

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JANUARY 6, 2022 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Ray Hessinger, Jennifer Bastian, Jennifer Bastian also as proxy for Jason biggs, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Ed Engle, Gurleen Boparai, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Joe Paul, Tarek Omar, Mike Murray, Steve Hewitt, Tammy Krause, Art Peterson, Industry Members: Rich Stegner, Josh Coran, Paul Arnone, Steve Ojalvo, Kevin Sudano, Ed Golitko, Steve Morrison, Richard Curtis, Paul Jamieson, Dick Bruss, Donald Sandala, Matt Sibul, Bill Saddler, Jack Martinson, Jeff Schultz, Martin Bloedt, Richard Bowie</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Matthew Simmons, Jason Biggs, Marci Petterson, Mike Kraft, Charlie King, Larry Salci, Blair Slaughter, Melissa Shurland</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Technical subcommittee Chair George Hull, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

2021 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGENC two-page backgrounder/educational document was released last year and is available electronically or in hard copy by request. Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

About 615 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

Missouri DOT Graphic Arts has developed a mock-up of the 2022 NGENC two-pager with updates provided by the FASC. The Executive Board discussed the mock-up on 12-28-21 and suggested several changes. A revised mock-up was sent to Board members on 1-4-22 and will be discussed on the next Board call – 1-11-22.

The goal remains to have the new two-pager published by the NGENC Annual Meeting to be held on 2-25-22.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are about 200 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

This procurement remains in the “cone of silence” period.

Next Update – as appropriate

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

On 7-22-21, George Hull talked about the need to address issues related to cellular capabilities on trains. Previously, it was thought the Electronics on Trains working group would be a home for this effort. George asked if that was the right place or should a separate working group be established to address these issues.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that Tammy Krause had talked to David Brabb, team leader of the Electronics on Trains working group and

the thought is that it is a fit and they will add it to their list of activities.

Action: George asked Tammy to provide a list of issues that the Electronics on Trains is addressing and its priorities to better understand the volume of work. Tammy will include this action in her Document Control Update.

On 10-7-21, David Brabb, Team Leader for the Electronics on Trains Technical Working Group provided the following response:

As far as the Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues), we had discussed this in the group and with Tammy. We think it would be more appropriately handled by folks that design the mechanical/materials specified in the car design signal attenuation due to glass and metals specified in the designs, are the issues. However, we would be open to taking a shot at it if needed.

Based on this response – the Chair will take this up at a later date to determine if this should be assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group or another more appropriate group.

Update:

On 12-9-21, George Hull decided to ask that the Electronics on Trains add this item to its activities.

Tammy Krause will notify team leader David Brabb.

**3.
Approval of the Minutes from 12-9-21 and 12-23-21:**

On a motion by Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 12-9-21 and 12-23-21 were approved as submitted.

**4.
Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-6-22 - Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:**

On 1-6-21, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Carshell final design has been approved and the cab structures are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete with the test report in work and the cab car compression test report review is complete with comments sent back for review. FAIs will continue for café and cab car subsystems in the new year.

102 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Limited cars are being deployed on the Midwest routes for testing of the wi-fi, passenger information system and crew training. This will take place for the month of January. IDOT and Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items and relevant FMIs are being addressed.

**5.
Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT reported that Metro-North and Siemens have completed Initial Design Review and have started Preliminary Design Review.

**6.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:**

George Hull, Amtrak, reported:

On the Acela: qualification and testing continues.

On the Long Distance (Charger) Locomotives: two have been conditionally accepted and are in Chicago for testing. Two are in Wilmington and two are shipping to Wilmington today (1-6-22).

On the Intercity Trainset: Initial Design Review is underway.

**7.
Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:**

On 1-6-22, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

Document Control has been working on the Trainset Specification revision. All questions have been answered and the Tech Writer is checking that all the changes have been made. The DMU specification latest revision will optimistically be approved by the Executive Board on Tuesday. I am working on my presentation for the Annual Meeting next month.

8. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:

Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that the next meeting of the working group is scheduled for January 24th at 1:00pm Eastern. Jeff extended invites to any NGEC members interested in joining the working group to let him know via email at Jeffrey.Gordon@dot.gov.

9. Overview: NGEC Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:

On 1-6-22, Steve Hewitt reported, once again, that the meeting will take place in-person and virtually on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC.

A DRAFT agenda has been developed with general consent of the Board members. Speakers are being confirmed. Steve gave a brief overview of the DRAFT agenda and offered to send it to anyone who may need it for travel approval.

A meeting with AASHTO to discuss/coordinate the various meetings the week of 2-21-22 was held on 12-13-21. Steve Hewitt participated for the NGEC and let AASHTO know the plans for the NGEC Annual Meeting including the intent to hold it in-person and virtually.

A second meeting with AASHTO is scheduled for 1-25-22. Steve Hewitt will participate on behalf of the NGEC

Steve Hewitt sent out the Hotel Room Block information to all NGEC members on 12-22-21.

Members should book their rooms as soon as possible.

NGEC members should register with Steve Hewitt (via an email) and let him know if they will attend, and, if so, in-person or virtually.

It is important that we have an accurate head count. Please send your registration email to Steve Hewitt by 1-31-22

The Hotel Room Block link is:

Be sure to review [AASHTO's Health and Safety Protocols](#).

Reserve Sleeping Room

You may reserve a room in AASHTO's room block here, <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RTLM>. The last day to reserve a room at the group rate of \$159 per night plus 14.95% tax is Monday, January 31, 2022. If you encounter any problems securing a room at the hotel, please contact Kamasha Hendrickson at 202.624.5403.

10. Update: University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – Hamid-Sharif Kashani:

Hamid-Sharif Kashani was unavailable for this call, so this item was tabled.

11. Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at about 3:20pm Eastern.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 1-20-22– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document has been released and is available electronically or in hard copy by request. Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

About 615 electronic copies have been distributed to date.

Missouri DOT Graphic Arts has developed a mock-up of the 2022 NGEC two-pager with updates provided by the FASC. The Executive Board will discuss the mock-up on 12-28-21 and will provide any changes or edits they have at that time. Steve Hewitt will transmit any suggested edits to MODOT, and a Final DRAFT will be developed and sent back to the Board for its next call on 1-11-22.

The goal remains to have the new two-pager published by the NGEC Annual Meeting to be held on 2-25-22.

Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are about 200 industry participants.

There have been several updates/changes to the list that have been provided to Steve Hewitt and those changes were made. Any further updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-6-22:

On 1-6-22, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car shell final design has been approved and the cab structures are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete with the test report in work and the cab car compression test report review is complete with comments sent back for review. FAIs will continue for café and cab car subsystems in the new year.

102 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Limited cars are being deployed on the Midwest routes for testing of the wi-fi, passenger information system and crew training. This will take place for the month of January. IDOT and Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items and relevant FMIs are being addressed.

Document Control Update -1-6-22:

On 1-6-22, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

Document Control has been working on the Trainset Specification revision. All questions have been answered and the Tech Writer is checking that all the changes have been made. The DMU specification latest revision will optimistically be approved by the Executive Board on Tuesday. I am working on my presentation for the Annual Meeting next month.

Working Group on Weight Issues as of 1-6-22:

The next call is scheduled for 1-24-22 at 1:00pm Eastern.

If interested in participating on this working group, contact Jeff Gordon at Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov or Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

Next Update – 2-3-21

Establishing a working group for Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues):

On 7-22-21, George Hull talked about the addressing issues related to cellular capabilities on trains. Previously, it was thought the Electronics on Trains working group would be a home for this effort. George asked if that was the right place or should a separate working group be established to address these issues.

Steve Hewitt mentioned that Tammy Krause had talked to David Brabb, team leader of the Electronics on Trains working group and the thought is that it is a fit and they will add it to their list of activities.

Action: George asked Tammy to provide a list of issues that the Electronics on Trains is addressing and its priorities to better

understand the volume of work. Tammy will include this action in her Document Control Update.

On 10-7-21, David Brabb, Team Leader for the Electronics on Trains Technical Working Group provided the following response:

As far as the Interior Attenuation Specifications (Cellular issues), we had discussed this in the group and with Tammy. We think it would be more appropriately handled by folks that design the mechanical/materials specified in the car design signal attenuation due to glass and metals specified in the designs, are the issues. However, we would be open to taking a shot at it if needed.

Based on this response – the Chair will take this up at a later date to determine if this should be assigned to the Electronics on Trains working group or another more appropriate group.

On 12-9-22, Chairman Hull asked that this effort be assigned to the Electronics on Trains Working Group as he believes it is the best suited working group to address this topic.

Tammy Krause will inform Team Leader, David Brabb on the next Working Group call.

Electronics on Trains Working Group:

David Brabb provided the following update for inclusion in the 10-28-21 minutes which Steve Hewitt read into the record:

We had our call this past Tuesday. The results of the call were that 1. we need 3 talking points and issues clarified by Siemens. And 2. we have one that Tammy is helping with. These are found in the notes document sent out yesterday.

Once these issues are clarified/resolved, 305-919 DTL Hardware Spec. revision will be issued. We will begin the outline for the 920 DTL Software Spec., and begin listing questions for the group, this month.

Our next call is planned for November 30th at 3pm eastern.

Steve Hewitt will request that David Brabb provide an update on the working group's activities on the next call 1-20-22

Next Update – 1-20-22

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 10-14-21:

Hamid reported that work is continuing with the results of propagation modeling on the 160Mega Hertz channel and performance modeling on different channels including propagation and velocity in different rail environments (such as going through tunnels). Two abstracts have been produced and will be presented.

For any questions or more information, please contact Hamid Sharif-Kashani at hamidSharif@UNL.edu.

Steve Hewitt will reach out to Hamid to request an update for 1-20-22.

Next Update: 1-20-22

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –1-6-22

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT reported that Metro-North and Siemens have completed Initial Design Review and have started Preliminary Design Review.

Next Update: 2-3-22

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

As of 1-6-22, this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

Next Update: As appropriate

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 1-6-22:

George Hull provided the following updates on 1-6-22:

On the Acela: qualification and testing continues.

On the Long Distance (Charger) Locomotives: two have been conditionally accepted and are in Chicago for testing. Two are in

Wilmington and two are shipping to Wilmington today (1-6-22).

On the Intercity Trainset: Initial Design Review is underway.

Next Update: 2-3-22

NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting:

On 1-6-22, Steve Hewitt reported, once again, that the meeting will take place in-person and virtually on 2-25-22 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC.

A DRAFT agenda has been developed with general consent of the Board members. Speakers are being confirmed. Steve gave a brief overview of the DRAFT agenda and offered to send it to anyone who may need it for travel approval.

A meeting with AASHTO to discuss/coordinate the various meetings the week of 2-21-22 was held on 12-13-21. Steve Hewitt participated for the NGEC and let AASHTO know the plans for the NGEC Annual Meeting including the intent to hold it in-person and virtually.

A second meeting with AASHTO is scheduled for 1-25-22. Steve Hewitt will participate on behalf of the NGEC

Steve Hewitt sent out the Hotel Room Block information to all NGEC members on 12-22-21.

Members should book their rooms as soon as possible.

NGEC members should register with Steve Hewitt (via an email) and let him know if they will attend, and, if so, in-person or virtually.

It is important that we have an accurate head count. Please send your registration email to Steve Hewitt by 1-31-22

The Hotel Room Block link is:

Be sure to review [AASHTO's Health and Safety Protocols](#).

Reserve Sleeping Room

You may reserve a room in AASHTO's room block here, <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RTLM>. The last day to reserve a room at the group rate of \$159 per night plus 14.95% tax is Monday, January 31, 2022. If you encounter any problems securing a room at the hotel, please contact Kamasha Hendrickson at 202.624.5403.

Next call: 1-20-22

ATTACHMENTS



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

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

1-6-22

The agenda for the meeting is below:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 12-9-21 and 12-23-21 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: DMU Update | |
| - Update - Electronics on Trains working group | |
| - Status: Reformatting of the Trainset Specification | |
| 8. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues | Jeff Gordon |
| 9. Overview - NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting – 2-25-22 | Steve |
| 10. Update: University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study | Hamid-Sharif Kashani |
| 11. Review this meeting: | Steve Hewitt |
| 12. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next call – 1-20-22