going forward. On the next call (May 3rd) there will be continued discussion with an eye on actions to be taken and the establishment of timelines.

- 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.

On the next call, 5-3-17, the FASC will begin discussions related to AASHTO and subcontractor contract renewals.

**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.**

On April 25th, Chairman Brian Beeler II, provided the following update to the NGEC Executive Board:

- The 514 subcommittee is making good progress as it begins its “major update” of the CIP.

Amtrak has provided updates for equipment charges in the number of new locomotives fleets – the numbers could be different along the corridors - reflective of fleet types for each state using them.

The next meeting is 5-8-17 and there will be a discussion and review of the numbers and the equipment for each route.

The subcommittee continues the discussion on the CIP and how it can be improved in how it looks, and how it works.

On the last subcommittee call, there was a discussion about a potential refresh of Amfleet I. Amtrak has some money to potentially use for a refresh, and raised the possibility to the subcommittee members. More details will be forthcoming. There is no set resolution on this as to when it will happen or what the impacts will be.

**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.**

In April 2017, the Review Panels did not meet, but on 4-25-17, Chairman Eric Curtit called for the Locomotive Review Panel to plan to reconvene to review the Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification DCR summary sheet for a Revision B of the specification. Consultant Larry Salci will begin his technical review and will prepare a report with recommendations for Review panel consideration. Larry will develop a timeline for completion and keep the Executive Board apprised of the progress being made.