



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Eric Curtit Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Curtit 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 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 (10-22-19)

**Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 10-22-19:**

The current version of the NGEC educational (two-pager) document was released at the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19 and is available in hard copy or electronically.

To date, (10-22-19) 265 hard copies and 356 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com). If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

**Update- Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 10-8-19:**

On the Acela:

Continues to move forward – progressing well with a power car moving at Hornell using its own power on the catenary.

It is expected to depart in January for TCI.

Non-passenger cars (no interiors) – moving along well.

On the Locomotives:

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locomotives were tested and there is not much difference between these locomotives and those.

On the Trainset (cars):

This continues to move forward with bids due in a November timeframe.

**Next Update 11-5-19**

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 10-8-19:**

Metro-North continues to work towards a conforming specification and supporting documents – “getting close”.

**Next Update – 11-5-19**

**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.

**Next Update: 12-3-19**

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 4-9-19:**

John Oimoen, IDOT, provided an overview of the METRA Equipment Procurement effort on 4-9-19:

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties must respond by August 2019.

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.

**Next Update: as appropriate**

**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 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 NGEC Annual Meeting (February 2020)**

**Developing proposed NGEC re-authorization language (scope and funding) 10-8-19**

On 10-3-19. Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit provided a proposed Disclaimer statement to FRA for input. The intent is to get the ok to add this or a revised disclaimer and finalize the language for use by Amtrak, AASHTO or others.

**Proposed Disclaimer:**

**The language provided herein does not include input from the Federal Railroad Administration.**

On 10-8-19, Jeff Gordon, FRA, reported that the FRA is fine with the proposed disclaimer being included at the end of the reauthorization scope and language (below) and stressed that in distributing the language – it should be in-tact when used by Amtrak, AASHTO or others - not portions of it via cut and paste.

Steve Hewitt will send out the scope and language with the disclaimer as one document to all NGEC Exec Board members following this call and will include it in the minutes as well.

**TASK Complete**

**Update: NGEC Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group as of 10-8-19**

The Working Group met on 10-8-19 and discussed a path forward.

Over the past 2 months members were asked to provide comments to each of the DRAFT sections (4) of the proposed reference document/report. Many comments were received and distributed to all members on 9-26-19.

On 10-3-19 the following path forward was agreed to:

Each section leader is to review all comments received on their particular section and then provide a revised draft of their section to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt by COB on 10-18-19. Once all revised section drafts are received, Steve will send them out to the full working group. This will give each member a full set of the report/reference document to review.

The working group will then meet again on 10-31-19 to discuss the latest drafts of the 4 sections. The intent is to follow that up with the procurement of professional technical writer to synthesize the 4 sections – remove duplications and convert the complete document into one voice and under one format.

The goal is to complete this effort in time for the next NGEC Annual Meeting – February 21, 2020.

**Next Update 11-5-19**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 9-24-19 and 10-8-19 conference call meetings – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:**

On a motion by Allan Paul, NCDOT and a second by Michael Lestingi, FRA, the minutes from the 9-24-19 and 10-8-19 Executive Board calls were approved as presented.

**5.**

**FASC update and Treasurer’s Report – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Treasurer's Report:

Amount Spent: \$ 472,593.10  
Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
Balance remaining: \$ 777,406.90  
Spend Rate per month: \$ 13,899.80

At this rate there is enough funding for several years. The grant period (as extended) runs through 9-30-2020. FRA has given verbal approval to apply for, and hopefully approve, another no-cost extension to be requested and the intent was to begin the request process in the Spring 2020.

Establishing timeline and next steps for another no-cost Grant Agreement extension:

Steve Hewitt suggested during the 10-16-19 FASC call that the NGEC process for making the extension request should begin earlier in order for the Executive Board to formalize its request by the NGEC Annual Meeting – thus providing Amtrak and FRA grants offices with ample time to complete their process.

NGEC Annual By-Laws Review:

On the 10-16-19 FASC call, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger were tasked with conducting the Annual Review of the By-Laws. They will then present any recommended changes at the November or December meeting of the FASC. Following FASC approval of any changes, the updated By-Laws with the changes noted will be submitted in writing to all Executive Board members 30 days prior to a vote in consideration of adoption.

**6.**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 10-22-19 – Steve Hewitt for Caltrans:**

Caltrans provided the following update to the NGEC Technical subcommittee on 10-17-19 – and Steve Hewitt read them into the record for today's call (10-22-19).

*All FDR System Level and related submittal approvals for the standard coach are at a Conditional Approval level or greater. Cab Car PDR action items are addressed, and approval is in process.*

*The Café Galley Mock-Up was held in Roseville, Michigan on October 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.*

*The first 33 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Carshells 1 and 2 have shipped to Pueblo and are being prepared for testing at TTCI. Carshell #3 has completed static testing and returned to production for finalization before shipment for climate room and NEC testing. Carshell # 4 has begun static testing. The remaining carshells are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.*

*The FAI process continues and most system-level FAIs for standard coach are complete. The FRA Sample Car Inspection occurred on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The overall car FAI is scheduled for November 13. A functional wheelchair lift demonstration occurred at Ricon on Tuesday, October 15.*

**7.**

**Update: TRB Session – The NGEC After 10 Years – Eric Curtit:**

All speaker names and contact information has been provided to Jack Madden prior to the 10-1-19 deadline. The session title was confirmed as "The NGEC – 10 years of Progress".

The content/topic for each presenter was also provided to Jack Madden prior to the 10-1-19 deadline.

Steve asked several times for a confirmation of which day the session would be held so that panelists could reserve the time on their calendars and begin making travel arrangements.

Several weeks ago, Steve Hewitt informed Jack Madden that a schedule conflict was making it necessary for the session to be held on 1-14-20 (Tuesday) in order to have all of the confirmed panelists participate.

Jack sent a message to Davidson Ward, the TRB sponsoring committee chair, requesting 1-14-20.

As of 10-22-19 no response on the date has been received.

**8.**

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

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (10-22-19):

Document control has been very quiet this month. The only thing I have to report is that the Review Panel met to discuss and approve the trainset spec Rev B on 10-17-19. It was approved and submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration on today's call (10-22-19). After that happens, Tammy will have the new version of the train set specification compiled.

**9.**

**Status: Overview Trainset 305-007 Revision B Review Panel Report – Larry Salci:**

Larry Salci provided an overview of the changes to the Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 that were approved by the Technical subcommittee and will comprise Revision B. Larry summarized the Review Panel Report on Revision B and the recommendations of the Review panel to adopt Revision B as submitted.

**10.**

**Consideration of approval of the Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B Review Panel Report and Recommendations – Eric Curtit:**

A motion to accept the Review Panel Report and its recommendations was offered by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT and was seconded by Allan Paul NCDOT.

With a quorum present and no objections noted, the Chairman determined that consensus has been achieved and the report and its recommendations are accepted.

**11.**

**Consideration of adoption of the Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B – Eric Curtit:**

A motion to adopt PRIIA Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B as recommended by the Review Panel was offered by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, and was seconded by Allan Paul, NCDOT

Chairman Curtit asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of voting members present:

Eric Curtit, MoDOT – aye  
Charlie King, Amtrak – aye  
Tim Ziethen, Amtrak – aye  
Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -aye  
Michael Lestingi, FRA – aye  
Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT - aye  
Arun Rao, Wisconsin – aye  
Arun Rao, as proxy for John Oimoen, IDOT – aye  
Jason Biggs, WSDOT - aye  
Allan Paul, NCDOT – aye  
Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT – aye

With a quorum having been established and all members present voting in the affirmative, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus was achieved and the motion to adopt PRIIA Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B is approved.

**12.**

**Preparing for the 10<sup>th</sup> NGEC Annual Meeting 2-21-20 – Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt:**

Sending out announcement to all NGEC members -timeline

Steve Hewitt will formally send a notice, including hotel information to all NGEC members – states, Amtrak, FRA and the industry by late this week, or early next week:

**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-APTS>

The rate is \$149 per night. Currently this is for double bedded rooms only; anyone wanting a King will need to contact the hotel directly to see if this is a possibility. However, additional cost may be incurred.

Preparing a DRAFT agenda – Steve and Eric have begun to develop a DRAFT agenda for the meeting and at this point the intent is to begin the meeting with registration at 8:00am with the meeting concluding around 1:00pm. Steve and Eric will provide the first DRAFT agenda to Board members in advance of the next call (11-5-19).

Appointing a nominating Committee – for Election of Executive Board Members and NGEC officers –

Since this is an election year – all state members of the Executive Board will need to be nominated to serve another two-year term. (Amtrak retains two slots on Board and FRA retains one slot). A nominating committee should be appointed to ascertain who on the current Board are willing to continue to serve and provide the names to the full Committee (including candidates to fill vacancies if there are any). The nominating committee reports out at the Annual Meeting and the state Board member nominees are then voted on. Following the election, the states caucus and name their officers. Per the NGE precedent, Amtrak's CMO retains the Vice Chair seat and Amtrak retains the Treasurer's seat. The states elect the Chair and Vice Chair.

NGEC two pager – Revise/ Update – Eric and Steve will take a first look at updating the NGEC two-pager and present their recommendations on the next call (11-5-19) Steve will also provide the current version to all in advance of the call.

**13.  
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Eric Curtit adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:02pm Eastern.

**The next conference call will be 11-5-19**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 10-22-19:**

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<p>Caltrans has exercised its option for continuing technical support with Siemens after the warranty has expired.</p> <p>There have been some instances of ice build-up on the HVAC and they are working on determining the root cause.</p> <p>Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.</p> <p><b>Washington State Experience:</b></p> <p>No report provided</p> <p><b>Amtrak Experience:</b></p> <p>Charlie King reported that Amtrak has held several meetings with Siemens on parts availability as “we continue to support the states” as our partners.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>So far it has performed extremely well.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Next Update: 2020 NGEC Annual Meeting (February 2020)</b></p>
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<p><b>TRB session – NGEC 10 years of Progress:</b></p> <p>As of 10-22-19, all speaker names and contact information have been provided to Jack Madden prior to the 10-1-19 TRB deadline. The session title was confirmed as: The NGEC – 10 years of Progress</p> <p>The content/topic for each presenter was also provided to Jack Madden prior to the 10-1-19 deadline.</p> <p>Steve asked several times for a confirmation of which day the session would be held so that panelists could reserve the time on their calendars and begin making travel arrangements.</p> <p>Last week, Steve Hewitt informed Jack Madden that a schedule conflict was making it necessary for the session to be held on 1-14-20 (Tuesday) in order to have all of the confirmed panelists participate.</p> <p>Jack sent a message to Davidson Ward, the TRB sponsoring committee chair, requesting 1-14-20.</p> <p>No response as of yet.</p>
<p><b>Trainset Revision B Review Panel Report Status as of 10-22-19:</b></p> <p>On 10-22-19, the Executive Board accepted the Review Panel Report and its recommendations.</p> <p>Subsequently, the Executive Board adopted PRIIA Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B</p> <p>Tammy Krause is aske to compile the changes and request that they be integrated into the specification by the</p>

technical writer.

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**TASK Complete**

**Preparing for the 10<sup>th</sup> NGENC Annual Meeting 2-21-20 – Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt:**

Sending out announcement to all NGENC members -timeline

Steve Hewitt will formally send a notice, including hotel information to all NGENC members – states, Amtrak, FRA and the industry by late this week, or early next week:

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**S305 NGENC Executive Board Conference Call  
October 22, 2019  
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 10-8-19 conference call meeting                                       | Eric Curtit              |
| 5. FASC update and Treasurer's Report   | Tim Ziethen              |
| a. Balance, Spent, burn rate  |                          |
| b. Establishing timeline and next steps for another no-cost Grant Agreement extension             |                          |
| c. NGEN Annual By-Laws Review   |                          |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement  | Kyle Gradinger           |
| 7. Update: TRB Session –The NGEN 10 Years of Progress   | Steve Hewitt             |
| 8. Update: Document Control   | Tammy Krause             |
| 9. Overview: Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B Review Panel Report           | Larry Salci              |
| 10. Consideration of approval - Single Level Trainset Spec 305-007 Revision B Review Panel Report | Eric Curtit              |
| 11. Consideration of adoption of Single level Trainset Specification 305-007 Revision B           | Eric Curtit              |
| 12. Preparing for the 10 <sup>th</sup> NGEN Annual Meeting – 2-21-20                              | Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt |
| Sending out announcement to all NGEN members -timeline  |                          |
| Preparing a DRAFT agenda  |                          |
| Appointing a nominating Committee – for Election of Executive Board Members and NGEN officers     |                          |
| NGEN two pager – Revise/ Update   |                          |
| 13. Other   | All                      |

**Next Call-11-5-19**