



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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Ray Hessinger, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Hessinger, NYSDOT, 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 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 (6-15-21).

**2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document is available electronically or in hard copy by request - contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com). Thus far over 550 electronic copies have been distributed.

If you would like to receive hard copies, contact Steve with the quantity and where to mail them.

**Industry Participation:**

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at around 200 participants. In June 2021, Ricardo Rail joined the NGEC industry group adding two representatives and Talgo increased its representation by adding three new members.

**Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:**

In-depth updates were provided during the 2021 Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-23-21).

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

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**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:**

This item was tabled until John Oimoen receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

On 4-6-21, Steve Hewitt stated that he will follow up with John Oimoen to see if he would be able to give an update on this procurement.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:**

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back from the Access Board and there is a Final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGEC DCR process.

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland reported to the Technical subcommittee, that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 6-15-21 – the Access Board continues in its holding pattern.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: As appropriate (possibly a 6-month update – 8-2021)**

**CtDOT Rail Car Procurement:**

On 4-15-21, Marci Petterson reported to Steve Hewitt that this procurement remains in the "cone of silence" period.

**On 6-10-21 – Marci Petterson reported that the "cone of silence" period continues.**

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**TSSSA Primer:**

The DRAFT primer was approved by the Technical subcommittee (5-13-21) for submittal to the NGEC Executive Board. Steve Hewitt distributed the approved DRAFT to all Board members on 5-13-21.

Ray Hessinger asked all Board members to review the DRAFT document and send any comments to Steve Hewitt, Ray Hessinger and George Hull by COB 6-8-21.

**On 6-15-21, it was agreed that discussion of the document and any suggested changes will take place on the 6-29-21 NGEC Executive Board call. If there are no significant comments (none have been received to date) the Chair will look to consider the TSSSA Primer for approval on 6-29-21.**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 5-18 and the 6-1 21 Meetings -Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Jason Biggs, WSDOT, the minutes from the 5-18-21 and 6-1-21 meetings were approved as submitted.

**5.**

**Discussion/Reaction: 6-1-21 meeting with FRA Deputy Administrator Amit Bose – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger provided a brief overview of the highlights of the 6-1-21 Executive Board meeting with FRA Deputy Administrator Amit Bose and opened the floor for discussion/reaction.

Ray highlighted several of the key discussions that took place during the meeting – following the Deputy Administrator’s summary description of the American Jobs Plan.

Ray emphasized to the Deputy Administrator the need for harmonization on use of funds across DOT (FTA, FRA, FHWA) and the flexibility needed for the use of funds for equipment purchases. He stressed that mixing money from various modal agencies with various versions/interpretations of Buy America cannot be done.

The Deputy Administrator noted that this is an on-going issue and that it is on his radar, and he was generally supportive, but noted that it would be require a legislative fix.

Turning to the issue of the NGEC, the Deputy Administrator asked about the extent of manufacturers and suppliers’ involvement with the Committee and if it was continuous. He noted that he believes that their (the industry) engagement is important.

Steve Hewitt responded in detail about the industry’s consistent and strong involvement in the NGEC from its inception in 2010. He explained that over 200 representatives of the passenger rail equipment manufacturing and supply industry (including all of the major OEM’s) are members of the NGEC’s industry participation group. The number of industry representatives has been very consistent over the years. They are actively engaged and have been involved in the development and updating of each of the NGEC vehicle specifications as well as the recently adopted PRIIA 305-200 Recommended Practices document.

Ray asked for comments/reactions from Board members:

Jason Biggs echoed Ray’s sentiments on the Buy America issue noting that it is a challenge to WSDOT. Jason feels it is important to keep this critical issue “front and center” and believes having this discussion with Deputy Administrator Bose was key.

Overall, Jason felt “it was a good session”.

Asked if he had heard anything from the FRA senior management following the meeting, Jeff Gordon responded that he has not, and Ray Hessinger commented “I guess no news is good news”.

## **6.**

### **Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 6-15-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Balance and Spend Rate

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.

Amount Spent through April 2021: \$766,612.50

Balance remaining: \$ 483,387.50.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$404,213.86.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,938.41

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$79,173.64

## **7.**

### **Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-15-21 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:**

Caltrans provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes (6-15-21):

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and in the approval process. The cab car Interiors FDR occurred on May 25. The Cab Car HVAC FDR is scheduled for June 14 and Cab Diagnostics for June 29. Additional Cab Car FDRs will continue in July. IDOT Café Car FDR releases are ongoing and the Galley FAI is scheduled for June 23 in Texas.*

*The Cab Car Compression Test setup is in process in Sacramento with testing planned for July. Cab Car Collision and Corner Post testing has been reserved for August in Germany. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report has been submitted to Amtrak and FRA. IDOT 238.111 testing is complete, and the test report has also been provided to FRA.*

*87 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Car deliveries are ongoing to Chicago and Beech Grove for IDOT, and Stockton for Caltrans. The initial consists for Caltrans and IDOT are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are addressed.*

**8.**  
**Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:**

As of 6-15-21:

On The CAF cars – 2 more were accepted – the last few are expected to by the end of the Fiscal Year.

On the Acela Express 21 – Testing of prototype two continues on the Northeast Corridor. Amtrak is getting ready for Trainset 3.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset – Final contract discussions continue to advance quickly. Discussions with FRA and the Hill are taking place as required.

On the Long-Distance Locomotives – the first 1 is in Chicago for pictures and then will be shipped East to begin the commissioning process.

**9.**  
**Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

As of 6-15-21:

Initial Design Review meetings continue with a focus on systems that remain unchanged from the ACL42.

**10.**  
**Update: Document Control Management – as of 6-15-21 - Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (6-15-21):

*The rewrite of the trainset specification continues. All the chapters have been reviewed. The non-technical specification change sheet is now complete. The DCRs are now all complete and will be sent out his week to the technical working groups.*

*I have reached out to the working groups that are working on the DCRs for the DMU and I have received the status on the comments from two of the four groups. I am going to reach back out and request that I have the comments by 6/25. That will allow the document compiling to be complete by 7/16 and sent to the TSC prior to the 7/22 meeting.*

*The Electronics on Trains WG's next meeting is 6/29 and discussing the possible new specification concerning Cellular Communication on Railcars is on the agenda.*

Steve Hewitt briefly outlined the process for reconvening the DMU Review Panel after the Technical subcommittee has approved the summary of changes and sent them to the Executive Board and the steps that will lead to Executive Board consideration of adoption.

**11.**  
**Update: Reauthorization of the NGEC – as of 6-15-21 - Steve Hewitt:**

As of 6-15-21 – the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction released their versions of Federal Surface Transportation Authorization legislation. The House has passed its bill through the T&I Committee – next step the Floor of the House.

Senate Commerce was finalizing its proposal for a vote out of Committee and had been accepting amendments up until Noon on 6-14-21. The Committee mark-up is scheduled for Wednesday 6-16-21.

As of this date, neither bill has included NGEC reauthorization despite requests to do so by numerous associations and the industry. (SPRC, MIPRC, AASHTO, CSG-East, Siemens)

Senate Commerce staff was reached out to on 6-11-21 by SPRC and it was acknowledged that the NGEC had not gotten into the legislation. Staff was not sure what happened but, in the discussion, commented that the thought the funding request was for \$5 million. SPRC told him the number was \$2.5 million and was for the full life of the bill - \$500,000 a year. Hearing this, staff asked for an email to that effect (and it was provided) and suggested that a member of the Senate be asked to submit an amendment to the Committee by Noon on 6-14-21.

Steve Hewitt – on 6-12-21 – provided an FYI and call to action to all NGEC State members to reach out to their Senator(s) if possible, to ask for an amendment to be put forth to include the reauthorization of the NGEC with funding. Steve also reached out to Siemens as well.

Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, noted that he has reached out to Amtrak Government Affairs to make sure that Ken Altman is aware and there is a plan for Tim to meet with Government Affairs later today (6-15-21).

Shayne Gill, ASSHTO, suggested that Steve Hewitt reach back out to his contact at Siemens to see if they would prepare an amendment for the upcoming full House consideration of the INVEST Act. Shayne stated that the House action is expected to take place before the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess, so now is the time to prepare an amendment and, once the Rules Committee has established the "Rule" for the bill, to get it considered as a "manager's amendment".

Steve noted that he has reached out several times to Siemens and will do so again.

**12.  
NGEC in-person Annual Meeting – Washington DC – Hyatt Regency on the Hill – 2-25-22.**

AASHTO has announced that it will hold its Council on Rail Transportation (CORT) meeting in Washington, DC in-person the week of 2-21-22 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill.

As it has done in the past, the NGEC will meet at that location on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. More information to come...

**Next meeting – 6-29-21.**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-15-21:**

*Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and in the approval process. The cab car Interiors FDR occurred on May 25. The Cab Car HVAC FDR is scheduled for June 14 and Cab Diagnostics for June 29. Additional Cab Car FDRs will continue in July. IDOT Café Car FDR releases are ongoing and the Galley FAI is scheduled for June 23 in Texas.*

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**Next Update: 6-29-21**

**Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 6-15-21:**

Initial Design Review meetings continue with a focus on systems that remain unchanged from the ACL42.

**Next Update: 7-12-21**

**Update: Document Control Management 6-15-21:**

*The rewrite of the trainset specification continues. All the chapters have been reviewed. The non-technical specification change sheet is now complete. The DCRs are complete except for the missing sections. We are creating DCRs for the missing sections that will include the verbiage from the existing specifications to make it easier for the WGs. Hopefully, they will be finished next week, and they will be sent to the WGs.*

*I have reached out to the WGs that are working on the DCRs for the DMU and I have received the status on the comments from two of the four groups.*

*The Electronics on Trains WG will be looking at a new specification concerning Cellular Communication on Railcars.*

**Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 6-15-21:**

On The CAF cars – two more were accepted – the last few are expected to be by the end of the Fiscal Year.

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**Next Update – 7-12-21**

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On 2-23-21 – during the NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

**Next Update: As appropriate (possibly a 6-month update – 8-2021)**

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:**

This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 6-15-21:**

Balance and Spend Rate

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**Next Update: as appropriate**

**DRAFT TSSSA Primer – Executive Board review/consideration:**

The DRAFT primer was approved by the Technical subcommittee (5-13-21) for submittal to the NGEC Executive Board. Steve Hewitt distributed the approved DRAFT to all Board members on 5-13-21.

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On 6-15-21, Chairman Hessinger asked that this item be added to the Executive Board agenda for 6-29-21 for discussion and possible consideration of adoption.

**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**

**Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

As of 6-15-21, this procurement continues to be in the “cone of silence” phase.

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Reauthorizing the NGEN:**

As of 6-15-21 – the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction released their versions of Federal Surface Transportation Authorization legislation. The House has passed its bill through the T&I Committee – next step the Floor of the House.

Senate Commerce was finalizing its proposal for a vote out of Committee and had been accepting amendments up until Noon on 6-14-21.

As of this date, neither bill has included NGEN reauthorization despite requests to do so by numerous associations and the industry. (SPRC, MIPRC, AASHTO, CSG-East, Siemens)

Steve Hewitt – on 6-12-21 – provided an FYI and call to action to all NGEN State members to reach out to their Senator, if possible, to provide an amendment to the Senate Commerce proposal to include reauthorization of the NGEN with funding. Steve also reached out to Siemens as well.

Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, noted that he has reached out to Amtrak Government Affairs to make sure that Ken Altman is aware and there is a plan for Tim to meet with Government Affairs later today (6-15-21).

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As it has done in the past, the NGEN will meet at that location on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. More information to come...

**NGEN Executive Board Meeting**

**6-15-21**

**11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon Eastern**

**By computer:**

**<https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>**

**By phone:**

**1-415-655-0001**

**Access code:**

**126-073-1531**

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**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 5-18-21 and 6-1-21 meetings | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Discussion/reaction: 6-1-21 meeting with Amit Bose   | Ray Hessinger  |
| 6. Treasurer's Report/FASC update – Balance/Spend Rate  | Tim Ziethen    |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement                  | Kyle Gradinger |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements                  | George Hull    |
| 9. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger  |
| 10. Update: Document Control Management                 | Tammy Krause   |
| 11. Update: Reauthorization of the NGEC                 | Steve Hewitt   |
| 12. NGEC Annual Meeting – Washington, DC 2-25-22        | Steve Hewitt   |

**Next call/meeting – 6-29-21**