

# SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

MAY 27, 2014

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Mario Bergeron, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Mario Bergeron, Jack Madden as proxy for Ray Hessinger, John Tunna as proxy for Paul Nissenbaum, Darrell Smith as proxy for Gerald Sokol, Tammy Nicholson, Tim Hoeffner, Tim Hoeffner also as proxy for John Oimoen, Ron Pate, Stan Hunter, Stan Hunter, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II, Arun Rao as proxy for Donna Brown-Martin</i> <b>Support Staff:</b> <i>Shayne Gill, Steve Hewitt, David Ewing, Kevin Kesler, Jeff Gordon, Vincent Brotski, Dave Warner, Patrick Centolanzi, Nico Lindenau, Sara Sarkhili</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Paul Nissenbaum, Gerald Sokol, Paul Worley, Craig Moody, John Oimoen, Ray Hessinger, Eric Curtit, Donna Brown-Martin</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>Jason Biggs, Kerri Woehler, Allan Paul, Melissa Shurland, Dale Engelhardt, Martin Schroeder, Strat Cavros, Andy House, Larry Salci, Ashok Sundararajan</i>

## DECISIONS MADE

**1. Welcome – Mario Bergeron, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

In the absence of Eric Curtit, Vice Chair Mario Bergeron opened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

**2. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGEC Support Services:**

Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**3. Review of Action Items Status – Steve Hewitt:**

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item – **Agenda item #5**

305-209 Working Group updates: Ron will continue to provide updates to the Board on the progress of the "514" working group. **Agenda item #9**

Bi-Level Review Panel Membership: Eric Curtit will continue to follow up with NCDOT about possibly becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel and will contact Arun Rao and Donna Brown-Martin to determine if Wisconsin will participate on the Locomotive and Bi-level Car Review Panels.

**Status: Donna Brown-Martin has named Arun Rao as Wisconsin's representative on the Bi-Level Car Review Panel and the locomotive Review Panel.**

NGEC Procurement updates: The 2 procurements – bi-level cars and the diesel-electric locomotives-will continue to be standing agenda items on the Executive Board calls. **Agenda items # 7and 8**

NGEC Future discussion: Eric Curtit has reached out to some Board members and support staff asking for their participation on a re-constituted NGEC Future Working Group. Eric will follow up with additional scope and scale and anticipates announcing the members of the group and its next steps on the May 27, 2014 call of the Executive Board. **Agenda item #10**

Board members are asked to submit recommendations for a location and date for the next face to face Executive Board meeting. The Board will not meet during the Denver SCORT meeting.

**Since the last call, Mario Bergeron has suggested Wilmington, DE. As a location for the Fall face to face meeting. Agenda item #11 will take up the matter of setting a date and determining a location. Thus far three locations have been suggested. Detroit, Michigan; Wilmington, DE. and Washington, DC. In Eric's absence a discussion on the location and date will be tabled.**

The ATF is developing straw man proposal to guide it in evaluating topics for the webinar series and to decide if it has enough of a connection for the NGEC to sponsor it or if it should be referred to AASHTO's Rail Resource Center. The ATF will be considering the proposal on its June 6<sup>th</sup> call and will keep the Board informed.

**Status: Next ATF call is June 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Shayne Gill, AASHTO, will forward the Scope of Work and Budget submitted by Larry Salci for Bi-Level and Locomotive Review Panel support, to Eric Curtit, Dave Warner, Darrell Smith and Steve Hewitt, following today's call.

**Status: Shayne distributed the information immediately following the last call. Eric will provide a status update under agenda item #6.**

**4.**

**Approval of Minutes from the May 13, 2014 Executive Board conference calls – Mario Bergeron:**

On a motion by Jack Madden, NYSDOT, and a second by Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT, the Minutes from the May 13, 2014 Executive Board conference calls were approved without objection.

**5.**

**Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – Tim Hoeffner:**

Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT provided an update on the activities of the Mid-West States with regard to Section 6 Mid-West States. The group met last week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The primary focus has been to develop an RFI for fleet manager and an RFI for a fleet maintainer. The RFIs are expected to be released into the market late next month (June) or early July. Illinois is the lead state for the fleet manager and Michigan is the lead state for the fleet maintainer.

**6.**

**Status: Review of Bi-Level Car and D-E Locomotive Change Requests – anticipated timeline – consultant contract - Eric Curtit:**

In the absence of Eric Curtit, this item was tabled. Shayne Gill reported that the consultant contract is in process, and he will check on its current status.

**7.**

**Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive – Steve Hewitt for John Oimoen:**

John Oimoen was unable to attend today's call, but submitted the following update for inclusion in the minutes:

*"A) The first week of Preliminary Design Review (PDR) was completed last week. The second week of PDR (which will conclude PDR meetings) will be held week of June 2-6. Siemens designs look good and we have not encountered any seriously troubling issues.*

*B) Intermediate design review (IDR) is scheduled for week of October 6 and November 3 in Chicago.*

*C) Milestone A items (NTP+30 and NTP+45 CDRLs) have been submitted by Siemens and reviewed by JPEs. Siemens will address the comments.*

*D) Weekly JPE conference calls continue.*

*E) Siemens continues weekly engineering and project management conference calls w/ JPEs.*

*F) FRA has been participating in PDR and conference call meetings and very helpful.*

*G) Art and I had conversation with Dave Warner (NGEC document control) about specification revisions. We will gather in June for submission in July."*

**8.**

**Status Update: Bi-level car procurement – Stan Hunter:**

San Hunter, Caltrans reported on the status of the bi-level car procurement. There will be a meeting this week in Sacramento with both Nippon Sharyo and Sumitomo Corp in attendance to discuss "weight reduction strategies".

Nippon Sharyo will be holding a grand opening of its extension to the plant in Rochelle where the car shells and other bi-level car components will be produced. The "official" opening is scheduled for July 29, 2014.

This location is also where monthly progress meetings will take place.

Stan also reported that senior California transportation officials will meet in the Mid-West "tomorrow or Thursday" along with IDOT and other Mid-West states and FRA to "discuss delivery scenarios and funding expiration scenarios."

**9.  
Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment - Tim Hoeffner:**

Tim Hoeffner raised the issue of getting host railroads buy-in on the new equipment to be placed in service. He posed the question, "In the Mid-West we need buy-in from the host railroads on the new equipment, should we do this corridor by corridor or is it better to be done by the NGEC with the Railroads?" He noted that he believed it would be more efficient if it were done on a national level rather than "state by state or corridor by corridor".

Stan Hunter, Caltrans, commented that they have some issues (primarily weight) that they will be raising with their host Railroads at the appropriate time.

Tim Hoeffner noted that Stan's example actually frames the question. Right now the various states deal with a number of host railroads, some overlap and are the same. He again reiterated his question – "Should it be at the corridor level rather than system wide? Would we be better to approach it on a national level?"

Dave Warner, Amtrak, recommended that a national approach with each host railroad is better. He stated that Amtrak follows that model. They go to the NRPC officer for each Railroad. This one stop shopping is more efficient and the railroads are used to it already.

Dave suggested "you deal with the railroads as the NGEC and highlight the individual routes."

Stan Hunter agreed with Dave's suggestion stating "I agree and advocate for a nationwide approach to host railroads."

Patrick Centolanzi, FTA, asked "on what basis could they (host railroads) reject these cars for service."

Mike Jenkins, Oregon, provided an example of their host railroad threatening to pull new equipment from their tracks – "and they can do it." Even if the new equipment is standardized (as through PRIIA) it is still new and the RRs need to do a review.

As a result, they are re-activating committees to review the new equipment.

Ron Pate, Washington, advocated for bringing the railroads in early to "get us into a position to put the equipment into service."

Tim Hoeffner commented "This is why we wanted to have this discussion – it is not urgent – but it is critical. We feel that the NGEC needs a position and a strategy to move forward at an appropriate time."

Mario Bergeron noted that he was not sure this was an NGEC lead. He asked why wouldn't the program offices of the specific state – California, IDOT - contact the host railroad at the program level.

Ron Pate commented "I suggest we have a lead for the procurement and implementation process within the NGEC. We (the NGEC) can help make it go smoothly." He added, "it would keep consistency between the Railroads as well as start a process for a consistent model for implementation of new equipment."

Jack Madden, NYSDOT, weighed in with support for Dave Warner's recommendation. "It should be done at the NGEC level. The railroads have a shorter time horizon than us. We need to feed them enough information to digest before we are ready to go into service."

Jack noted that NY has reached out to the railroads to ask that they participate in the development of the Dual Mode locomotive. Thus far they have declined to do so, but once the Dual Mode effort begins again the railroads will be asked again to participate.

As the discussion ensued it became evident that the general consensus was to have the NGEC become involved on a national level.

Tim Hoeffner summarized what he heard – “A national level with 305 is a good approach. Keep the Class Is informed down the road.”

Mario Bergeron cited what appeared to be the general consensus “the NGEC is to be involved vs the individual states? Are there any objections?”

With no objections forthcoming, it was agreed that the NGEC will explore this approach. Tim Hoeffner and Steve Hewitt will have a phone conversation with the goal of having some suggested next steps ready for Board consideration on the next call (June 10).

Kevin Kesler, FRA, suggested that Amtrak and FRA Office of Safety would be two sources to tap into.

Tim agreed and said “they are already on the list.”

**10.  
Status Update: 514 Working Group - Ron Pate:**

Ron Pate reported briefly on the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting among the three 209 working group chairs and FRA, Amtrak and the STB. The meeting was quite productive. The follow up is the development of a guidance document to help progress the effort.

The 514 working group has not met recently, but has been making progress – still a long way to go.

**11.  
Establishing an NGEC Future working group – Next steps - Eric Curtit:**

This item was tabled until the next call. Mario Bergeron did note that he has requested a conference call with Eric to get a better sense of the scope of the “next iteration” of the working group so that he Amtrak can provide the appropriate support to the effort. This call has not yet taken place.

**12.  
Setting a date and Location for the Fall Executive Board face to face meeting - Eric Curtit:**

Beyond what was reported by Steve Hewitt in the action items update -this item was tabled until the next call

**Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today’s call, Chairman Curtit adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:20 PM Eastern.

**The next call is: June 10, 2014, 11:30am Eastern**

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item. RFIs for a fleet manager and a fleet maintainer are expected to be released in late June or early July, 2014.

514 Working Group updates: Ron will continue to provide updates to the Board on the progress of the working group.

Bi-Level Review Panel Membership: Eric Curtit will continue to follow up with NCDOT about possibly becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel. Wisconsin has named Arun Rao as its member to the bi-level car and the d-e locomotive Review Panels.

NGEC Procurement updates: The 2 procurements – bi-level cars and the diesel-electric locomotives-will continue to be standing agenda items on the Executive Board calls.

NGEC Future discussion: Eric Curtit has reached out to some Board members and support staff asking for their participation on a re-constituted NGEC Future Working Group. Eric will follow up with additional scope and scale and anticipates announcing the members of the group and its next steps on the June 10, 2014 call of the Executive Board. Eric will also reach out to Mario Bergeron to discuss the scope.

Three potential locations have been submitted for consideration for the next Board face to face meeting. The proposed locations are: Detroit, Michigan; Wilmington, DE; and Washington, DC. Discussion about the location and a date will take place on the June 10<sup>th</sup> call.

The ATF is developing straw man proposal to guide it in evaluating topics for the webinar series and to decide if it has enough of a connection for the NGEC to sponsor it or if it should be referred to AASHTO's Rail Resource Center. The ATF will be considering the proposal on its June 6<sup>th</sup> call and will keep the Board informed.

It was agreed that the NGEC should be involved on a national level in working with the host Railroads in regard to new equipment. Tim Hoeffner and Steve Hewitt will have a call to discuss potential next steps for the NGEC's involvement in working with the host Railroads on implementation of the next generation equipment.

Shayne Gill, AASHTO, will provide a status of the consultant contract for the Review Panels.

**ATTACHMENTS**



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

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**May 27, 2014**  
**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern**  
**Call in number: 866 299 7945 passcode: 1601544#**

**Agenda**

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| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting  | Mario Bergeron |
| 2. Roll Call   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 3. Action Items Status Review  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from the May 13, 2014 conference calls  | Mario Bergeron |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6  | Mario Bergeron |
| a. Mid-West States RFI's RE: Fleet Maintenance and Fleet management  | Tim Hoeffner   |
| 6. Status: Review of Bi-Level Car Change requests – anticipated Timeline – next steps<br>And – Update- Status of consultant contract for Review Panels | Mario Bergeron |
| 7. Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive procurement   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 8. Status Update: Bi-Level Car procurement   | Stan Hunter    |
| 9. Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment  | Tim Hoeffner   |
| 10. Status Update: 514 Working Group   | Ron Pate       |
| 11. Establishing an NGEC Future working group – Next steps   | Mario Bergeron |
| 12. Setting a date and Location for the Fall Executive Board face to face meeting  | Mario Bergeron |
| 13. Other  | All            |

**Next Call: June 10, 2014**