



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES JANUARY 14, 2020 11:30 EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Eric Curtit, Tim Ziethen, George Hull for Charlie King, Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for John Oimoen, Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Gradinger, Ray Hessinger Brian Beeler II, Mike Jenkins, Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, Support Staff: Steve Hewitt, Tammy Krause, Patrick Centolanzi, Dave "Emeritus" Warner</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Charlie King, John Rosacker, Kyle Gradinger, John Oimoen, Ron Pate, Jason Orthner Support: Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Byron Comati, Jason Biggs, Larry Salci, Michael Burshtin,</i>

DECISIONS MADE

<p>1. Welcome – Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:</p> <p>Chairman Curtit opened the meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.</p>
<p>2. Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:</p> <p>Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.</p>
<p>3. Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:</p> <p>Steve Hewitt reported that open action items not covered under the agenda this week will be included on the next call agenda and the current status of each is included in today's minutes (1-14-20).</p>
<p>TRB Session – "The NGEC – 10 Years of Progress":</p> <p>Steve Hewitt reminded Board members that today (1-14-20) John Oimoen, Jeff Gordon, Charlie King and Larry Salci are representing the NGEC and participating as presenters at the TRB Annual Meeting in the session "The NGEC – 10 Years of Growth".</p> <p>Special thanks to Jack Madden for his efforts in putting the session together and acting as a liaison between the NGEC and FRA.</p>
<p>METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:</p> <p>On 4-9-19, John Oimoen, IDOT, provided an overview of the METRA Equipment Procurement effort:</p> <p>An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties were to respond by August 2019.</p> <p>METRA has the NGEC specification, but John does not know if they plan to use it or if they will be in contact with the NGEC or not.</p> <p>Next Update: as appropriate</p>

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience – as of 7-30-19:

Mid-West States Experience:

The Charger locomotives have been running for 2-years and are working well with all of the locomotives in service and only the normal “teething” issues occurring and being worked through.

One area that they are striving for improvement and are making improvements on is parts availability and field service. These issues are challenging but being worked out and improving.

John also pointed out the fact that there have been several vehicle strikes, and debris strikes in the Mid-West, but the good news is that the Crash Energy Management (CEM) performed very very well. The engineers were very satisfied with the safety of the cabs.

Overall, John reported that they are very pleased with the performance of the locomotives.

California Experience:

Momo provided the average number of miles and engine hours for the locomotives in the various sections of the state where they are being used and noted that they are performing well.

There have been several debris strikes and Siemens and Amtrak are working on repairs.

Caltrans has exercised its option for continuing technical support with Siemens after the warranty has expired.

There have been some instances of ice buildup on the HVAC and they are working on determining the root cause.

Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.

Washington State Experience:

No report provided

Amtrak Experience:

Charlie King reported that Amtrak has held several meetings with Siemens on parts availability as “we continue to support the states” as our partners.

Amtrak is leasing a state unit to test in Long Distance service. Rolling Stock Engineers are on board to see how the locomotives perform in the hot days and high altitudes. The locomotive is in the trail, not lead, position on this test.

So far it has performed extremely well.

The intent is to also conduct a test in the winter weather to see how it fares. And they are working on resolving the snow ingestion issues that occurred last winter.

Next Update: 2020 NGE Annual Meeting (February 21, 2020)

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 1-14-20:

All four DRAFT sections have been sent to the Technical writer (Camren Cordell) to be compiled into one document with one voice. Once complete, the document will be sent to the working group members for review and comment prior to going to the Executive Board for its review.

Awaiting timeline, cost & scope from Cameron/Tammy.

Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – as of 1-9-20 (NGEC Technical subcommittee call):

On the Acela replacement:

This procurement is going along well. The Tow Locomotive and buffer car are, today, on the way to Hornell, and on out to TTCI in March 2020.

Like others, Amtrak is struggling with ACSES issues for PTC for this equipment. Still, they are making strides for the first trainset to be in revenue service by May 2021 and the 8 trainsets in service by early Fall 2021.

On the Locomotives:

This procurement continues to progress with a target of next Spring.

On the Trainset (AmFleet replacement):

They are in the bid review phase and until the results have been reported out, there is not much more to be said.

Next update to the Executive Board - 1-28-20

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 12-17-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MODOT:

On a motion by Arun Rao, Wisconsin, and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 12-17-19 Executive Board call were approved as presented.

5. NGECE Two-Pager Update – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reported that the NGECE two-pager has been updated and printed by MODOT. Steve Hewitt has received 400 hard copies and will distribute a hard copy to all NGECE Annual Meeting attendees. The hard copies will be available by request thereafter.

50 copies were sent on 1-10-20 to Jack Madden for distribution at TRB during the NGECE session on 1-14-20.

Steve also expressed thanks to Eric Curtit and Missouri DOT graphic arts for their work in updating and printing the document.

Eric noted that he will provide Steve with the electronic information and that MODOT will be available to continue to provide support in updating and printing the two-pager again in the future. He added that MODOT will stay on as a Board member of the NGECE once his replacement at the department is named.

6. NGECE Leadership Transition – Nominating Committee update – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit provided an overview of the process for electing State Board members to new two-year terms at the Annual Meeting, and the process for electing officers as well. The nominating committee is in process of determining what states wish to remain on the Board and who their representative will be. One state (Oklahoma) has opted to remain a member of the NGECE, but not as a member of the Executive Board. Michigan, whose member (Tim Hoeffner) has retired, has yet to let the Board know if it will stay on or who their representative will be.

7. FASC update and Treasurer's Report – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

a. Balance-Spend Rate:

Tim Ziethen reported: (Includes Invoices through November 2019).

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.

Amount Spent: \$515,042.76

Balance remaining: \$ 734,957.24

Spend Rate per month: \$13,553.76

Projected spend in the remaining months of the current grant: \$155,537.57

Balance anticipated at the end of the grant period (9-30-20): \$579,419.67

Expenditures anticipated in a 36-month no-cost extension: \$540,000.00

Average Monthly expenditure: \$15,000.00

Balance remaining at the end of the 36-month extension: approximately \$39,419.67

b. Next Steps/timeline in the process of requesting an extension through the Exec Board process

Tim confirmed the process to formally request a no-cost grant agreement entails submitting a GARF which is first presented to the executive Board for approval. The GARF would request a 36-month extension at no cost with the supporting budget documentation as based on the above information. The GARF must be submitted to the FRA in advance of the 90-day window for grant amendment requests

(July1 – September 30, 2020).

The FRA has previously confirmed that the NGEC is eligible to request a multi-year no-cost grant agreement extension. On 1-8-20, The FASC reviewed the current balance remaining and the anticipated monthly run rate and has agreed that there is ample funding remaining to support a 36-month extension beginning 10-1-20 through 9-30-23 with a cushion of around \$51,000 at the end of the extension.

The FASC has recommended that the Executive Board go forward with the process for requesting a 36-month no cost grant agreement extension.

Tim completed a DRAFT GARF and asked for internal review by the Amtrak Grants office. The Grants office provided a positive review and the next step is to have Amtrak legal review it. In the meantime, Tim suggested that the NGEC Executive Board approve the recommendation of the FASC to go forward with the 36-month no-cost extension.

On a motion by Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, and a second by Brian Beeler II, for Maine DOT, the Executive Board agreed with the recommendation to take the steps necessary for formally requesting a 36-month no cost grant agreement extension. (The extension would be for the period beginning on 10-1-20 through 9-30-23).

With a quorum having been established and no objections being offered, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus was achieved, and the motion is approved.

**8.
Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-14-20 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:**

Momo Tamaoki provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (1-14-20)

- *FDR for the standard coach is complete. Cab Car PDR action items are closed, and the PDR has been approved by Caltrans.*
- *The Complete Coach FAI is occurred on November 13-14 in Sacramento. The action items have been recorded and the FAI findings are being worked through. Testing continues at TTCI on cars 1 and 2 with results of the Lighting Tests under review and door cycling test in preparation. Car #3 continues with climate room testing in Ottawa, with additional cold weather testing scheduled through the next two weeks. Caltrans and IDOT are witnessing tests in both locations. Car #3 will be shipped to the NEC for FRA 213.345 validation after climate room testing is complete. Plans are in work to ship an additional two cars to TTCI for PTC Brake Testing.*
- *45 cars are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Car #4 is the FAI car and undergoing work to address the FAI findings. The remaining carshells are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.*
- *System-level FAIs for standard coach are nearly complete with remaining action items under review. Cab Car Structure IDR meeting was held in December and actions are being reviewed in preparation for FDR. The IDOT Galley System IDR documents are revised and in review.*

**9.
Update: Metro-North Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger reported that there is not much that can be said, at this point, other than that the procurement continues to move ahead fully.

**10.
Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (1-14-20):

Trainset Revision B is almost complete and should be ready next week. The cover sheet has been signed Eric Curtit as one of his last official acts. I am waiting on an answer for one question from Larry Salci.

The next specification to be updated is the Diesel multiple Unit. I am working on the DCRs and will be sending them to the TSC WGs as soon as they are done.

Eric Curtit asked Tammy if she has heard from Cameron Cordell on her progress on the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document. Tammy has not heard from Cameron but agreed to follow up.

11. NGENC Annual Meeting – Review DRAFT Agenda/Confirm Speakers – Eric/Steve:

Steve Hewitt reminded members that the Annual Meeting will take place on 2-21-20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. The meeting will begin with coffee and registration at 8:00am and will end at 1:00pm. If you have not reserved a hotel room through the AASHTO block, please do so asap. If you have not registered your attendance at the Annual Meeting please do so ASAP so a quorum can be confirmed and so that an accurate head count can be provided to AASHTO and the appropriate tent cards and name badges can be printed.

Currently there are **51 registrants** for the meeting.

An updated draft agenda was sent along with the materials for today's call (1-14-20). Most speakers/presenters have confirmed their attendance and participation. All presenters, if possible, should use the NGENC 10 years" PowerPoint template that was developed by Mario Bergeron (thank you Mario!)

Steve asked Michael Lestingi to check with Melissa Shurland to see if she would like time on the agenda for an Accessibility update. (Following the call, Michael confirmed that Melissa will provide an update.)

Steve noted that he will revise the agenda by adding the Accessibility update; and he will make several other minor adjustments based on the status of some of the items listed on the last draft.

Hotel room block information:

The hotel is the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC. The link for reserving a room is below:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-APT5>

13. Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Curtit adjourned today's meeting (1-14-20) at 12:06pm.

The next conference call will be 1-28-20

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-14-20:

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Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 1-14-20:

Metro-North continues to move forward on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

Next update – as appropriate.

Document Control Update – 1-14-20:

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Eric Curtit asked Tammy if she has heard from Cameron Cordell on her progress on the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document. Tammy has not heard from Cameron but agreed to follow up.

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 1-14-20:

All 4 sections have been sent to Cameron Cordell to compile into a complete "one voice" document. Tammy Krause to follow up on Cameron's progress and report back to the Executive Board.

Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – as of 1-9-20 (NGEC Technical subcommittee call):

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Next Update: 2020 NGEN Annual Meeting (February 21, 2020)

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Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update as of 10-8-19:

Robert Becker reported that things are going well – with several mock-ups taking place currently and over the next several months. Overall things are moving forward on schedule and in good shape so far.

VIA Rail was not present on 12-17-19, so the update has been tabled until the NGEN Annual Meeting 2-21-20.

Next planned update: NGEN Annual Meeting

Update: TRB Session – “The NGEN - 10 Years of Progress”:

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**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
1/14/20
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

Agenda

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| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 12-17-19 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. NGEC Two-Pager Update | Steve Hewitt |
| 6. NGEC Leadership Transition – Nominating Committee update | Eric Curtit |
| 7. FASC and Treasurer’s Update | Tim Ziethen |
| a. Balance/Spend rate | |
| b. Requesting a 36-month no-cost grant amendment extension – next steps | |
| 8. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 9. Update: Metro-North Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B | |
| - Next Specification Update – DMUs – next steps/timeline | |
| - Follow-up with Cameron Cordell on Equipment Acquisition Best Practices Report– timeline/cost/scope | |
| 11. NGEC Annual Meeting – review DRAFT agenda/confirm speakers/registration | Steve |
| 12. Other | All |

Next Call-1-28-20