



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Eric Curtit, Charlie King, Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, Allan Paul, Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for John Oimoen, Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Gradinger, John Bell for Ray Hessinger, Support Staff: Steve Hewitt, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Tammy Krause, Jason Orthner, Jon Dees, Michael Burshtin, Shayne Gill, Guests: Jack Madden
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Tim Ziethen, John Rosacker, Kyle Gradinger, Ray Hessinger, Tim Hoefner, John Oimoen, Ron Pate Support: Strat Cavros, George Hull, Byron Comati, Patrick Centolanzi

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 (12-17-19).

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 12-3-19:

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, (12-17-19) 265 hard copies and 393 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

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

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties were to 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 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.

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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 NGEA Annual Meeting (February 21, 2020)

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 12-3-19:

The working group is waiting for one last section to be updated (Planning). Tammy Krause has confirmed Cameron Cordell’s willingness to take on this task. Cameron is asking how large a document and when it will begin.

Steve Hewitt will send Tammy the three completed draft sections of the report and noted that there is a 4th section (Planning) yet to be updated by team leader Jennifer Bastian, IDOT. The task should not begin until the 4th section draft is complete.

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 12-17-19:

Metro-North continues to negotiate with vendors on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 12-3-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MODOT:

On a motion by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 12-3-19

Executive Board call were approved as presented.

**5.
TRB session – Jack Madden, Erdman Anthony:**

Jack Madden, provided the following for inclusion in today's minutes (12-17-19):

Jack Madden Logistics Comments for NGEC TRB Session 1470, Tuesday, January 14, 1015 am, Room 144B, Walter Washington Convention Center:

"Mr. Chairman,

First, congratulations on your new position at Missouri DOT. We wish you well in this endeavor and regret that you will not be able to join us for the NGEC session at the TRB 2020 Annual Meeting.

Steve has asked me to review the logistics involved for the session. I have provided these comments to Steve for inclusion in the minutes, so you do not have to take notes.

The Session title is: 'Next-Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee: 10 Years of Progress' It is scheduled on Tuesday, January 14th from 10:15 AM- 12:00 PM in Room 144B of the Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon PI NW, Washington, DC 20001. The Convention Center occupies three city blocks.

I have provided Steve an attachment which lists all the TRB hotels and their location with respect to the Convention Center.

Each of you should have already registered on the TRB site for the Annual Meeting and received your registration badge and materials ticket in the mail. Mine postmarked 12/13 and arrived Monday.

Check in at the Registration Desk at Salon GHI (street level, next to main lobby) to confirm your attendance, receive a badge holder & lanyard, and receive a hard-copy printed program. The registration hours are:

Sat, 1/11 3p-7p

Sun, 1/12 7a-7p

Mon, 1/13 7a-6p

Tue, 1/14 7a-6p

As of today, the Online Visual Aid Submission Site is still not open for submission of your presentations. When it is, TRB will let us know.

As a work around, I ask that each speaker do the following:

- 1. Email me their presentation not later than Friday, December 27th. I will load them on a jump drive and take them with me to TRB as a backup for you.*
- 2. Upon your arrival at TRB, please visit the On-site Ready Room in the Convention Center, Street Level, Salon F. You can upload your presentation to the central server there. The hours are:*
 - a. Sat, 1/11 3p-7p*
 - b. Sun, 1/12 7a-6p*
 - c. Mon, 1/13 7a-6p*
 - d. Tue, 1/14 7a-6p*

The sequence of presentation at the Session is listed on the TRB Annual Meeting webpage in this order:

NGEC Goals and Policies

*Eric Curtit, Missouri Department of Transportation
P20-20730*

[As John is going to substitute for Eric, I ask that John prepare Eric's presentation separately, and load it separately, so as to maintain the correct order.]

*NGEC Technical Subcommittee and Specification Development
Charles King, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)
P20-20731*

The States' Role

*John Oimoen, Illinois Department of Transportation
P20-20732*

The Federal Role
Jeffrey Gordon, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
P20-20733

The Industry Role
Larry Salci, Larry Salci Consulting Services
P20-20734

I also ask each presenter to email me by December 27th a one-paragraph biographical summer which I can use to introduce each speaker.

I will be arriving at TRB on Saturday afternoon, 1/11 and will be staying at the Grand Hyatt, 1000 H Street, NW. My cell phone number is 603-305-2419 and my email address is maddenj@erdmananthony.com.

Are there any questions?"

Steve Hewitt asked about speakers registering for TRB as he did not believe any of them had at this point. Jack pointed the speakers to the TRB website for registration for TRB. Steve Hewitt asked if there was a cost for registration. Jack noted States and FRA were "free" others (he was not sure about Amtrak) would be charged a registration fee. Tammy Krause mentioned that she had gotten a one-day free pass from TRB when she last spoke there.

Eric noted that if it ends up that there is a cost, the individual speaker (Amtrak and/or Larry Salci) charged the cost should request reimbursement from the NGEN.

Jack Madden agreed to inquire of TRB the availability of a one-day pass for those speakers who are not from a state or FRA.

Eric Curtit thanked Jack for his information and his help in facilitating this session at TRB. Eric also noted that, if the TRB hotels blocks were not available, he recommended trying the Capitol Hill Hotel. It is one where he (Eric) has had great success in getting government rate and it is right across the street from a metro stop – thus making it very convenient.

Eric also noted that he will provide John Oimoen and the other NGEN panelists with some talking points for the Goals and Policies presentation.

6.
FASC update and Treasurer's Report – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

a. Balance-Spend Rate:

Tim Ziethen reported:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent: \$496,446.52
Balance remaining: \$ 753,553.48
Spend Rate per month: \$13,417.47
Projected spend in the remaining months of the current grant: \$147,592.21
Balance anticipated at the end of the grant period (9-30-20): \$605,961.27
Expenditures anticipated in a 36-month no-cost extension: \$540,000.00
Average Monthly expenditure: \$15,000.00
Balance remaining at the end of the 36-month extension: approximately \$65,000.00

b. FRA Clarification – is there a 12-month limit on the length of a no-cost extension – or can it be for multiple years?

During the call on 12-11-19, Tim Ziethen received confirmation from Amtrak grants that they had gotten an affirmative response from FRA that a multiple year no-cost grant extension can be requested.

Amtrak grants also noted that the window for formally requesting the multi-year extension is after July 1st and before September. Tim will reach out for clarification and provide the Board with this information next week. Amtrak is also putting together the documents that will be required for submitting the extension request.

Note: Following today's call (12-17-19) Tim Ziethen called Steve Hewitt and relayed clarifications he had gotten from Amtrak grants. Most importantly, it has been clarified that

the request for a multi-year no-cost extension must be submitted prior to the July-September window of opportunity. This would mean that the NGEN executive Board should act on formalizing its request to Amtrak/FRA for a no-cost extension at the NGEN Annual Meeting. This would provide ample time for Amtrak grants to file the appropriate forms for the request in advance of the narrow window.

7.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 12-17-19 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans:

Momo Tamaoki provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (12-17-19)

- *FDR for the standard coach is complete. Cab Car PDR action items are closed, and the PDR has been approved by Caltrans.*
- *The Complete Coach FAI occurred on November 13-14 in Sacramento. The action items have been recorded and the FAI findings are being worked through. Testing continues at TTCI on cars 1 and 2 with Trainline Functional Testing occurring this week. Car #3 continues with climate room testing in Ottawa. Caltrans and IDOT are witnessing tests in both locations. Car #3 will be shipped to the NEC for FRA 213.345 validation after climate room testing is complete.*
- *43 cars are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Car #4 is the FAI car and undergoing work to address the FAI findings. The remaining carshells are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.*
- *Most system-level FAIs for standard coach are complete. IDOT End Door FAI is occurring this week. Cab Car Structure IDR meeting was conducted Wednesday, December 11. Amtrak visited Siemens in Sacramento on December 11 & 12 to review the completed car features.*

Eric Curtit asked if there had been any issues with the full car? Momo said there were no "showstoppers", only minor issues that are being worked on.

8.

Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement – Charlie King, Amtrak:

On the Acela replacement:

Prototype one is on the test track at Hornell and in following that it will be going to TTCI – all is going well so far.

Prototype two is being put together and will be tested in March in Philadelphia.

On the "Charger" Locomotives:

Amtrak was at Siemens on 12-11-19 and all is going well and on time still looking at an early spring 2021 delivery.

Charlie King thanked IDOT for its support in winter testing of the locomotives. They had previously done summer testing and were now going to do winter testing.

On the Trainsets:

Bids are in and are being reviewed in the two evaluation committees with the goal of completing the review in time for the January or March Amtrak Board Meetings.

9.

Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement – Robert Becker, VIA Rail:

VIA Rail was not on the call today (12-17-19) Steve Hewitt recommended, and the chair agreed, tabling this item until the Annual Meeting. VIA Rail has confirmed that it will be at the Annual Meeting and will give an update presentation.

10.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (12-17-19):

Revision B of the Trainset specification should be completed by the end of this month. Camren is also working on the Ownership and Acquisition document. The next specification to be updated is going to be the Diesel Multiple Unit. That is my update.

Steve Hewitt asked if Tammy had received a timeline and anticipated cost from Cameron for the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership best practices document.

Tammy replied that she had asked but has not heard back.

Steve noted that he would keep asking, although there is money in the budget line for this work, it was still appropriate to provide AASHTO with a heads up on anticipated costs and the Board with a timeline for completion.

**11.
NGEC Annual Meeting – Review DRAFT Agenda/Confirm Speakers – Eric/Steve:**

Steve Hewitt reviewed the DRAFT agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for confirmation of speakers where possible.

Steve Hewitt also noted that he had distributed a new (10th Anniversary edition of the PowerPoint template – thank you Mario Bergeron!)

Steve Hewitt reported that the current list of registrants for the NGEC Annual Meeting stands at 26 – 13 of those are industry members. Board members and support staff need to confirm their attendance with Steve ASAP for name badges, tent cards and head count as well as for confirmation of a quorum.

Following the call today (12-17-19) Tim Ziethen informed Steve Hewitt that Joe McHugh had agreed to provide the Amtrak update at the Annual Meeting.

Michael Lestingi, FRA, told Steve Hewitt to list him as providing the FRA update, with the understanding that he has forwarded the request up the chain and if there is a change, he will let the Board know.

Tammy Krause confirmed that she will be at the Annual Meeting and will provide the Annual Document Management update.

**12.
NGEC two pager – Revise/ Update:**

The updates to the NGEC two-pager are complete and have been printed by MODOT. 400 copies are being mailed to Steve Hewitt and will be available at the NGEC Annual Meeting.

**13.
Other:**

Eric Curtit raised several issues related to the next NGEC Executive Board call:

12-31-19 – this call is cancelled due to it being New Years' Eve.

1-14-20 – will be the next call. Since this will be the same day as TRB, and since the following call would not be until 1-28-20, it was agreed that 1-14-20 would take place with a focus on the NGEC Annual Meeting. Steve Hewitt would not attend TRB as the better use of his time would be to devote it to the day to day business of the Committee and the preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Charlie King will ensure that Tim Ziethen is available that day to represent Amtrak and FRA was asked to be sure they have representation for the call as well.

Allan Paul has announced his retirement from NCDOT and informed the Board that today (12-17-19) was his last NGEC call.

Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt thanked Allan for his contributions to the success of the NGEC over the past 10 years! Allan was a legacy member and contributed his time, energy and expertise to both the NGEC Executive Board and the Technical subcommittee. Allan you will be missed greatly! Thank You!

Steve Hewitt also reported that NCDOT will now be represented on the Executive Board by Jason Orthner with Jon Dees as the alternate. On the Technical subcommittee NCDOT will be represented by Mathew Simmons with Curtis McDowell serving as his alternate.

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Curtit adjourned today's meeting (12-17-19) at 12:12pm.

The next conference call will be 1-14-20

Decisions/Action Items

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Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 11-5-19:

Metro-North continues to negotiate with vendors on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

There was no update provided on 12-3-19.

Next Update – 1-14-19

Document Control Update – 12-17-19:

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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.

VIA Rail was not present on 12-17-19, so the update has been tabled until the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-21-20.

Next planned update: NGEC Annual Meeting

Update: TRB Session – "The NGEC - 10 Years of Progress":

Speakers: See agenda item 5 (above) for all instructions for the TRB meeting.

NGEC Annual Meeting – review DRAFT agenda/confirm speakers – Eric/Steve:

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**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
December 17, 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 12-3-19 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. TRB session | Jack Madden |
| 6. FASC and Treasurer's Update | Tim Ziethen |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurements | Charlie King |
| 9. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement | Bob Becker |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B – timeline for completion | |
| - Next planned Specification update(s) and timeline | |
| - Follow-up with Cameron Cordell | |
| 11. NGEC Annual Meeting – review DRAFT agenda/confirm speakers | Eric/Steve |
| 12. Finalizing NGEC two-pager update – printing timeline | Eric Curtit |
| 13. Other | All |

Next Call-1-14-20