



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2022,

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Ray Hessinger, George Hull, Jeff Gordon, John Oimoen, Troy Hughes, Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, Arun Rao, Brian Beeler II, Kyle Gradinger, Mike Jenkins</i> Support Staff and Colleagues: <i>Joe Paul, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Strat Cavros, Larry Salci</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Ron Pate, Jason Orthner, Tim Ziethen, Amanda Martin</i> Support: <i>Michael Kraft, Patrick Centolanzi, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger, Jason Biggs, Shayne Gill</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1. Welcome – Ray Hessinger, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

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

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

Following the roll call, Steve Hewitt 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 (6-14-22).

Industry Participation:

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

2022 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available in both electronic and hard copy.

To date 125 hard copies and 450 electronic copies have been distributed.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-25-22 – during the 12th NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is posted to the website.

Next Update: As Appropriate

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 5-17-22 NGEC Executive Board Meeting:

On a motion by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, and a second by Troy Hughes, Missouri DOT, the minutes from the

Executive Board Meeting held on 5-17-22 were approved as submitted.

**5.
Treasurer's Report:**

Tim Ziethen continues to be on medical leave, but provided Steve Hewitt with the following update through April 2022:

Balance/ Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent through April \$912,469.91
Balance remaining: \$ 337,530
Estimated Spend at current rate for balance of the Grant – \$231,522.22
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,618.95
Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$106,007.87

**6.
Update – NGEN Website Refresh – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported that he and Ray Hessinger met with AASHTO on 5-23-22 to finalize the SOW for an NGEN website refresh.

Once formatted and finalized, AASHTO put out an RFP for the NGEN website refresh with a not to exceed amount of \$10,000 and a performance period from August 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. RFP responses are due to AASHTO by July 15th.

Steve asked Strat Cavros, AASHTO, if he had anything to add. Strat said no – that Steve had given a good summary.

**7.
Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

Kyle Grading, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (6-14-22):

The Cab Car shell final design has been approved and the cab cars are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage. Cab Car Safety Appliance documents have been sent to the FRA for review, and the Cab Car Clearance information has been approved by Amtrak. IDOT Café Car FDRs are in the closure stage with Galley open items expected to close in June.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the test report has been reviewed and Siemens is addressing the final comments. The revised cab car Compression test report has also been reviewed and comments from FRA have been addressed. The Cab Car locking luggage tower FAI is scheduled for week of June 13.

110 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once necessary agreements are in place.

**8.
Update - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger:**

On 6-14-22, Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North and Siemens closed the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) stage and have moved to Final Design Review (FDR). Siemens has started the process of submitting FDR documents to Metro-North and they are under review.

**9.
Connecticut Rail Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt:**

Marci Petterson reported to the Technical subcommittee on 6-9-22 that a Pre-proposal meeting was scheduled for 6-10-22. Marci had previously announced (on 5-12-22) that Connecticut's Initial Coach Procurement RFP was rescinded, and a new RFP was released on 5-11-22.

**10.
Amtrak Equipment Procurement as of 6-14-22:**

On the Acela 21: Work continues on testing and vehicle qualifications.

On the Charger Locomotive: Amtrak continues to get units from Siemens. There are 8 in service on the Empire Builder and the City of New Orleans.

On the Intercity Trainset (ICT): Preliminary Design Review is complete, and they are starting on Intermediate Design Review and expect a hard mock-up in July.

11.

Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

The following is a summary of the report and discussion:

The Bi-Level Specification update has received no DCRs to date. This was discussed on the Technical subcommittee call last week (6-9-22) and it was agreed that Steve Hewitt would send several reminders that DCRs are due by COB on 6-30-22. Steve has sent one reminder to the Technical subcommittee members and will send another. He will also send one to Executive Board members.

The Carbody Materials Working group met last week and they are working on Chapter 4 – Carbody, of the Single Level Specification. They are doing a comprehensive review of the spec. They will next meet on 6-22-22 at 11:00am Eastern.

There was no update on the Electronics on Trains working group.

The new cover sheet for PRIIA 305-100 has been signed by Ray Hessinger (NGEC Executive Board Chair) and the completed document will be sent to Steve Hewitt and will be available by request.

The NGEC Document list has been updated and was sent to Steve Hewitt. He has asked AASHTO to post it on the website.

Tammy will be creating a new reference specification to address the Volpe Center information on CEM based upon information provided by Jeff Gordon.

Ray wanted to emphasize that the Bi-Level specification has been a topic of conversation with several Board members. At least one member has expressed to Ray the need for a new specification. Ray noted that there is currently no budget for starting a new specification from "whole cloth". Ray did emphasize that "we need to know what changes are being considered for the current spec and let that drive the direction that we go in."

Ray asked all Board members who have changes in mind to submit DCRs for those changes and/or contact Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, or Ray Hessinger.

Steve Hewitt will send a reminder to Board members to submit DCRs on the Bi-Level specification by 6-30-22.

12.

Other – all:

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 11:50am Eastern.

Next meeting – 6-28-22

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer's Report:

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Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,618.95

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$106,007.87

2022 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2022 version of the two-page educational flyer remains available in both electronic and hard copy.
To date 125 hard copies and 450 electronic copies have been distributed.

NGEC Website Refresh as of 6-14-22:

Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger met with AASHTO on 5-23-22 to finalize the SOW for an NGENC website refresh.
Once formatted and finalized, AASHTO put out an RFP for the NGENC website refresh with a not to exceed amount of \$10,000 and a performance period from August 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. RFP responses are due to AASHTO by July 15th.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-14-22:

Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (6-14-22):

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110 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once necessary agreements are in place.

Status: – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 6-14-22:

A Pre-proposal meeting was held on 6-10-22. Previously, on 5-12-22 Connecticut’s Initial Coach Procurement RFP was rescinded, and a new RFP was released on 5-11-22.

Next Update – as appropriate

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 6-14-22:

Metro-North and Siemens have closed the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) stage, and have moved to Final Design Review (FDR). Siemens has started the process of submitting FDR documents to Metro-North and they are under review.

Next Update: 7-12-22

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 6-14-22:

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On the Charger Locomotive: Amtrak continues to get units from Siemens. There are 8 in service on the Empire Builder and the City of New Orleans.

On the Intercity Trainset (ICT): Preliminary Design Review is complete, and they are starting on Intermediate Design Review and expect a hard mock-up in July.

Next Update: 7-12-22

Update: Document Control Management as of 6-14-22:

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Ray asked all Board members who have changes in mind to submit DCRs for those changes and/or contact Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, or Ray Hessinger.

Steve Hewitt will send a reminder to Board members to submit DCRs on the Bi-Level specification by 6-30-22.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-25-22 – during the 12th NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is posted to the website.

Following the meeting, Steve Hewitt received an email from Joe DiLiello, VIA Rail thanking him for the invitation to VIA Rail. Although Joe and his colleagues participated virtually, he said it was a great meeting – it had good flow, was timely and all presentations were informative and well done.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Exploring funding options beyond 9-30-2023:

One of the critical action items coming out of the Annual Meeting was the need to seek a source of funding.

Status: Developing a CRISI Application as of 5-17-22:

There has been no change to the status update as of 5-17-22 due to the Treasurer being on medical leave.

The FASC met on 4-27-22 and are awaiting an update from Tim Ziethen who has been out for the last few weeks. His last update was to this body on 4-5-22 and is included in these minutes:

Tim Ziethen reported that he has had two calls with the Amtrak Grants Officer. The FRA has not yet released the details for this round, and likely will not for a couple of months. In the meantime, Amtrak Grants and Tim are looking at last year's process, and Tim is waiting for internal confirmation as to whether he can distribute a copy or parts of a copy of an Amtrak submittal from last year to use as an example.

Tim noted that they (Tim and Amtrak Grants Officer) believe it is an appropriate application and process for those funds (CRISI) based on successful Grant applications from last year's program.

Tim noted that since it is a couple of months away before we will see the details, timing is a concern. The program will be highly competitive, and the NGEC has a short window with its existing funds. Therefore, he has asked the Amtrak Grants Office to consider other potential funding opportunities and he asks that FRA also consider other avenues or vehicles – even if only short-term pending the timing of a CRISI Grant.

Status: Exploring Other Funding Options:

On 5-17-22, Arun Rao, the Wisconsin DOT representative on the NGEC Executive Board, and also the Chair of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) reported that SPRC is, and has been for a long time, a strong advocate of the NGEC and for it to be funded. SPRC is a states' organization represented by 23 states and Joint Power Authorities. It is a coalition that advocates to Congress for states interests in passenger rail. It is not to be confused with SAIPRC which has less state members and also is represented by Amtrak and FRA. This is similar to the NGEC, and it also cannot advocate.

SPRC has been advocating for funding for the NGEC for quite some time. While SPRC will support whatever efforts the NGEC puts forth for funding, such as a CRISI grant, it believes that it would be more appropriate to fund the NGEC through the appropriations process rather than through a discretionary Grant. The NGEC's original funding came through the appropriations process and should again.

In testimony to the House Appropriations THUD subcommittee for its recent hearing, among other items, the SPRC advocated for funding in the 2-23 Appropriations for the NGEC. SPRC also included that same language in a letter to the Senate Appropriations THUD subcommittee.

SPRC believes that the work of the NGEC is critical to advancing next generation intercity passenger rail equipment. Developing and maintaining specifications is of utmost importance.

The SPRC recently updated its policy principles and will be sending that document to Congress. In the Policy Principles document the NGEC is included. Arun read into the record the NGEC language that is included in the SPRC Policy Principles. (see minutes agenda item 9 for text).

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: as appropriate

2022 Priorities:

Priority Area: Review/Update the Bi-level specification currently in Revision C.4. With Amtrak looking at using some of the funding from the new IIJA for its western fleet, it makes sense for the NGEC to review and update the Bi-Level car specification.

Action as of 6-14-22: Bi-Level Car Specification Review/Update is underway. A new DCR form has been adopted and is now being used. As of 6-14-22, no DCRs have been received. A deadline for DCR submittals has been set for COB 6-30-22.

Priority Area: Review the car body materials issue from a broader perspective for all NGEC equipment not only DMUs. Ray would like to take a look at developing a consistent approach for all of the NGEC vehicle specifications.

Action as of 6-14-22: The Carbody Materials Working Group held its first meeting on 5-11-22. The team leader is Michael Gill, SNC Lavalin/Atkins. The next meeting is scheduled for 6-22-22 at 11:00am.

Priority Area: Review "emerging technologies": On the last technical subcommittee call (12-9-21) the topic of emerging technologies for propulsion was raised. Ray believes that the technical subcommittee should conduct a scan of the industry regarding emerging technologies for propulsion and how they relate to the NGEC.

Action as of 6-14-22: Dave Warner gave a zero emissions presentation during the Annual Meeting and followed that up with a presentation to the Executive Board on APTA's effort to develop Alternate Fuel Safety Standards

Priority Area: Review and consider using the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Specification organizational changes to determine if they should be adopted by the NGEC and applied across the board to all NGEC specifications. This would be an administrative change not impacting technical content of any of the specifications and could be resolved by the Executive Board.

Action as of 6-14-22 -This is included in the DCM action Plan and will likely follow the Bi-Level Car Specification update.

Priority Area: Review/update NGEC Reference and Drawings series 305-900 and 305-800.

Action as of 6-14-22: This item is on the DCM action plan for 2022 – no activity on reviewing the reference

documents per se, but Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager will be working with Jeff Gordon to create a new reference specification to address the Volpe Center information on CEM.

Next Meeting – 6-28-22

NGEC Executive Board Meeting

6-14-22

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon 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 5-17-22 | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Treasurer's Report | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Website Refresh | Steve Hewitt |
| 7. Update – Multi-state Rail Car procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 8. Update – Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 9. Update – Connecticut Rail Car Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. Update – Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 11. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 12. Other | All |
| 13. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting – 6-28-22
