

---

# SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

## DECISIONS MADE

### 1.

#### **Welcome –Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board:**

Chairman Curtit, Missouri DOT, convened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

#### **Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:**

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

---

### 3.

#### **Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:**

Primarily all open actions items were to be covered under today's agenda. For the record, a status update of all open items, as of the start of this meeting, is included below:

---

#### **Procurement Updates:**

##### **Status Update – Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State):**

Agenda item 9

---

##### **Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement Update (IDOT – Lead State):**

Agenda item 8

---

##### **Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:**

On 11-7-17, John Oimoen reported that the DRAFT Section 6 plan, which had previously been sent to FRA for review, has come back with some suggested changes. These changes are currently under review and John anticipates final approval of the Section 6 plan by the end of this year (2017).

Agenda item 7

---

##### **Finance and Administrative Subcommittee Update:**

The FASC is preparing By-Law revisions that will remove 514 from the B-Laws and Operating procedures of the NGENC.

On the last call, held on 9-27-17, the FASC agreed to begin a review of the grant agreement SOW and will propose amendments for moving 514. Also, at the suggestion of Amtrak's Grants office, the subcommittee will review the SOW for possible revisions, beyond just the move of 514 to SAIPRC, to reflect current NGENC activities and/or needs.

Agenda item 10

---

---

**514 Subcommittee:**

Brian Beeler II reported that the CIP is very close to completion. He noted that he had just received the update from Amtrak's Max Johnson and Tim Ziethen and has sent the document out to all 514 members for a last "look over". Members have been given until COB on Thursday (11-9-17) to provide comments, and he anticipates getting the CIP finalized and sent to the NGEN Executive Board in time for its consideration on 11-21-17.

Regarding the move of 514 to SAIPRC – it is a work in progress. There is a SAIPRC face to face meeting of the working group on Monday 11-13-17 to identify a path forward for SAIPRC. Until the move is complete Brian will keep the NGEN fully informed in the process.

**Next 514 Progress Report to the Executive Board– 12-5-17**

Agenda item 11 – update on CIP Status

**Technical Subcommittee – Next Progress Report to the Executive Board – 12-5-17**

**Document Management – Weight Change DCR Status:**

Tammy Krause reported that on 11-2-17, on the Technical subcommittee call, the Single Level Car Specification DCR on weight change was approved as amended. While the weight change is not as much as originally requested, a compromise was reached and the DCR was approved with all subcommittee voting members in agreement for the DCR as amended. The next step is for the Review Panel to review the DCR against the requirements document to ensure compliance. Larry Salci was tasked with preparing a report with recommendations for Review Panel consideration. Once the Panel receives the report it will meet to discuss and consider it. If approved, it will be taken to the Executive Board for its consideration, and ultimately, its adoption.

Agenda items 5 and 6

**Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group:**

On 11-7-17, Eric Curtit reported on the results of the first call of the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group which took place on 11-2-17 with all members present.

The group agreed to use an outline of a paper that Larry Salci had prepared for FRA earlier this year as a starting point. Larry is to convert that presentation into a shorter "white paper" focusing on issues related to the working group's scope. Members of the group are asked to review the paper and submit comments in track changes to Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit to be compiled into a revised paper.

The next call of the working group is scheduled for 11-30-17.

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 11-7-17 Conference call meeting – Eric Curtit:**

On a motion by Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT, and a second by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, the minutes from the 11-7-17 Executive Board conference call were approved as presented.

**5.**

**Overview: Review Panel Report & Recommendations – DCR – on weight Change - Larry Salci:**

NGEC Technical consultant, Larry Salci, provided an overview of the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel Report and Recommendations regarding the weight change DCR. Larry reported that in the Requirements Document for the Single Level Car Specification no weights were provided, only margin comments. Therefore, the DCR is not in conflict with the requirements document and the recommended weights in the DCR were concurred by the Review Panel.

For the record, Larry provided background and context as to how "we have gotten to this point" including the fact that the Bi-Level car procurement had gone into default, and the states involved have now entered into a contract with Sumitomo Corporation for single level cars with Siemens as the car builder.

The Review Panel recommends that the Executive Board adopt the DCR for weight change as submitted, and as previously approved by the NGEN Technical subcommittee.

---

**6. Consideration of acceptance of the Review Panel Report/Recommendations & adoption of the DCR - Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit called for a motion to accept the Review Panel Report and its recommendations, and to adopt the weight change DCR as submitted and previously approved by the NGENC Technical subcommittee.

A motion to accept the Review panel report and its recommendations and to adopt the Weight Change DCR as submitted (and approved by the Technical subcommittee) was offered by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and was seconded by Michael Lestingi, FRA.

With no further discussion forthcoming, Chairman Curtit asked Steve Hewitt to conduct a roll call vote of the Executive Board members present or represented:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – aye  
Charlie King, Amtrak – aye  
Tim Ziethen, Amtrak – aye  
Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – aye  
Michael Lestingi, FRA – aye  
Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT – aye  
Jennifer Bastian, IDOT -aye  
Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT -aye  
Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT -aye  
Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans – aye  
Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA for Maine DOT – aye

With a quorum having been established and all votes cast in the affirmative, Chairman Curtit determined that consensus has been achieved and the motion is approved.

**7. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – Jennifer Bastian:**

Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, reported that the states are working on responses to the comments received from FRA on the DRAFT Section 6 plan. A working session among the states and FRA is scheduled for January 2018 and that should result in finalizing the Section 6 plan.

**8. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – Jennifer Bastian for John Oimoen, IDOT:**

Jennifer Bastian provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

- a) All locomotives have completed required testing and all reports have been submitted and received.*
- b) 110 mph hour testing in MI and the Chicago/St. Louis line will take place when all PTC logistics and software are up and in place. The 238.111a testing should be able to take place on this corridor before the end of the year since UP has turned off cab signal in that territory.*
- c) IDOT and Siemens have signed conditional and final acceptance on 29 IDOT units.*
- d) IDOT Revenue service started 7/27/2017, with units placed in trailing position. Eight IDOT locomotives are currently running in lead position, and more will be rolling out in the next few weeks.*
- e) IDOT locomotives 4601 - 4631 have completed burn-in testing at TTCI. Locomotives 4632 and 4633 are at TTCI and will undergo final burn-in testing 11/28-12/1. These are the last two units of the contracted build.*
- f) Thirteen IDOT locomotives are currently in Chicago. Four more are on their way from TTCI. The shipments of the next six locomotives are planned. The remaining locomotives stored at TTCI will ship to Chicago, as soon as storage space becomes available. Storage space in Chicago is being freed-up with the re-deployment of P-42 locomotives by Amtrak.*
- g) All WSDOT Locomotives have been delivered and have completed pre-revenue testing and are ready for revenue service.*
- h) WSDOT has finalized their lease with Amtrak, and the units have entered revenue service in lead position.*
- i) All Caltrans Locomotives have been delivered and all are operating in lead service.*
- j) The Failure Review Board has been established, with three meetings taking place so far with all JPE's, Siemens and Amtrak representatives. Bi-weekly warranty meetings are also being held by Siemens.*

**9. Status Update: Multi-State Car Procurement – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

---

Caltrans executed the contract amendment with Sumitomo to move forward with the railcar procurement on 11/3/17. Siemens is the replacement car builder. For Caltrans, the order calls for 49 cars. Kyle stated that he had nothing further to report at this time.

**10.**

**Monthly Progress Report – Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Eric Curtit thanked Tim Ziethen for the hard work in getting up to speed and expressed his thanks to Steve Hewitt as well, for helping to make the transition go smoothly.

Tim Ziethen, echoed Eric's comments in expressing his appreciation to Steve Hewitt and provided the following progress report for inclusion in today's minutes:

*The Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) last met on 11-15-17.*

*On the call, the subcommittee approved proposed By-Law revisions which removed the 514 subcommittee as an NGEC standing subcommittee, and made minor corrections to the document for consistency and a better read. In accordance with the By-Laws, the revisions were submitted to the Executive Board in writing on 11-16-17. To change the NGEC By-Laws, those changes must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board at least 30 days in advance of the meeting the Board intends to vote on the changes. Based on those requirements, the FASC is anticipating that the Executive Board will vote on adoption of the By-Law changes on 12-19-17 on its regularly scheduled bi-weekly call.*

*As suggested by the Amtrak grants office, the subcommittee is currently reviewing the grant agreement SOW and budget to not only reflect changes necessary to reflect the move of 514 to SAIPRC, but also to make any revisions that may better reflect the activities of the NGEC over the remaining grant period. The intent is for the FASC proposed revisions to the SOW and Budget on its next call - 12-13-17 and submit them to the Executive Board for its consideration on 12-19-17.*

*Also on 11-15-17, as noted earlier in today's meeting, the FASC accepted the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel Report and recommendation to approve the weight change DCR and submitted it to the Executive Board for its consideration.*

*The FASC continues to review proposed updates to the NGEC Educational document, which has also been sent to Board members for input. The intent is for the FASC to finalize its changes to the document on 12-13-17 and submit the revised document to the Board for consideration on 12-19-17.*

**11.**

**Status: CIP Update – Brian Beeler II:**

Brian Beeler II reported that the Final Draft of the CIP is complete, and he will be transmitting it to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt after today's call, for distribution to the Executive Board members for consideration on the next Executive Board call.

Brian added that the financial aspects of the CIP have not changed since the initial DRAFT in August – no major changes have been made since then – only wording tweaks.

Brian also reported on the SAIPRC Equipment Capital Working Group face to face meeting that took place last week in NYC. The goal was to identify "moving forward parts" as 514 transitions to SAIPRC.

The group intends to utilize lessons learned under the NGEC leadership as it moves to SAIPRC.

Brian expressed his thanks to Amtrak for arranging a tour of Sunny Side Yard while the group met in NYC "We thank Tim (Ziethen) and the team", it was a very helpful and informative tour.

The work of 514 will continue "until the puzzle is in place and we have found our new home under SAIPRC". Brian also noted that they will continue the close relationship with 305 and maintain close communication after the move has been finalized.

**12.**

**Status Update: Revising the NGEC Educational two-pager – Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit, noted that the DRAFT updated version of the two-page handout was distributed to Board members for review and comment. Those comments will be submitted to the FASC as it reviews and revises the DRAFT on its next call 12-13-17. Eric noted that comments have been provided by Tammy Krause and Dave "Emeritus" Warner and he expressed his appreciation for their review and timely input.

---

Several members mentioned on today's call that the pictures be changed – change the Bi-Level picture to that of a single level car, and update the Locomotive picture to one with a state logo on it.

**13.**

**Status: Casamar Contract Modification/Extension through 9-30-19 – Shayne Gill, AASHTO:**

Shayne Gill reported that the last he knew all sign offs on the budget and SOW for the Casamar contract modification had been received and the process is moving forward with nothing holding it back. He believes all that remains to be done is to get signatures to execute the modification.

Chairman Curtit thanked Shayne and the AASHTO staff for their work in getting this accomplished.

**14.**

**Other – all:**

**Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming for today, Eric Curtit adjourned today's call at 11:59 AM Eastern.

**The next conference call is December 5, 2017**

**Decisions/Action Items**

On 11-21-17, The NGEC Executive Board accepted the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel report and its recommendations and adopted the weight change DCR as submitted and previously approved by the NGEC technical subcommittee.

**Procurement Updates:**

**Status Update – Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State):**

Caltrans executed the contract amendment with Sumitomo to move forward with the railcar procurement on 11/3/17. Siemens is the replacement car builder. For Caltrans, the order calls for 49 cars. Kyle stated that he had nothing further to report at this time.

**Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement Update – see agenda item 8 for update.**

**Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:**

As of 11-21-17, the Mid-West states are working on responses to the comments received from FRA on the DRAFT Section 6 plan. A working session among the states and FRA is scheduled for January 2018 and that should result in finalizing the Section 6 plan.

**Finance and Administrative Subcommittee Update:**

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) last met on 11-15-17.

The subcommittee approved proposed By-Law revisions which removed the 514 subcommittee as an NGEC standing subcommittee, and made minor corrections to the document for consistency and a better read. In accordance with the By-Laws, the revisions were submitted to the Executive Board in writing on 11-16-17. To change the NGEC By-Laws, those changes must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board at least 30 days in advance of the meeting the Board intends to vote on the changes. Based on those requirements, the FASC is anticipating that the Executive Board will vote on adoption of the By-Law changes on 12-19-17 on its regularly scheduled bi-weekly call.

The Amtrak grants office is internally reviewing the grant agreement SOW and budget to not only reflect changes necessary to reflect the move of 514 to SAIPRC, but also to make any revisions that may better reflect the activities of the NGENC over the remaining grant period. The intent is for the FASC proposed revisions to the SOW and Budget on its next call - 12-13-17 and submit them to the Executive Board for its consideration on 12-19-17.

On 11-15-17, the FASC accepted the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel Report and recommendation to approve the weight change DCR and submitted it to the Executive Board for its consideration. (adopted under agenda item 6 today)

The FASC continues to review proposed updates to the NGENC Educational document, which has also been sent to Board members for input. The intent is for the FASC to finalize its changes to the document on 12-13-17 and submit the revised document to the Board for consideration on 12-19-17.

**Next FASC meeting 12-13-17 – next Exec Board Update 12-19-17**

**514 Subcommittee CIP Update:**

As of 11-21-17, the Final Draft of the CIP is complete, and it will be transmitted to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt for distribution to the Executive Board members for consideration on the next Executive Board call.

**Next 514 Progress Report to the Executive Board– 12-19-17**

**Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group:**

On 11-7-17, Eric Curtit reported on the results of the first call of the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group which took place on 11-2-17 with all members present.

The group agreed to use an outline of a paper that Larry Salci had prepared for FRA earlier this year as a starting point. Larry is to convert that presentation into a shorter "white paper" focusing on issues related to the working group's scope. Members of the group are asked to review the paper and submit comments in track changes to Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit to be compiled into a revised paper.

The next call of the working group is scheduled for 11-30-17.

**ATTACHMENTS**



The NGENC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, financing and management of passenger rail equipment.

**S305 NGENC Executive Board Conference Call  
November 21, 2017  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern**

**Agenda**

- |                                                                  |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 the 11-7-17 conference call meetings | Eric Curtit  |

- 
- |                                                                                                 |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 5. Overview: Review Panel Report & Recommendations – DCR – on weight Change                     | Larry Salci      |
| 6. Consideration of acceptance of the Review Panel Report/Recommendations & adoption of the DCR | Eric Curtit      |
| 7. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6                                                 | Jennifer Bastian |
| 8. Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement                                               | Jennifer Bastian |
| 9. Status Update: Multi State Car Procurement                                                   | Kyle Gradinger   |
| 10. Monthly Progress Report – Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC)                    | Tim Ziethen      |
| 11. Status: CIP Update                                                                          | Brian Beeler II  |
| 12. Status Update: Revising the NGEN Educational two-pager                                      | Eric Curtit      |
| 13. Status: Casamar Contract extension through 9-30-19                                          | Shayne Gill      |
| 14. Other                                                                                       | All              |

**Next Meeting -12-5-2017**

---