



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Ray Hessinger, George Hull, John Oimoen, Tim Ziethen, Michael Lestingi, Arun Rao, Amanda Martin, Amanda Martin also as proxy for Troy Hughes, Jason Orthner, Kyle Gradinger, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II</i> <b>Support Staff and Colleagues:</b> <i>Jon Dees, Jeff Gordon, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Strat Cavros, Oscar Bermudez, Tammy Krause,</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Michigan State DOT – which has yet to name its representative to the Board, Troy Hughes, Ron Pate, Support: Momo Tamaoki, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Patrick Centolanzi, Mike Kraft, Shayne Gill</i>

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

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

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

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

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

**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 (1-26-21).

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

In-depth updates were provided during the 2020 Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:**

This item was tabled until John Oimoen receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:**

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back from the Access Board and there is a Final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications

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to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGE C DCR process.

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland reported to the Technical subcommittee, that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGE C technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 10-15-20 (Technical subcommittee meeting) there was nothing new to report – the Access Board seems to be in a holding pattern.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

As of 1-12-21, Steve Hewitt has confirmed with Mario Bergeron that VIA Rail will give a presentation at the Annual Meeting. Presenter(s) will be a combination of Mario Bergeron, Ron Bartels, and Joe Di Liello. The NGE C PowerPoint template has been provided.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGE C Annual Meeting**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

On 1-12-21, Steve Hewitt reached out to Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT to determine if she would be able to give an update at the Annual meeting. Marci reported that they will likely still be in the "cone of silence" and unable to say anything. She stated that she will attend the meeting and would offer an update if there was one to give but would not be a formal presenter at this time.

**Next Update – 2-9-21**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:**

On 1-12-21, Ray Hessinger reported to the Technical subcommittee on 1-7-21, that the MTA Board did approve the awarding of a contract between Metro-North and Siemens Mobility for the production of the Dual Mode Locomotive.

Metro-North and Siemens are in the process of executing the contract.

Metro North has agreed to give a presentation on the procurement during the NGE C Annual Meeting and has confirmed that Dwight Sowden will be the speaker. The meeting info and PowerPoint template has been provided to Dwight.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGE C Annual Meeting**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

As of 1-12-21:

CAF Sleeper cars – two more have been delivered – that leaves 9 left.

Long-Distance Locomotive – on track with the first one anticipated to ship in March 2021.

Amfleet replacement – this procurement is progressing and is in the "cone of silence" stage.

Acela Express 21 – is in testing on the Northeast Corridor and at TTCI.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGE C Annual Meeting**

**Developing a TSSSA Primer:**

On 1-12-21, George Hull reported that his intent is to have a draft to present on the Technical subcommittee on its call scheduled for 2-4-21.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

**Michigan Membership:**

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This item remains on hold as a new Rail Director for Michigan (Peter Anastor) was only named recently and it was determined that outreach would wait until he has had a chance to get settled in.

Steve Hewitt pointed out that it would be good to have this resolved in advance of the Annual Meeting as the Board has been keeping Michigan as a member of the Board (at the request of Tim Hoefner just prior to his retirement from Michigan DOT) without its involvement or representation for the past year.

John Oimoen, IDOT, noted that the Mid-West states were meeting tomorrow (1-27-21) and will be introduced to the new Michigan DOT Rail Director and he will try to get information on this.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 1-26-21 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, the minutes from the 1-26-21 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

**5.**

**Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 1-26-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer's Report:

Through October 2020

Balance and Spend Rate:

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

Amount Spent: \$681,532.36.

Balance remaining: \$ 568,467.64.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23) - \$486,808.83.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating) - \$13,908.82.

Following the call, Tim will provide an update that includes the November invoice from AASHTO. When received, the updated report will be added to these minutes.

**6.**

**Status: Updating NGENC Two-Pager – 2021 – Steve Hewitt for Troy Hughes:**

Steve Hewitt reported that the two-pager is with MODOT graphic arts for finalizing. There were a few items from the last draft that needed to be addressed in order to finalize the document.

On the top right-hand corner of page one - we are adding "2021" – and will begin to date all of the updates (done annually) to the two-page educational document to prevent confusion.

For the Timeline listed on page one – right hand side - it was agreed that all year dates would be listed with 4 digits to keep the document consistent.

Also, in the timeline, it was agreed to note that the DMU Update will be completed in "Spring 2021".

The NGENC two-pager educational document will be ready for distribution, at least by the Annual meeting – possibly sooner. It will be distributed to all NGENC members as well as our partner organizations such as AASHTO, States for Passenger Rail, SAIPRC and others to potentially include in their reauthorization packets.

**7.**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-26-21 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (1-26-21):

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens, and FRA. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and the Electrical FDR occurred on December 15. The Galley FDR is expected to be completed by the end of January. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Clearance, Lighting and Electrical FDR meetings occurred January 7 and 8.*

*The Maintainability Demonstration resumes this week in Stockton. IDOT Business Class table testing is tentative for February 9 in Spain. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report has been submitted to Amtrak. The IDOT 238.111 test runs are scheduled for the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*65 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago.*

**8.**

**Status: Recommended Practice Document 305-200 – 1-26-21 – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger reported that the final DRAFT of the Recommended Practice PRIIA 305-200 is out to the NGEN Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group for a final review. Comments are due by COB 1-27-21. We have requested that these comments be on fatal flaws only. To date we have received comments from two members – both of which, should be incorporated.

An electronic vote of the working group is scheduled for 2-1-21.

Once approved by the Working Group, the document will go to the Executive Board. The Board will have it for at least two weeks before consideration of adoption. The intent is to formally adopt PRIIA Recommended Practice Document 305-200 during the Annual Meeting on 2-23-21.

**9.**

**Update: Document Control Management - Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update on 1-26-21:

- 1. The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document was sent to the WG for final review and comments are due back to me by tomorrow. I have received 3 sets of comments so far.*
- 2. Stadler Rail had requested a delay in the DMU to allow them to submit comments. I have received the first group of comments and the second group are due 2/10/2021.*
- 3. The PRIIA specifications all reference the APTA PRESS Standards. For the past several years, APTA has been working on reviewing and updating all the specifications. They have also created many new ones. I am working with Paul Jamieson on changes to the PRIIA specs based on these. This will include making changes to Chapter 2 and 18 (References and Materials & Workmanship). In addition, ECP brakes now has standards which will require some changes to the Brakes chapters. I have also asked Paul Jamieson to send me the proposed changes based upon the APTA specifications by February 10<sup>th</sup> – the same as the date for the Stadler submittals.*

Steve Hewitt asked Tammy to complete the list of technical working group members as he is preparing an NGEN Roster to be included in the meeting materials for the Annual meeting.

Steve Hewitt asked if Tammy thought that the DMU specification update that will comprise Revision B was still on track for consideration of adoption this Spring. Tammy noted that she believes it will still meet that target.

**10.**

**Preparing for the NGEN 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

Overview DRAFT agenda:

Steve provided a brief overview on the Annual Meeting agenda.

Most speakers/presenters have been confirmed. The NGEN PowerPoint template has been sent to all presenters. **A deadline for presentations to be provided to Steve Hewitt has been set for 2-16-21.** Oscar Bermudez, AASHTO has agreed to manage/run the presentations throughout the meeting since Dave "PowerPoint" Warner is not available for the full meeting this year. Oscar and Steve will talk off-line as the meeting gets closer to coordinate this effort.

Registration: Currently there are 77 registrants for the Annual Meeting.

Tim Ziethen will confirm who will represent Amtrak Government Affairs and give its presentation at the meeting.

**11.**

**Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today's meeting (1-26-21) at 11:52am.

**The next conference call will be held on 2-9-21.**

### Decisions/Action Items

#### **Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-26-21:**

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (1-26-21):

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens, and FRA. IDOT Café Car releases are ongoing and the Electrical FDR occurred on December 15. The Galley FDR is expected to be completed by the end of January. The new emergency egress windows are being installed on cars in California and Illinois. Cab Car Clearance, Lighting and Electrical FDR meetings occurred January 7 and 8.*

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*65 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago.*

#### **Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 1-12-21:**

On 12-15-20, Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT reported that the MTA Board will be meeting to consider awarding a contract to Siemens Mobility for a base order of 19 dual mode locomotives with options for a total of 152 for Metro-North, Long Island Railroad, NYSDOT and Connecticut DOT. The base order cost is at \$12.2 million each and the option orders will be at \$10.3 million each.

Ray noted that Siemens Mobility was the only bidder. Two other companies had submitted pre-qualification documents but, in the end, decided not to submit bids.

As of 1-12-21 the MTA Board has approved the awarding of a contract between Metro-North and Siemens Mobility for the production of the Dual Mode Locomotive.

Metro-North and Siemens are in the process of executing the contract.

#### **Update:**

As of 1-26-21, Metro North has agreed to give a presentation on the procurement during the NGEN Annual Meeting and has confirmed that Dwight Sowden will be the speaker.

#### **Next Update – 2-23-21 – NGEN Annual Meeting**

#### **Update: Document Control Management:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update on 1-26-21:

1. *The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices document was sent to the WG for final review and comments are due back to me by tomorrow. I have received 3 sets of comments so far.*
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Steve Hewitt asked Tammy to complete the list of technical working group members as he is preparing an NGEC Roster to be included in the meeting materials for the Annual meeting.

Tammy agreed to provide the list in time to include as a part of the NGEC Roster for the Annual Meeting packet.

**Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 1-12-21:**

As of 1-12-21:

CAF Sleeper cars – two more have been delivered – that leaves 9 left.

Long-Distance Locomotive – on track with the first one anticipated to ship in March 2021.

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AE21 – is in testing on the Northeast Corridor and a TTCI.

**Next Update – 2-9-21**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 10-20-20, Ron Bartels, VIA Rail, provided the NGEC Executive Board with an update on the VIA Rail vehicle procurement program.

He gave an overview of an exciting program that will result in 32 trainsets - each with 1 locomotive, 4 coaches and a cab car. Ron provided a general overview of milestones and an anticipated timeline for delivery.

He also described the great level of progress that has taken place, even with a tight schedule and the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Update as of 1-12-21:**

Steve Hewitt reported that he has confirmed with Mario Bergeron that VIA rail will give a presentation at the Annual Meeting. Presenter will be a combination of Mario Bergeron, Ron Bartels, and Joe Di Liello

**Next Update – 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:**

This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

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Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer’s Report:

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The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back and there is a final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGEC DCR process.

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**Next Update: as appropriate**

**Developing a template – TSSSA:**

On 1-12-21, George Hull reported that his intent is to have a draft to present on the Technical subcommittee on its call scheduled for 2-4-21.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

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

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual meeting and were included in the minutes. Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting**

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

Update: - 12-15-20:

On 12-10-20, Marci Petterson, CtDOT informed Steve Hewitt that Connecticut DOT was in the process of reviewing proposals. There was nothing more to report at this time.

Steve Hewitt will reach out to Marci Petterson to see if she will provide an update at the NGEC Annual Meeting on 2-23-21.

On 1-12-21, Steve Hewitt reached out to Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT, to determine if she would be able to give an update at the NGEC Annual Meeting. Marci reported that they will likely still be in the "cone of silence" and unable to say anything. She stated that she will attend the meeting and would offer an update if there was one to give but would not be a formal presenter at this time.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

**NGEC 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting 2-23-21 11:30AM-2:00PM Eastern:**

**Agenda overview:**

All speakers/presenters but one, have been confirmed. (Tim Ziethen will confirm who will represent Amtrak Government Affairs and give its presentation at the meeting).

The NGEC PowerPoint template has been sent to all presenters.

One additional item has been added to the agenda – a status update from Jeff Gordon, FRA on the activities of the Technical working group on specification weight issues.

**The deadline to submit presentations is 2-16-21. Please send to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).**

Oscar Bermudez, AASHTO, has agreed to manage/run the presentations throughout the meeting since Dave "PowerPoint" Warner is not available to do it this year. Oscar and Steve will talk off-line as the meeting gets closer to coordinate this effort.

Registration: Currently there are 77 registrants for the Annual Meeting.

**Michigan Membership:**

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The intent is to have this resolved in advance of the Annual Meeting.

John Oimoen, IDOT, noted that the Mid-West states were meeting tomorrow (1-27-21) and will be introduced to the new Michigan DOT Rail Director and he will try to get information on this.

**Next Update: 2-9-21**

**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call**

**1-26-21**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM 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 1-12-20 conference call meeting | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Treasurer's Report – Balance/Spend Rate                  | Tim Ziethen    |
| 6. Status: Updating NGEC two-pager - 2021                   | Troy Hughes    |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement                      | Kyle Gradinger |
| 8. Status: DRAFT Recommended Practice Document 305-200      | Ray Hessinger  |
| 9. Update: Document Control Management                      | Tammy Krause   |
| 10. Preparing for the NGEC Virtual Annual Meeting           | Steve Hewitt   |
| 11. Other   | All            |

**Next Meeting – 2-9-21**



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