

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

OCTOBER 27,  
2022

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Joe Paul, Vice Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> Joe Paul for George Hull, Melissa Shurland for Jeff Gordon, Jennifer Bastian, Gurleen Boparai, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Ed Engle, Troy Hughes, Larry Salci, Art Peterson, Steve Hewitt <b>Industry Members:</b> Ed Golitko, Richard Curtis, Kevin Sudano, Steve Ojalvo, Rich Bowie, Jack Madden, Frank Pascazio, Joanna Hallisy, Dave Warner, Josh Coran, Kevin Myles, Dick Bruss, Darrell Smith
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>George Hull, Ray Hessinger, Jeff Gordon, Matthew Simmons, Mike Jenkins, Jason Biggs, Marci Petterson, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Blair Slaughter, Tammy Krause, Rebecca Anger</i>

## DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

### 1.

Technical subcommittee Vice Chair Joe Paul, 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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).**

### 2.

**Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:**

#### **2022 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2022 NGENC two-pager is available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

To date 625 copies have been distributed.

The NGENC Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) is in the process of reviewing and updating the document for 2023. It is expected to be released by the 2023 NGENC Annual Meeting 2-3-23.

#### **Maintaining Industry Participation List:**

There are just over 200 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

#### **Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:**

As of 10-13-22, all Final Design Review (FDR) documents have been submitted by Siemens to Metro-North. The documents are now in the review, comment, and comment resolution stages.

#### **Next Update 11-10-22**

#### **Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 10-13-22:**

On the Acela:

Prototype Set #2 is in testing – Amtrak will be conducting a “mini” test beginning on 10-21-22 and running for 10 consecutive days.

Sets 3, 4 and 5 are in Penn now and Set 6 will arrive in November. They need FRA authorization for acceptance.

On the Charger Locomotives:

14 units have been accepted into service and are running on the Empire Builder and the City of New Orleans.

There are 5 more units in Wilmington, Delaware for commissioning.

29 units are in production and 77 are planned – for a total of 125.

On the GP38 yard locomotives:

1 has been delivered to Wilmington and is 90% commissioned.

Another one will be delivered tomorrow (10-14-22) and two more are expected in October.

Intercity Trainsets (ICT):

There was no update on this procurement provided today.

#### **Next Update 11-10-22**

#### **Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Update: On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

#### **Next Update: As Appropriate**

#### **Working Group on Weight Issues:**

The document is nearly complete. Jeff has some work to do on it before sending back out to the working group members.

The document is turning out a bit differently than expected. Jeff said he is not sure exactly how the Technical subcommittee will use it.

He noted that the group has uncovered things that need to be changed in the spec. None of these are controversial. Some are simply updates to the references and some are corrections to equations that have changed. Jeff will handle these through the DCR process that is ongoing now on the Bi-Level specification update.

Jeff expects the work to be complete by November with working group meetings to be held in September and October.

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

#### **Next Update: 11-10-22**

#### **University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study:**

Hamid Sharif Report as of 10/13/2022:

*During the previous phase of this project, which was completed in August, our team systematically explored the reusability of underutilized RF resources such as the 160MHz RF band. In this work, we studied the distinct capabilities - and limitations - of the 160 MHz RF frequency bands through our theoretical and computer models to design an RF communications solution to maximize achievable performance, reliability, and security for rail applications.*

*In the new phase, which started in September, we aim to research the transition from the developed model to a full prototype and conduct extensive field testing utilizing the rail facility to demonstrate our model capabilities. This phase also includes collections of a variety of performance metrics. We also aim to leverage these to accelerate research into a universal and modular cognitive radio solution for the rail industry that intelligently adapts to any usable RF band, for any rail wireless application.*

*I hope in the next report, provide more details about our plan for field testing. Please contact me ([hsharif@UNL.edu](mailto:hsharif@UNL.edu)) for any questions. Thank you.*

#### **Next Update: 11-10-22**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from 10-13-22 – Joe Paul, Amtrak:**

On a motion by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, and a second by Jennifer Bastian, Illinois DOT, the minutes from 10-13-22 were approved as submitted.

**4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:**

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (10-27-22):

*Update: The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly approved, and the Complete Café Car FAI is beginning this week in Sacramento.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the Rev B test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on Tuesday, October 25 with Amtrak, and FRA in attendance. The FAI and Sample Car Inspection for Cab Car is tentative for early 2023.*

*117 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once all necessary agreements are in place.*

**5. Update: Document Control – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause, NGEC Document Control Manager:**

Tammy Krause was unavailable, but asked Steve Hewitt to update the subcommittee using her last update to the Executive Board on 10-18-22:

*Tammy Krause reported that all Bi-Level Specification document change requests (DCRs) are with the appropriate technical working group team leaders. The October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for completing the working group review has been extended until October 31, 2022.*

*Tammy Krause and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are now in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.*

**Trainline Communications Working Group – Steve Hewitt for Ken Martin:**

Steve Hewitt added an update on the Trainline Communications working group provided to him by Ken Martin – team leader:

*Update following 10-18-22 working group meeting:*

*We continue to meet roughly every four weeks with our previous meeting having been Oct. 18 and our next scheduled for Nov. 15. I have updated the group regarding the decision to halt work on the 305-919 and 305-920 specifications in favor of working directly with the trainline communications sections of the existing car specifications. According to Tammy, there were no Bi-level DCRs related to trainline communications for the group to review.*

*Questions:*

*During our previous meeting, discussions were held regarding trainline communications specifications for the single-level Amtrak cars that are being ordered. I reiterated that the trainline communications section of the single-level specification would be the governing reference.*

*It was asked if the section was going to be reviewed and also, in the event of problems, how we would go about ensuring the cars would be constructed appropriately related to trainline communications. We can definitely add reviewing the section to our tasks, but I'm unsure how to proceed in the event problems are identified and/or changes requested.*

*Are there plans to perform a formal review of the single-level specification in the near future, or has it already been*

*completed recently? Are there procedures in place for making changes/amending the specifications outside of the periodic review cycle?*

These questions were sent on to Tammy Krause by Steve Hewitt and he has asked her to respond to Ken Martin. He also will anticipate Tammy reporting out on this on the next subcommittee call (11-10-22).

**6.  
NGEC Website Refresh – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Manager:**

The website refresh vendor (iEngineering) has completed Tasks I and II and is now working on Task III.

They have acquired a domain for the NGEC rather than have it as a part of the AASHTO website as it is now. The domain is ngec.org

Earlier this month (10-11-22) iEngineering provided the NGEC/AASHTO subgroup with a website Design Mock-Up The Mock-up was reviewed by the subgroup.

On 10-18-22, the web design mock-up was distributed to the NGEC Executive Board and was shown virtually during the Board meeting by Ray Hessinger, Chair.

The Board members were asked to provide any comments they had by 10-25-22 to Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger. On 10-28-22, they will be discussing the comments and building a comprehensive response to go to the vendor.

Overall, the vendor continues to make great progress and anticipates completing its work well within the performance period which runs through December 31, 2022.

**8.  
CRISI Application for NGEC Funding – Steve Hewitt:**

The Amtrak/NGEC CRISI Grant Application is being prepared by the Amtrak Grants Office. Once it is ready to be submitted, industry members, individual states, and other associations (e.g. SPRC) will be asked to write letters in support.

Amtrak has been provided with contact lists for potential letters of support by Steve Hewitt. Amtrak will be developing a template for the letters and will provide them along with the request for a letter.

The application deadline is 12-1-22, so the turnaround will be quick. The letters will be of critical importance in the application review process.

**9.  
NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – date and location:**

The 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting will be held a bit earlier than in past years. This year it will be held on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The location is, once again, the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Capitol Room B.** The time for the meeting will likely be the same as last year (**8:00am Registration – Meeting 8:30am – Noon Eastern**).

**Update – 10-27-22:**

**This meeting will be a hybrid just as last year's was. Those who register with Steve Hewitt are asked to let him know whether they intend to attend in person or virtual. This will help Steve provide AASHTO with an on-site head count and with names for name badges.**

Attendees can begin booking sleeping rooms here - <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RA1L>. Rooms must be booked by Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Room Rate is \$188 per night plus 14.95% tax.

Any questions on hotel room reservations contact:

**Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP**

Senior Meeting Planner

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

555 12th St, NW, Suite 1000 **\*NEW ADDRESS\***

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-624-5403

E-mail: [khendrickson@aaashto.org](mailto:khendrickson@aaashto.org)

**10.  
Other:**

**Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today's call Joe Paul adjourned the meeting at 3:21pm Eastern.

**Next Tech subcommittee Call: 11-10-22– 3:00pm Eastern**

### Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

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**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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

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**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Conn DOT has just completed answering Round 2 questions and are going into Round 3. The RFP deadline has been extended until January 2023.

**Next Update: As Appropriate**

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On the Acela:

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1 has been delivered to Wimington and is 90% commissioned.

Another one will be delivered tomorrow (10-14-22) and two more are expected in October.

On the Intercity Trainset (ICT):

As of 9-15-22, it was reported that they are close to done with Intermediate Design Review and are moving on to FDR.

Nothing new reported on 10-13-22.

**Next Update: 11-10-22**

**NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting:**

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**Next call 11-10-22**

**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://stephenhewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

**Agenda**

**10-27-2022**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roll Call   | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 2. Review Action Items   | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 10-13-22   | Joe Paul                      |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement                                  | Gurleen Boparai               |
| 5. Update: Document Control  | Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause |
| 6. NGEC Website Refresh - update   | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 7. CRISI Application for NGEC funding - update                               | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 8. NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – Registration and Hotel reservation information | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 9. Other   | All                           |
| 10. Adjourn  | Joe Paul                      |

**Next Meeting 11-10-22**