

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JULY 21, 2022

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Joe Paul, Vice Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: Joe Paul for George Hull, Jeffrey Gordon, Art Peterson for Jennifer Bastian and for Gurleen Boparai, Ed Engle, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Ray Hessinger, Mike Jenkins, Troy Hughes, Hamid Sharif, Steve Hewitt Industry Members: Ken Martin, Ken Woodard, Brian Ley, Julie Desrosier, James Campbell, Paul Arnone, Ed Goltko, Marco Weber, Joe Kenas, Matt Sibul, Joanna Hallisy, Kevin Myles, Rich Bowie, Josh Coran, Bill Saddler, Paul Jamieson, Rich Stegner, Jack Madden, Richard Curtis, William Loebke, Dave Warner
ABSENTEES	<i>George Hull, Mathew Simmons, Jason Biggs, Jennifer Bastian, Gurleen Boparai, Mike Kraft, Melissa Shurland, Tarek Omar, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger, Larry Salci</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:

The 2022 NGENC two-pager is available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

To date 125 hard copies and 450 electronic copies have been distributed (575 – total).

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:

Marci Petterson reported to the Technical subcommittee on 6-9-22 that a Pre-proposal meeting was scheduled for 6-10-22. Marci had previously announced (on 5-12-22) that Connecticut's Initial Coach Procurement RFP was rescinded, and a new RFP was released on 5-11-22.

On 7-7-22, Marci Petterson reported that the Pre-proposal meeting was held on 6-10-22 as scheduled and that the first round of questions are due next week. (week of 7-11-22)

Next Update: As Appropriate

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –7-7-22

On 6-9-22, Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North and Siemens concluded the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) and have moved to Final Design Review (FDR). Siemens has started the process of preparing FDR submittals to Metro-North.

On 7-7-22, Ray Hessinger was unavailable, and no update was provided.

Next Update: 8-4-22

Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 7-7-22:

On the Charger Locomotive:

A Notice to Proceed to add 50 options has been issued. To date, 11 Chargers have been accepted and 22 are presently under construction. Amtrak is currently running on the Empire Builder service, and plans to begin running on the City of New Orleans in the next few days. The California Zephyr is the next line where they will begin to run the Chargers.

On the Intercity Trainset (ICT):

Preliminary Design Review is complete, and half of the Intermediate Design Review is complete.

On the Acela 21:

It is anticipated that revenue service will begin in the Fall of 2023. There have been some delays regarding modeling.

Next Update: 8-4-22

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 3rd. 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**).

Steve will provide more information as the meeting date draws closer. He will send a "save the date" notice soon or a calendar appointment via Outlook to all NGEC members.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 7-7-22 – Joe Paul, Amtrak:

On a motion by, Art Peterson for IDOT, and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 7-7-22 were approved as submitted.

4. Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement- Art Peterson for Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:

On 7-21-22, Gurleen Boparai provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes which were presented for the record by Art Peterson:

The Cab Carshell final design has been approved and the cab cars 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, and the Cab Car Clearance information has been approved by Amtrak. IDOT Café Car system level FDRs have been approved except for Galley Refrigeration and Freezer Modules.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the Rev B test report has been submitted for review. FRA comments to the Appendix F and Compression Test reports have been addressed. The Final FAI Cab Carshell Report is in review.

113 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 necessary agreements are in place.

5. Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

On 7-21-22, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

The Bi-Level Specification proposed update has started receiving DCRs. I have received 173 from and one person is still working on them. I will organize them to send to the appropriate Technical Subcommittee working groups.

I am working with the Technical Writer on the update to the document 305-100, specifically the specification review groups.

The Carbody Materials working group met earlier today. They are continuing to work on Chapter 4 – Carbody, of the Single Level

Specification.

The Electronics on Trains working group met on Tuesday July 12 and there will be a separate discussion about their progress.

**6.
Update: Working Group On Weight Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

On 7-21-22, Jeff Gordon reported that he has sent out a doodle poll to determine the date of the next meeting. It will likely be the first week in August.

**7.
Update: University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study – Hamid Sharif:**

On 7-21-22, Hamid Sharif provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

For this project, we have been studying less utilized RF spectrum to ease the scarce RF resources issue. We selected 160 MHz since this band has been mainly used for voice applications. We designed and implemented computer models to explore the properties and capabilities of the 160 MHz RF band, and its suitability for a variety of applications.

We designed both a single-carrier transceiver architecture and an OFDM-based transceiver architecture for 160 MHz, and conducted evaluations of both designs. We also implemented and evaluated different channel models for this band.

This quarter, we designed the network layers for working with the 160MHz channel to evaluate end-to-end applications. We are in the process of collecting computer simulation results for end-to-end applications. The plan for the next phase is to perform field tests to verify our 160 MHz model and its performance.

**8.
Other:**

Electronics on Trains Working Group:

Steve Hewitt introduced the topic of the Electronics on Trains working group. The new team leader of the group – Ken Martin – was on today's call (7-21-22) and had earlier this week sent a note with some questions relating to the DTL specification that they are working on and the difficulty with addressing standardization related to DTL. There are also questions as to whether this would be required or optional.

Ken provided an overview of his note which Steve Hewitt had forwarded to Tammy Krause and to George Hull.

After a brief discussion, Steve Hewitt asked Tammy Krause if she could provide some thoughts on the subject. Tammy stated that she has been attending the working group meetings and agrees this is a difficult item to develop standards for.

Steve asked if this is something that should be taken to the Board for direction.

Dave Warner noted that the working group was asked to do more than just the DTL when it was first established by Dale Engelhardt quite a few years ago. He suggested that rather than take this specific item to the Board, it would be prudent to go back to the original directive which established the group.

Tammy agreed, and Steve Hewitt also thought this made sense. He noted that the group has been fragmented over the years with many starts and stops since Dale's retirement and it would be worthwhile to revisit the initial direction and purpose provided in the forming of the group.

Tammy Krause agreed to go back and look at the history to understand the full picture. The next meeting of the group is August 9th. The group will have a discussion and report back to the Technical Subcommittee on its call on August 18th.

NGEC Website Refresh:

Steve Hewitt reported, as information, that the Executive Board has decided to refresh its website to make it more user friendly and have a fresher look to it while also being better organized. The firm iEngineering has been selected after responding to the NGEC's RFP and should begin work on 8-1-22. The performance period for iEngineering Corp. is to be from 8-1-22 through 12-31-22.

Stay tuned...

**8.
Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today's call Joe Paul adjourned the meeting at about 3:30pm Eastern.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 8-4-22– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

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To date 125 hard copies and 450 electronic copies have been distributed (575 total).

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:

On 7-21-22, Gurleen Boparai provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes presented for the record by Art Peterson:

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Next Update – 8-4-22

Document Control Update:

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On the Electronics on Trains working group there are questions about standardizing DTL and other issues. Ultimately, Tammy Krause agreed to go back and look at the history to understand the full picture. The next meeting of the group is August 9th. The group will have a discussion and report back to the Technical Subcommittee on its call on August 18th.

Next Document Control Update: 8-4-22

Working Group on Weight Issues as of 7-21-22:

The scheduled Working Group meeting for 6-9-22 was canceled due to a schedule conflict. Jeff Gordon is looking at dates for the next meeting. It is expected to be scheduled for the first week in August.

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 – 8-18-22

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 7-21-22:

On 7-21-22, Hamid Sharif provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

For this project, we have been studying less utilized RF spectrum to ease the scarce RF resources issue. We selected 160 MHz since this band has been mainly used for voice applications. We designed and implemented computer models to explore the properties and capabilities of the 160 MHz RF band, and its suitability for a variety of applications.

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Please contact Hamid Sharif @ University of Nebraska-Lincoln for any additional information.

Next Update: - 8-18-22

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Next call 8-4-22

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

Agenda

7-21-2022

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| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 7-7-22 | Joe Paul |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 6. Update: Vehicle Weights Working Group | Jeff Gordon |
| 7. Update University of Nebraska/FRA High-Speed Wireless Study | Hamid Sharif |
| 8. Other | All |
| 9. Adjourn | Joe Paul |

Next Meeting 8-4-22