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# SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2018

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

## DECISIONS MADE

**1. Welcome –Steve Hewitt for Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board:**

Chairman Curtit, MODOT, opened the call and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

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

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

**3. Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt noted that most open action items are covered under the agenda.

The status of action items not covered by today's agenda:

**Request for Topics/presentations that Board Members would like to be briefed on:**

On 10-9-18, Eric Curtit asked that Board Members provide Steve Hewitt and himself with requests or suggestions of any topics they wish to be briefed on, or they wish to brief other Board Members on, during these bi-weekly calls. The intent is to be sure these meetings are as productive as possible and provide an exchange beyond the ongoing updates.

Please submit topics to Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit.

One topic request has come from the University of Nebraska and FRA to present, at the Annual Meeting, its study results on high speed wireless. This item has been included in the DRAFT Annual Meeting Agenda.

**Charger Updates from States and Amtrak** – On 10-23-18, at Chairman Curtit's request, States and Amtrak provided summary updates on the Charger Locomotives now that they have been placed in service. The Chairman will be asking for these updates on a periodic basis, with the next update planned for the NGENC 2019 Annual Meeting – 2-22-19.

**Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 11-6-18:**

The working group met on 11-1-18.

Team Leaders provided status updates on their sections of the report - most have made significant progress, but more work remains to be done.

The intent is to have a draft of the document completed in advance of the NGENC Annual Meeting. Summary presentation to the Board then for input.

The next call of the working group is scheduled for 11-29-18.

Next Update: 12-4-18

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 11-6-18 Conference Call Meetings – Eric Curtit:**

A motion was offered by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and was seconded by Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT, to approve the minutes from 11-6-18 as presented. With a quorum having been established and no objections or exceptions noted, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus had been achieved the minutes of 11-6-18 are approved as presented.

**5. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement - Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (11-20-18):

*Of the three critical Cab Car DCRs, two have been approved by the NGEC subcommittee – Carbody/Cab Construction and Cab Area Floor Height. The pending Car Length Over Couplers DCR would be an allowed exception to the PRIIA specification pending approval of an NGEC rule change. The PRIIA specification text would not be changed.*

*System-level FDR approvals of the Carbody & Clearance, Water & Waste, HVAC, Gap Filler, Digital Communications, Diagnostic System, Double Sliding Step, Accessible Toilet Room, Safety Appliances, Lighting Systems, Semi-Permanent and H-type couplers, Exterior Doors and Brakes have been provided to SCOA/Siemens. Trucks and Seats are currently in queue for approval. Remaining actions for Gangway and Interior Doors are complete with system level approval expected soon. Caltrans submittals to FRA for Safety Appliance and Carbody are complete and under review. The package containing the Clearance Envelopes have been submitted to Amtrak for review and approval.*

*The first 8 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility and carshell #1 has passed its FAI and associated rework has been completed. Carshell #2 is in queue for passivation. Carshell #3 has completed the integration and associated inspection. Carshells 4 through 8 are in various stages of weld integration and Carshells 9 through 12 are in the initial stages of construction with center sills completed. The expansion of the Sacramento production facility is in process and on target for a November completion.*

*The FAI process is underway and FAIs have occurred for the Carshell Complete, Digital Communication System, Lighting System, Couplers, Sanitary System, Sidewall Lining, Flooring and Battery Charger. Open items are being addressed and the FAIs are revisited for closure by the customer team as needed. FAI for the Low Floor Door Panel is to be conducted in December.*

*The Virtual Reality Door Mock Up is scheduled on November 28 in Caltrans Sacramento Office.*

**6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North has canceled its Dual Mode Locomotive procurement for now. When it went on the street, it was assumed that the purchase of the new equipment was to be with 100% state funding. Circumstances have changes and Metro-North will re-issue the RFP with appropriate federal clauses and with the use of federal funds. Ray call this a "step back" but it will go through eventually with an RFP under federal rules.

Ray added that, for NYSDOT, this opens up "other opportunities to for us to come up with our share", whereas NYSDOT would have been otherwise limited.

Michael Lestingi, FRA, asked which funds Metro-North was planning to use. Ray responded that Metro-North will be putting it (the RFP) out with FTA clauses. The question for NYSDOT will be "do we flex CMAQ or other FRA funds flexed to FTA".

**7. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement – George Hull for Charlie King, Amtrak:**

George Hull reported that Amtrak is still working on the process to make the selection on the Locomotive procurement and is continuing to work on developing the RFP for cars.

**8. Update: Document Control – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause was unavailable for this call but provided an update for inclusion in the minutes for 11-20-18. Steve Hewitt read them into the record:

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*The single level car specification DCRs that I have received are all addressed or in process. Larry Salci is currently reviewing Six DCRs that have been approved by the Technical Subcommittee. There is a 7<sup>th</sup> DCR that is waiting on a process change before it can be considered. Jeff Gordon, FRA, is working on this process change. After the change is submitted and if it is approved, the last DCR (length change of the Cab Car) will be addressed.*

*I am currently putting together DCRs required to update the NGENC Trainset specification to reflect approved changes to other car specs. The Trainset spec was last updated to Revision A on August 2, 2011. I hope to have the DCRs distributed to the working groups in early December.*

Tammy informed Steve Hewitt that goal is to get the update to the Board for consideration by the NGENC 2019 Annual Meeting. Following that she will begin review of the DMU specification which is in its initial release version.

#### **9.**

##### **Timeline for completing the Review Panel Report/Recommendations/contents of review – Larry Salci:**

Larry Salci, consultant to the NGENC review Panels, explained that, as Tammy Krause described there are 3 HVAC related DCRs (173, 175, 175) that have been approved by the Technical subcommittee and should be included in the upcoming Review Panel Report. Additionally, there is a DCR that had been resubmitted as 151A and was approved by the Technical subcommittee as amended. This too, should be included in the upcoming Review Panel Report.

The Panel has been convened to review the Cab Car DCRs 178 and 179 which were also approved by the Technical subcommittee, but the others should be reviewed and included at the same time.

Regarding the Cab Car DCRs, Mr. Salci has had several conversations with Chairman Curtit and Steve Hewitt and has recommended that the Cab Car DCRs 178 and 179 are artifacts of DCR 177 (length) – which is waiting on a policy change to the Document Management Procedures (305-100) before it can be approved by the Technical subcommittee. Without 177, there is no need for DCRs 178 and 179.

Jeff Gordon, FRA, team leader of the NGENC Mechanical working group has been developing language in for make changes to the 305-100 document that would provide an allowance in unique circumstances to make a change to the "As Built" spec that will not carry forward to the base spec. The proposed language is currently under review by FRA legal to see if it is acceptable without impacting the grant agreements for the ongoing multi-state car procurement.

Mr. Salci's believes that the Executive Board and its Review Panel should wait until this policy issue is resolved and do all the pending/mentioned DCRs in one package. Resolving the policy issue is key in that it would preserve the integrity of the NGENC and ensure that it does not violate its own procedures. Larry's advice is that the Board "resolve the first before dealing with the others".

In summation, Mr. Salci, as the Review Panel's consultant, recommendation to the Executive Board is that "the Review Panel stand down until DCR 177 is resolved via the procedure change."

With no further discussion forthcoming, it was agreed that Mr. Salci's recommendation would be accepted, and the Board will wait until the policy/procedure issue, and, subsequently, DCR 177, are resolved before proceeding with the Review Panel Report.

This item will remain as an agenda item on future Executive Board calls so that a status update can be provided until the issue is resolved. Meanwhile Larry Salci will begin his review and preparation of the report so as to be ready to go once the issue is resolved.

Asked if he had an update on the status of the proposed language changes to 305-100, (under FRA legal review) Jeff Gordon responded that he did not have an update and has not gotten all of the feedback yet.

#### **10.**

##### **Consideration of adoption of proposed NGENC By-Laws Revisions – Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit called for a motion to adopt the changes to the By-Laws as approved and recommended by the NGENC Finance and Administrative subcommittee on 10-17-18. Per the By-Laws, the Executive Board members have had the proposed changes in writing in their possession for more than the required 30 days.

A motion to adopt the changes to the NGENC by-Laws as presented was offered by Michael Lestingi, FRA, and seconded by Allan Paul, NCDOT.

With no further discussion brought forward, and a motion and a second offered, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus was achieved and the motion to adopt the changes to the By-Laws, as presented, was approved.

Steve Hewitt will put the document in final form with the approved changes, and the date of adoption, and will provide it to all Executive Board members and to AASHTO for posting on the NGEC website. The updated By-Laws will also be included in the meeting packet for the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting on 2-22-19.

**11.  
Preparing for the 2019 NGEC Annual Meeting – Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill, Washington DC – 2-22-19 – Steve Hewitt:**

**Room Block Information – Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC:**

The room rate is \$181 per night plus tax which is the per diem rate for DC. Attendees have until **January 29, 2019** to reserve their room at the group rate.

**Hyatt Regency Washington On Capitol Hill**

400 New Jersey Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

[https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/washington-dc/hyatt-regency-washington-on-capitol-hill/wasrw?corp\\_id=G-AHT9](https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/washington-dc/hyatt-regency-washington-on-capitol-hill/wasrw?corp_id=G-AHT9)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kamasha

**Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP**

Senior Meeting Planner

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**DRAFT Agenda:**

Steve Hewitt provided a brief overview of the DRAFT agenda sent to all Board members prior to this call (draft is attached to these minutes)

Confirming Speakers – Steve asked that all speakers confirm their availability to participate. Michael Lestingi, FRA, noted that he will likely give the FRA update, but will see if the Deputy FRA Administrator is available. Michael confirmed he will attend the meeting, and Steve Hewitt will leave him on the agenda for the FRA presentation unless notified otherwise. Tim Ziethen agreed to confirm who will provide the update on behalf of Amtrak Government Affairs.

Timeline for Presentations (if using Power Point – optional) – to Steve Hewitt by 2-15-18 (COB)

Request for additional Agenda Topics – one request received thus far – to present the FRA/University of Nebraska Study on High Speed Wireless – Hamid Sharif-Kashani and Tarek Omar, FRA.

Travel Reimbursement for states – all state member travel expenses are reimbursed by the NGEC (through AASHTO). Steve Hewitt will be sending a travel expense reimbursement form with updated for GSA per diem and personal mileage amounts for 2019.

Registering with Steve Hewitt for the meeting – please send Steve Hewitt an email of your intentions to attend the Annual Meeting as soon as possible for ensuring a quorum and for a head count for name badges, tent cards, handout packets etc. To date only a few members of the Board or support staff have submitted their intentions and about 10 members of the industry have registered with Steve.

With the Chairman's approval, the current DRAFT agenda will be circulated, subject to change, to NGEC members to assist them with obtaining travel approvals.

**12.  
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Curtit adjourned the meeting at 12:05PM Eastern.

**The next conference call is 12-4-18**

### Decisions/Action Items

#### **Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 11-20-18:**

See agenda item 6 in the minutes.

#### **The Charger - Diesel-Electric Locomotive and Mid-West Section 6 Plan Update 10-9-18:**

The Section 6 Plan has been accepted by FRA (as previously reported on 7-3-18).

No other updates reported on 11-6-18

#### **Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update 11-20-18:**

Metro-North has canceled its Dual Mode Locomotive procurement for now. When it went on the street, it was assumed that the purchase of the new equipment was to be with 100% state funding. Circumstances have changes and Metro-North will re-issue the RFP with appropriate federal clauses and with the use of federal funds. Ray call this a “step back” but it will go through eventually with an RFP under federal rules.

Next update – as appropriate

#### **Adoption of By-Laws changes:**

On 11-20-18, the changes to the NGEC By-Laws, as approved by the FASC on 10-17-18, were formally adopted by the NGEC executive Board. Steve Hewitt will finalize the document with the adopted changes and date of adoption. It will be sent to all Board members and to AASHTO for posting to the NGEC website. It will also be included in the handout packet at the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting 2-22-19.

#### **Document Control Update – 11-20-18:**

The single level car specification DCRs that have been received are all addressed or in process. Larry Salci is currently reviewing Six DCRs that have been approved by the Technical Subcommittee. There is a 7<sup>th</sup> DCR that is waiting on a process change before it can be considered. Jeff Gordon, FRA, is working on this process change. After the change is submitted and if it is approved, the last DCR (length change of the Cab Car) will be addressed.

Tammy Krause is currently putting together DCRs required to update the NGEC Trainset specification to reflect approved changes to other car specs. The Trainset spec was last updated to Revision A on August 2, 2011. Tammy hopes to have the DCRs distributed to the working groups in early December. The goal is to get the update to the Board for consideration by the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting. Following that, Tammy will begin review of the DMU specification which is in its initial release version.

#### **Timeline for completing the Review Panel Report/Recommendations/contents of review 11-20-18:**

Mr. Salci, as the Review Panel’s consultant, recommended to the Executive Board that “the Review Panel stand down until DCR 177 is resolved via the procedure change.”

On 11-20-18, it was agreed that Mr. Salci’s recommendation would be accepted, and the Board will wait until the policy/procedure issue, and, subsequently, DCR 177, are resolved before proceeding with the Review Panel Report. Additionally, once these issues are resolved, the Report will include the previously approved DCRs 151 A, 173, 174 and 175 along with 178 1nd 179 and 177, and the process change to 305-100, at the same time as a package.

This item will remain as an agenda item on future Executive Board calls so that a status update can be provided until the issue is resolved. Meanwhile Larry Salci will begin his review and preparation of the report so as to be ready to go once the issue is resolved.

#### **Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 11-6-18:**

The working group met on 11-1-18.

Team Leaders provided status updates on their sections of the report - most have made significant progress, but more work remains to be done.

The intent is to have a draft of the document completed in advance of the NGEN Annual Meeting. Summary presentation to the Board then for input.

The next call of the working group is scheduled for 11-29-18.

Next Update: 12-4-18

**Amtrak Locomotive Procurement – 11-20-18:**

Amtrak is still working on the process to make the selection on the Locomotive procurement and is continuing to work on developing the RFP for cars.

Next Update 12-18-18

**Charger Updates from States and Amtrak** – Chairman Curtit has requested a summary update on the Chargers now that they have been placed in service.

**Updates: 10-23-18:**

- a. Illinois/Mid-West States – Jennifer Bastian, IDOT:

Jennifer Bastian reported that the overall equipment delivery and performance of the new Charger Locomotives has been the best she has seen. She noted that it is her understanding that it has exceeded Amtrak's expectations.

Operationally, it has been a good procurement.

One area of concern, however, is warrantee support and parts availability. The Mid-West states are working with Siemens to correct this situation.

- b. Washington State – Ron Pate/Jason Biggs:

Ron Pate and/or Jason Biggs were not available for the call and did not provide a report.

- c. California – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

Kyle Gradinger agreed with Jennifer that the procurement has been a good one operationally. Caltrans' concerns are similar to those noted by IDOT – warrantee support – and parts availability. Overall, Kyle commented, - "operationally, when they are running, they work great". He added that engineers enjoy the cab and the acceleration is great – "overall we are very happy with the operation."

Kyle did mention that there are some glitches with the design of the snow plow – noting that California doesn't need a snow plow and it is ultimately used for shopping carts and tumble weed which can be problematic under the current design.

- d. Amtrak – Charlie King, Amtrak:

Charlie King, Amtrak, echoed the comments made by California and IDOT and noted that Amtrak is measuring the information closely and looking at availability of parts and overall warranty support.

Charlie added that "we need robust part support from Siemens and technical support as well...we need to partner with Siemens and need a good and tight relationship between the states and Siemens and Amtrak, the states and Siemens."

Next Update: 2-22-19 NGEN Annual Meeting

**Request for Topics/presentations that Board Members would like to be briefed on – Steve Hewitt:**

On 10-9-18, Eric Curtit asked that Board Members provide Steve Hewitt and himself with requests or suggestions of any topics they wish to be briefed on, or they wish to brief other Board Members on, during these bi-weekly calls. The intent is to be sure these meetings are as productive as possible and provide an exchange beyond the ongoing updates.

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Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kamasha

**Kamasha Hendrickson, CMP, CGMP**

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DRAFT Agenda:

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Confirming Speakers – Steve asked that all speakers confirm their availability to participate. Michael Lestingi, FRA, noted that he will likely give the FRA update, but will see if the Deputy FRA Administrator is available. Michael confirmed he will attend the meeting, and Steve Hewitt will leave him on the agenda for the FRA presentation unless notified otherwise. Tim Ziethen agreed to confirm who will provide the update on behalf of Amtrak Government Affairs.

Timeline for Presentations (if using Power Point – optional) – to Steve Hewitt by 2-15-18 (COB)

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Registering with Steve Hewitt for the meeting – please send Steve Hewitt an email of your intentions to attend the Annual Meeting as soon as possible for ensuring a quorum and for a head count for name badges, tent cards, handout packets etc. To date only a few members of the Board or support staff have submitted their intentions and about 10 members of the industry have registered with Steve.

With the Chairman's approval, the current DRAFT agenda will be circulated, subject to change, to NGEN members to assist them with obtaining travel approvals.

**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call**

**November 20, 2018**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern**

**Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Open the Meeting

Eric Curtit

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|--|-------------------------------|
| 2. Roll Call   | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 3. Action Items Status Review  | Steve Hewitt                  |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 11-20-18   | Eric Curtit                   |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement   | Kyle Gradinger                |
| 6. Update: Metro North – Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement  | Ray Hessinger                 |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement  | George Hull for Charlie King  |
| 8. Update: Document Control  | Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause |
| 9. Discussion: Timeline for Review Panel Report and Recommendations/contents of review             | Larry Salci                   |
| 10. Consideration of adoption of proposed NGENC By-Laws revisions                                  | Eric Curtit                   |
| 11. Preparing for: NGENC 2019 Annual Meeting – Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill Washington, DC 2-22-19 | Steve Hewitt                  |

Room Block information  
 Overview- DRAFT agenda  
 Confirming Speakers  
 Confirming attendees – Board Members  
 Timeline for Presentations (if using Power Point – optional)  
 Request for additional Agenda Topics  
 Travel Reimbursement for states  
 Registering with Steve Hewitt for the meeting

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| 12. Other | All |
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**Next Call -12-4-18**

**PRIIA Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC)**  
**8th Annual Meeting**  
**February 22, 2019**  
**8:00 am – 12:30 pm EST**  
**Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC**  
**Ballroom A-B**

**Meeting Agenda**

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|----------------|---|
| 8:00 - 8:25 am | Registration  |
| 8:25 – 8:30 am | Hotel Safety Briefing – Hotel Staff   |
| 8:30 – 8:35 am | Convene Annual Meeting: Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, NGENC Chair                      |
| 8:35 - 8:40 am | Self introductions  |
| 8:40 – 8:45 am | Roll call – establish the presence of a quorum: Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager |
| 8:45 – 8:50 am | Review Meeting Agenda: Eric Curtit<br>Review Meeting Packets: Steve Hewitt          |
| 8:50 – 8:55 am | Approval of the Minutes from the February 12, 2019 Executive Board conference call  |
| 8:55 – 9:10 am | Chairman’s Report - Eric Curtit, Chair, NGENC Executive Board                       |
| 9:10 - 9:25 am | Update from The Federal Railroad Administration - Michael Lestingi, FRA             |



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9:25 – 9:40 am	Update from Amtrak Government Affairs – TBD, Amtrak
9:40 - 9:50 am	Treasurer’s Report & Finance & Administrative Subcommittee update - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak
9:50 – 9:55 am	Consideration of Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report – Eric Curtit
9:55 - 10:15 am	Progress Report: Technical Subcommittee - Charlie King, Amtrak
10:15- 10:25 am	Annual Progress Report: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause
10:25 – 10:35am	Presentation- FRA/University of Nebraska High Speed Wireless Study – Tariq Omar, FRA Hamid Sharif-Kashani, University of Nebraska
10:35 – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – 11:25 am	Equipment Procurements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Multi-State Single Level Cars – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans</li> <li>b. Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT</li> <li>c. Amtrak Equipment Procurements – Charlie King, Amtrak</li> </ul>
11:25 – 11:55 am	The Charger Locomotives deployment – status reports from the states and Amtrak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mid-West States Experience – John Oimoen, IDOT</li> <li>b. California experience – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans</li> <li>c. Washington State Experience – Ron Pate, WSDOT</li> <li>d. Amtrak Experience – Charlie King, Amtrak</li> </ul>
11:55 – 12:10 pm	Progress Report – Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – Eric Curtit - Overview DRAFT report
12:10 – 12:30 pm	Questions/Comments/Other Issues - All Attendees
12:30 pm	Closing Comments/Adjourn – Eric Curtit