



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2022,

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Ray Hessinger, George Hull, Tim Ziethen, Jeff Gordon, John Oimoen, Amanda Martin, Amanda Martin as proxy for Troy Hughes, Jason Orthner, Kyle Gradinger, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II <b>Support Staff and Colleagues:</b> Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Strat Cavros, Joe Paul, Shayne Gill, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Jon Dees
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Ron Pate, Arun Rao, Troy Hughes <b>Support:</b> Michael Kraft, Patrick Centolanzi, Momo Tamaoki, Rebecca Anger, Gurleen Boparai, Larry Salci, Jason Biggs, Mike Murray

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

**2. Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:**

Following the roll call, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum with all members of the Executive Board represented.

**3.**

**Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt briefly reviewed the status of open action items not covered under the agenda this week and noted they will be included on the next call agenda, and the status of each is included in today's minutes (1-25-22).

**Industry Participation:**

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

**2022 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:**

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available in both electronic and hard copy. Steve Hewitt has sent it out to all Board members in advance of this call and will follow up with an email to all NGEC members. He will also bring hard copies with him to DC for the Annual Meeting. Additional hard copies will be available by request. Contact Steve Hewitt and let him know how many and where to send them.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

**Update: 1-11-22**

Steve Hewitt reached out to VIA Rail to invite them to participate in the 2022 NGEC Annual Meeting and give a

presentation on their vehicle procurements.

Joe DiLiello, VIA Rail, has confirmed that he and several colleagues will participate in the Annual meeting virtually and will give an update on the VIA Rail Passenger Rail Procurements.

**Next Update: NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting – 2-25-22**

**CtDOT Rail Car Procurement as of 1-11-22:**

The “cone of silence” period continues.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 1-11-22:**

Metro-North and Siemens have formally closed the Initial Design Review. Siemens has begun submitting input for the Preliminary Design Review and it is anticipated that this process should conclude in February or early March 2022.

**Next Update: 2-8-22**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 1-11-22:**

On the Acela: progress is being made for verification from FRA.

On the Long Distance (Charger) Locomotives: two have been conditionally accepted and are in Chicago for testing. Two are in Wilmington and two are shipping to Wilmington today (1-11-22). It is anticipated that the first two could be entered into revenue service in early February 2022.

On the Intercity Trainset: Initial Design Review is underway.

**Next Update: 2-8-22**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 1-11-22 meeting:**

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the call held on 1-11-22 were approved as submitted.

**5. FASC Report –Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

On 1-25-22, Tim Ziethen provided the following update:

Balance/ Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent through November: \$865,727.22

Balance remaining: \$ 384,272.78

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$307,193.53

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,963.34

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$77,079.25 (this would carry the NGEC about 5 months beyond the end of the grant period)

**Follow ups on developing a plan to increase NGEC awareness – Tim Ziethen:**

Tim Ziethen reported that he has had another follow-up conversation with Michael Alexis, Amtrak Deputy General Counsel, and an exchange of emails with him.

Michael has been assigned to the NGEC for any legal questions or related issues.

Michael provided Tim Ziethen with guidance on issues related to the NGEC’s ability to take steps to increase awareness of the Committee and the work that it does.

In general, the guidance is that posting factual information on the website is permitted providing that the Committee follows Amtrak contractor promotion policies which the Committee has been following. For posting on social media,

again, the NGEC would be permitted to do it as long as it follows the Amtrak policies. None of this is new, the NGEC has always lived up to these policies.

Issuing Press releases would also be permissible as long as it transmits simply factual information.

Using paid advertising or attending trade shows would require By-Law changes and there would be an issue of spending funds for these activities as they would need to be paid outside the grant.

As noted previously, the NGEC should not proactively communicate with Congress due to "lobbying" issues but can respond with factual information in compliance with Amtrak contractor promotion policy upon request.

Tim Ziethen will provide Steve Hewitt with a summary of the guidance that Michael Alexis provided to him so that it can be entered into the record.

**6. Update: Multi-State Passenger Rail car procurement – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

On 1-25-22, Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

*The Cab Car shell final design has been approved and the cab structures are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. 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 to be submitted in February. The cab car compression test report review is complete, and Siemens is reviewing comments. FAIs will continue for café and cab car subsystems.*

*102 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT and Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items and relevant FMIs are being addressed.*

*4 cars are in test this month in the Midwest and are attached to current consists. Testing includes IT related items and the passenger information system.*

John Oimoen, IDOT, announced that new Venture cars will be put into revenue service for the Lincoln service next week. This is great news!

**6. Status – Exploring/confirming funding options beyond 9-30-2023 – FRA – Mike Murray, FRA:**

Mike Murray was unavailable for this call but notified Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger that he did not yet have anything to report on future funding but hoped to have an answer from FRA by the Annual Meeting.

Steve Hewitt noted that he will keep this item open to see if it is possible that FRA will have a response before the Annual Meeting.

**7. Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (1-25-22) read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

*I have been continuing to meet weekly with the Technical Writer on the Trainset specification changes and the DMU specification changes. The trainset updated specification is completed and was given to Steve Hewitt for issuing as needed. The DMU changes are currently in process. The current leader of the Electronics on Trains WG is no longer able to fulfill that role. I will be meeting with that WG later today and looking for a replacement.*

Tammy Krause joined the meeting at this point and reiterated that she was participating on the Electronics on Trains working group later today (1-25-22) and was hoping to be able to name a team leader.

**8. TRB question regarding future – next generation equipment needs – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

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 NGEC had needs for research for the next generation of equipment.

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Ray noted that, at this time the NGEC is looking at possibly updating the primer prepared by the Locomotive Task Force early in the NGEC'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.

As for now, as long as the Committee does not move into areas beyond where we have gone before such as higher speed rail, there is no immediate need for additional research. However, he did add "we will see where we go after Dave Warner's presentation."

George Hull mentioned updating the trainset specification now that it has been re-formatted consistent with the other PRIIA specifications. Ray responded that the specification is available and updates through the NGEC DCR process are welcome and is exactly what we want to do as an organization and very appropriate.

**9.**

**Preparing for the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-25- 22 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Capitol Hill, Washington DC from 8:00am-12:30pm.**

- Review DRAFT agenda – confirm speakers:

Steve Hewitt gave an overview of the current DRAFT Annual Meeting Agenda and asked for confirmation as to who will give the presentations covered under each to agenda item.

Kyle Gradinger confirmed that he will provide the Caltrans update on the Multi state passenger rail car procurement. He was not set on who from Caltrans will provide the update on California's experience with the Charger Locomotive.

George Hull noted that he has not finalized who will give the Amtrak updates, but that Steve Hewitt can leave him listed for now.

Mike Murray let Steve Hewitt know that he hopes to have, by Friday, 1-28-22, the name of the FRA representative who will give the FRA update.

- Reaffirm Board member attendance (in-person or virtually)

Steve Hewitt reviewed the registration list and noted that in-person attendance, especially by states is pending travel approval. Currently there are 42 members of the NGEC who intend to participate in person and 23 who intend to participate virtually.

Steve Hewitt also urged members to reserve their hotel room asap as the Room Block closes on 1-31-22. Thus far the list of those who have reserved rooms is very low.

- Logistics review

There is a meeting later today with the various organizations meeting in DC the week of 2-22-22 (SPRC, SAIPRC, AASHTO and the NGEC) and anything new will be brought back to the members.

- Timeline for presentations to be submitted:

Steve Hewitt asked for presentations to be provided to him by COB on 2-18-22.

- AV costs

Since this is the first time the NGEC has held a Hybrid meeting, it is difficult to assess the AV costs which are coming in quite high. There simply is not much to compare with it. Steve will be talking to the meeting planner next week and will try to get a better understanding of those costs. In the meantime, Tim Ziethen will look at what the overall costs were the last time the NGEC met in-person.

- Ray Hessinger asked Steve Hewitt to set up a "quick" call with the nominating committee (Ray Hessinger, John Oimoen and Mike Jenkins) for next week – either on 2-3-22 or 2-4-22 in between other NGEC calls if possible.

**13.**

**Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm Eastern

**Next meeting – 2-8-22**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Treasurer's Report:**

On 1-25-22, Tim Ziethen provided the following update:

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**2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2022 version of the NGEC two-pager has been released and is available in hard copy or electronic. Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) if you want either hard or electronic copies. If hard copies, please say where to send them and how many.

Electronic copies have been sent to the Board members and will go out this week to all NGEC members. Hard copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement:**

On 1-25-22, Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

*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 and the cab car Clearance information has been submitted to Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage and Galley open items are being addressed.*

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John Oimoen, IDOT, announced that new Venture cars will be put into revenue service for the Lincoln service next week. This is great news!

**Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

This procurement continues to be in the "cone of silence" phase.

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 1-11-22:**

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Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT reported that Metro-North and Siemens have formally closed the Initial Design Review and Siemens has begun submitting input for the Preliminary Design Review and it is anticipated that this process should conclude in February or early March 2022.

**Next Update: 2-8-22**

**Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – 1-11-22:**

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On the Long Distance (Charger) Locomotives: two have been conditionally accepted and are in Chicago for testing. Two are in Wilmington and two are shipping to Wilmington today (1-6-22). It is anticipated that the first two could be entered into revenue service in early February 2022.

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**Update: Document Control Management 1-25-22:**

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Tammy Krause joined the meeting at this point and reiterated that she was participating on the Electronics on Trains working group later today (1-25-22) and was hoping to be able to name a team leader.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update:** 2-25-22 at the NGEC Annual meeting. VIA Rail has agreed to participate virtually and give an update on their Passenger Rail procurement.

**Exploring/confirming funding options beyond 9-30-2023:**

On 10-5-21, Mike Murray, FRA, reported that the FRA is looking at options and briefing leadership in the Office of Railroad Policy and Development. This will take a couple of months and Mike suggested that the Board not carry this as an agenda item for the bi-weekly meetings as it will take time. When he has more information, he will let the Board know.

Tim Ziethen reported that he has reached out to Ken Altman, Amtrak Government Affairs to follow-up with him on previous discussions that an option could be Amtrak funding the NGEC through its grant. It was the general thinking that this would be a possibility as the NGEC was included as a potential type of recipient in the overall Amtrak grant request. Tim will report back once he hears from Ken Altman.

Mike Murray was unavailable for this call but notified Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger that he did not yet have anything to report on future funding but hoped to have an answer from FRA by the Annual Meeting.

Steve Hewitt noted that he will keep this item open to see if it is possible that FRA will have a response before the Annual Meeting.

**Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:**

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: 2-25-22 – NGEC 2022 Annual Meeting**

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**Establishing 2022 Priorities – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger noted that this has been a standing agenda item for several months and based on previous discussions he planned to move forward with the following identified priorities for 2022:

Review/update NGEC Reference and Drawings series 305-900 and 305-800.

Review/Update the Bi-level specification currently in Revision C.4. With Amtrak looking at using some of the funding from the new IIJA for its western fleet, it makes sense for the NGEC to review and update the Bi-Level car specification.

Review the car body materials issue from a broader perspective for all NGEC equipment not only DMUs. Ray would like to take a look at developing a consistent approach for all of the NGEC vehicle specifications.

Review “emerging technologies”: On the last technical subcommittee call (12-9-21) the topic of emerging technologies for propulsion was raised. Ray believes that the technical subcommittee should conduct a scan of the industry regarding emerging technologies for propulsion and how they relate to the NGEC.

Review and consider using the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Specification organizational changes to determine if they should be adopted by the NGEC and applied across the board to all NGEC specifications. This would be an administrative change not impacting technical content of any of the specifications and could be resolved by the Executive Board.

**Action:**

At the NGEC Annual Meeting, Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager, is asked to provide a progress report on activities and accomplishments from Document Control over the past year and to provide an action plan for the year ahead which should be based on the priorities as identified by the Chair.

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**Next update – 2-8-22**

## **NGEC Executive Board Meeting**

**1-25-22**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern**

**By computer:**

**<https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>**

**By phone:**

**1-415-655-0001**

**Access code:**

**126-073-1531**

### **Agenda**

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting   | Ray Hessinger  |
| 2. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 3. Action Items Status Review   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 1-11-22 meeting                             | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. FASC Update  | Tim Ziethen    |
| - Balance/Spend Rate  |                |
| - Status – Efforts to Increase NGEC Awareness                           |                |
| 6. Status - Exploring/confirming funding options beyond 9-30-2023 - FRA | Mike Murray    |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Single level Car Procurement                     | Kyle Gradinger |
| 8. Update: Document Control   | Tammy Krause   |
| 9. TRB question regarding future – next generation equipment needs      | Ray Hessinger  |
| 10. Preparing for the NGEC Annual Meeting                               | Ray/Steve      |
| - Review DRAFT agenda – confirm speakers                                |                |
| - Reaffirm Board member attendance (in-person or virtually)             |                |
| - Logistics review  |                |
| - Timeline for presentations to be submitted                            |                |
| - AV costs  |                |
| 11. Other   | All            |
| 12. Adjourn   | Ray Hessinger  |

**Next call/meeting – 2-8-22**



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