



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES JUNE 18, 2019 11:30 EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Charlie King, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Charlie King, Tim Ziethen, Ray Hessinger, Ray Hessinger also as proxy for Eric Curtit and for Amanda Martin, Mike Murray for Michael Lestingi, Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for John Oimoen, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Kyle Gradinger, Tim Hoeffner, Allan Paul, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II, Support Staff:</i> Steve Hewitt, Jeff Gordon, Tammy Krause, Shayne Gill, Dave "Emeritus" Warner Guests/Colleagues: <i>Robert Becker, VIA Rail</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Eric Curtit, John Oimoen, Ron Pate, John Rosacker, Amanda Martin, John Oimoen, Michael Lestingi, Support:</i> John Bell, Jon Dees, Momo Tamaoki, Beth Nachreiner, Larry Salci, George Hull, Michael Burshtin, Strat Cavros, Patrick Centolanzi

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Charlie King, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

Vice Chairman King opened the call 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 (6-18-19)

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 6-18-19:

The new educational (two-pager) document was released at the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19 and is available in hard copy or electronically.

To date, (6-18-19) 240 hard copies and 353 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 as of 4-9-19:

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

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

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 6-18-19:

The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group last met on 4-18-19.

Following that call, Eric Curtit reached out to Amtrak and Caltrans to get an ETA for getting the missing sections or parts of sections, completed and out for review.

Since then he had received Amtrak's input on the Revenue section of the report (thank you, Joe Paul). As of today, we still have not received the DRAFT Implementation Section of the report from Caltrans.

Once Caltrans has submitted its section, we will have all 4 sections in DRAFT form and will reconvene the working group to review the sections and make sure there are no duplications and that the report is written in consistent voice.

Eric continues to anticipate the remaining draft material will be submitted soon enough for a working group review in late June or early July and that a full DRAFT will be ready for distribution to the NGEC Executive Board for review.

Next update – 7-2-19

Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement status as of 6-4-19 update:

VIA Rail is advancing the concept design review which is about 30% complete and is expected to be finished in July 2019. On schedule.

They are consulting with internal Stakeholders – including locomotive engineers and train crews. Additionally, VIA Rail is working with accessibility customers to review the interior layouts.

Vigilance is needed to control a tendency by technical people to want to correct past issues – when the focus is on the future and the new equipment going forward.

Some challenges: Seats – executives are very involved in seats and their wish list is varied. The VIA Rail team is doing its best to control the scope as best as possible to keep it in line with what was in the bid.

Potential issues: The procurement is for trainsets – bi-directional – similar to those being purchased for California. This is the first time VIA Rail will be operating this type of equipment and there are some concerns being expressed by train crews. The team will be conducting risk assessments to help mitigate any issues they may come up.

A project to deal with maintenance facilities has been initiated to adapt them to the new equipment and modernize them. They are hiring an engineering firm for this effort, and it will take some coordination on the equipment side between the manufacturer and the engineering firm (once it has been hired).

VIA Rail has bought training simulators.

Overall, there have been what Robert called normal challenges, but so far, no major issues.

Next update: 7-30-19

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 6-4-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:

On a motion offered by NCDOT, and a second by Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 6-4-19 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5.

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

Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (6-18-19):

All FDR System Level and related submittal approvals for the standard coach are at a Conditional Approval level or greater.

The IDOT Café Car is being reconfigured to meet the new design requests. Updates to the design include ATR Toilet Room, new standing table design, additional storage and an alternate refrigeration concept.

Action items from the Caltrans Cab Car Coupler, Carshell and Cab Layout reviews have been distributed and are in process with Siemens Engineering team. The intermediate design review for the Cab Car Electrical System is scheduled for June 28.

The first 21 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Carshells #1 and #2 are in the final assembly phase. Carshell #3 is ready for Water Testing. Interior Insulation and window side panels have been installed in Carshell #4. Underframe cabling and piping continues in Carshell #5. Carshell #7 is staged for final assembly. Carshells 8 through 21 are in various stages of welding, integration, painting or storage.

The FAI process continues and most system-level FAIs have occurred. Recently completed FAIs include Exterior Doors and Electrical Switch Cabinets. The FAI for Vestibule Lining is scheduled for July 21st. A complete vehicle FAI is tentatively planned for August or September. Siemens continues to work with CALIDOT SMEs to address the open items.

Kyle Gradinger expressed his thanks to those who came out to the meetings in Sacramento last week.

6.

Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement – Charlie King, Amtrak:

On the Acela procurement:

This procurement for the NEC is continuing. There are some challenges with the schedule, but they are being worked through, and the first prototype is anticipated to be ready by the end of summer (2019).

On the Locomotives:

The contract with Siemens on the Charger – P42 replacement continues on schedule.

On the passenger trainset:

Charlie is not privy (intentionally) and cannot talk about negotiations that are going on. The bid-process continues towards a mid-July target. Amtrak has received an update from the contractor with regard to facility design and that is under review at this time. It is understood that there will need to be facility modifications for the new equipment.

7.

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

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North is currently doing its due diligence in reviewing submissions received from vendors, and it remains on schedule for selection this year.

8.

Treasurer’s Report – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Total Grant amount: \$1,250,000

Spent (through April 2019) = \$420, 860.50

Balance = \$829,139.50

Talks continue with FRA with regard to an extension beyond the current grant period (9-30-2020). Amtrak has received a nominal “nod of the head” from FRA and will begin looking at the steps to make a formal request as we get closer to the end of the current grant period (about 6 months or so prior).

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to discuss with Amtrak and others various messaging activities related to the NGEC and its future.

9.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update on 6-18-19:

Revision B2 of the single level specification is now available by requesting it through the NGEC website.

Later this week I will be sending out the proposed changes to the Trainset specification going out to the entire technical subcommittee for their comments. This will include all the DCRs that have been either accepted or rejected by the working groups. I will request that any comments be received within two weeks. I will then send all the comments to the TSC for discussion.

All working group leaders are happy to remain in place, and I am waiting on one final membership list.

The Electronics on Trains working group held their first meeting with David Brabb as the leader. They are still working through their agenda and at this point have nothing to report.

**10.
Other:**

Bob Becker, VIA Rail, posed two questions for those on the call:

The VIA Rail procurement includes a cab car. This is something that VIA Rail is not experienced in. Usually with a push pull operation they have a locomotive on the back end. Bob asked if any of the NGEC members has done a risk assessment of operating a cab car without side doors. This is something that the VIA Rail crews are concerned about.

Bob also asked if any of those on the call had experienced derailments in winter conditions due to ice on the track.

Bob asked that anyone with information that could help answer these questions to please contact him.

Steve Hewitt added that he has Bob's email address and would provide it to anyone who does not have it. It is also included here:

Rober_Becker@viarail.ca

Charlie King, Amtrak, noted that he can help provide some data to Bob Becker off-line.

Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, commented that they, too, are doing a similar analysis and having conversations with engineers to address their issues and reach a comfort level. He noted that Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans (momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov), could provide more insight on this for Mr. Becker.

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, suggested one thing VIA Rail may want to consider, that Metro-North is looking at (because of the NY tunnels) is having the fireman's window be the emergency exit – through the windshield itself.

Charlie King noted that Amtrak has cut an escape hatch in the nose because of those tunnels but does not think that VIA Rail has those kinds of tunnel issues.

Charlie suggested that Bob Becker also reach out to FRA – noting that Jeff Gordon (Jeffrey.Gordon@dot.gov) and Mike Murray (Michael.Murray@dot.gov) are on today's call.

Bob Becker replied that they have sent a note to FRA on this as well.

With no other business forthcoming, Charlie King adjourned the meeting at 11:48 am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 7-2-19

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-18-19:

See agenda item 5 in the minutes.

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 6-18-19:

Metro-North is currently doing its due diligence in reviewing submissions received from vendors, and it remains on schedule for selection this year.

Next update – 7-16-19

Document Control Update – 6-18-19:

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Next update – 7-2-19

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 6-18-19:

No update today (6-18-19) current status:

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Next Update 7-16-19

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 NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting – 2-22-19.

On 2-22-19 at the Annual Meeting, Charger experience updates were provided and captured in the minutes of that meeting.

Next update – as appropriate.

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Next Update – 7-30-19

**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call
June 18, 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 | Charlie King |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 6-4-19 conference call meeting | Charlie King |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement | Charlie King |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Treasurer's Report: Current Balance/Spend rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 9. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| a. Update: Revision B.2 – technical writing completed – Rev B.2 is available | |
| b. Status: Single Level Trainset Specification Revision – timeline | |
| c. Status: Electronics on Trains Working Group - development of DTL software specification | |
| d. Status: Verifying/updating all Technical working group member lists and team leaders | |
| 10. Other | All |

Next Call-7-2-19