

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 3, 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, Art Peterson for Jennifer Bastian, Gurleen Boparai, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Ed Engle, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Blair Slaughter, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Hamid-Sharif Kashani, Steve Hewitt, Rebecca Anger</i> Industry Members: <i>Paul Jamieson, Josh Coran, Jack Madden, Rich Stegner, Dick Bruss, Stephen Mark, Richard Curtis, James Michel, Ed Golitko, Dave Warner, Jeff Schultz, Paul Arnone, Kevin Sudano, William Luebke, Steve Ojalvo, Jack Martinson, Wulfe Dicke, Steve Morrison</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Jason Biggs, Marci Petterson, Jennifer Bastian, Matthew Simmons, Joe Paul, Mike Kraft, Charlie King, Tarek Omar, Melissa Shurland, Tammy Krause</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.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

2022 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

2022 NGENC two-pager educational flyer:

The new two-pager is now available in hard copy by request. Send requests to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

Electronic two-pager was sent to all NGENC members last week.

Hard copies will be distributed to all in-person attendees at the NGENC Annual Meeting.

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.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

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

TRB question regarding future – next generation equipment needs – Results of Executive Board discussion:

On 1-25-22, the Executive Board discussed this issue. Ray Hessinger noted that on the last Technical subcommittee call held on 1-20-22, a member of the industry who is also involved with a TRB committee asked if the NGENC had needs for research for the next generation of equipment.

Ray noted that, at this time the NGENC is looking at possibly updating the primer prepared by the Locomotive Task Force early in the NGENC’s history. Dave Warner will be providing a presentation during the Annual Meeting on zero emissions propulsion – a then and now look, and this should set the stage or kick off that effort.

for now, as long as the Committee does not move into areas beyond where no one has gone before such as higher speed rail, there is no immediate need for additional research. Ray Hessinger noted “we will see where we go after Dave Warner’s presentation.”

3. Approval of the Minutes from 1-20-22:

On a motion by, Art Peterson for IDOT, and a second by Curtis McDowell for NCDOT, the minutes from 1-20-22 were approved as submitted.

4. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 2-3-22 – Gurleen Boparai:

On 2-3-22, Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans provided the following update to be included in the meeting minutes:

Report: 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. Cab Car Safety Appliance documents have been sent to the FRA for review. 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, and the test report is in work. The cab car compression test report review is complete, and Siemens is reviewing feedback. FAIs will continue for café and cab car subsystems.

102 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Conditional Acceptance activities completed with Siemens & Caltrans for the first 6 cars. IDOT has started revenue service for the first 4 cars.

Art Peterson for IDOT elaborated on the 4 Venture cars added to Revenue service noting that they ran on the St. Louis Line with Amfleet café car. They did very well. They rode well on Union Pacific class 6 tracks. This was a soft opening – very successful – and there will be a formal ceremony and introduction of the new cars mid-month (February).

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

Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North and Siemens continue with Preliminary Design Review. There are a significant number of submittals with Metro-North. Meetings will be scheduled as they move forward.

6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull:

On the Charger Locomotives: The first Locomotive is planned to enter revenue service next week. They are progressing well at the factory with 6 delivered and 4 conditionally accepted.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset – they continue with Design Review.

7. Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

On 2-3-22, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

Document control is focusing on updating the DMU specification and I continue to meet weekly with the technical writer on the DMU changes.

I am working on my presentation for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

8. Update: Electronics on Trains Working Group – Tammy Krause

I attended the Electronics on Trains WG meeting, and we reviewed the current status of the documents we are working on. Dave Brabb will no longer be the group leader but someone from Sharma & Associates will be taking over the group. Probably the new leader will be Ken Martin.

Steve Hewitt will follow up with Tammy to get more details such as:

What are the activities/documents the group is working on?

When will the new Team Leader be appointed?

When is the next call scheduled?

**9.
Update: Working Group on Weight Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that the working group reconvened last week (1-25-22) after a several months hiatus.

Jeff prepared a DRAFT summary document with collected comments received and the topics and general consensus.

There were 17 participants on the call – the most ever!

Jeff distributed the draft after the discussion, and he is working on the comments.

The next meeting is yet to be scheduled but will likely be the week of 2-28-22. He has sent out a doodle poll to the members. When he has a date and time, he will let Steve Hewitt know.

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

Hamid-Sharif Kashani provide the following update for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting:

We have been studying the properties and capabilities of the 160MHz RF band, and its suitability for different rail applications.

As a part of implementing a computer model for simulations of different sceneries for 160MHz, we have designed and implemented an end-to-end transceiver model and have also evaluated a number of path loss prediction models for use in our transceiver design.

Before the holidays, we focused our efforts on a single-carrier transceiver architecture. We completed that design effort and evaluated the design for its performance using several different channel models.

We are currently working on an OFDM-based transceiver architecture, and plan to conduct an evaluation of OFDM design as well. After this, we will have a complete model for different application evaluations.

Happy to provide detailed info about our models and our results.

**11.
Final Preparations for the NGEN Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

On 2-3-22, 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.

Steve reviewed the current agenda and noted a few speakers have yet to be confirmed, but most are.

A second meeting with AASHTO to discuss/coordinate the various meetings the week of 2-21-22 was held on 1-25-22, and a meeting/call with the meeting planner took place on 1-31-22.

Steve reminded members to register with him via email if they plan to attend and to let him know if it will be in-person or virtually. As of today 2-3-22, there are 47 registered in-person and 26 registered to participate virtually.

**12.
Schedule changes:**

The regular call scheduled for 2-17-22 is canceled and, in keeping with past practice surrounding the Annual Meeting, the call scheduled for 3-3-22 will also be canceled – **the next regular call will be 3-17-22.**

13. Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, George Hull adjourned the meeting at about 3:22pm Eastern.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 3-17-22– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and 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.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 2-3-22:

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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 – 3-17-21

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

The Electronics on Tarins working group has been tasked with the assignment.

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 2-3-22:

Hamid-Sharif Kashani provide the following update for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting:

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

Next Update: -as appropriate

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –2-3-22

Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North and Siemens continue with Preliminary Design Review. There are a significant number of submittals with Metro-North. Meetings will be schedules as they move forward.

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Next call 3-17-22

Annual Meeting 2-25-2022

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

2-3-22

The agenda for the meeting is below:

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 1-20-22 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |

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| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| 8. Update: Ele3ctronics on Trains Working Group | Tammy Krause |
| 9. Update: Working Group on Weight Issues | Jeff Gordon |
| 10. Update: University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study | Hamid-Sharif Kashani |
| 11. Final Preparations for the NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting – 2-25-22 | Steve Hewitt |
| 12. Schedule changes – no call on 2-17-22 or 3-3-22 | George |
| 13. Other | All |
| 14. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next – NGEC Annual Meeting 2-25-22
Next regular Tech SC Call 3-17-22