



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JULY 14, 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, Charlie King, Amanda Martin, Amanda Martin <i>also as proxy for John Oimoen, Tim Ziethen, Michael Lestingi, Arun Rao, Troy Hughes, Kyle Gradinger, Jason Orthner, Brian Beeler II</i> Support Staff and Colleagues: Jon Dees, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Patrick Centolanzi, Dave "Emeritus" Warner
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Michigan State DOT – which has yet to name its representative to the Board, John Oimoen, Mike Jenkins, Ron Pate Support: Oscar Bermudez, George Hull, Byron Comati, Michael Kraft, Momo Tamaoki, Jason Biggs

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

Chairman Hessinger 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 (7-14-20).

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate

NGEC Two-pager Educational Document 2020:

Steve Hewitt reported that the updated NGEC two-pager remains available in hard copy and PDF. To date, over 400 hard copies and electronic copies have been distributed.

Copies are available in either version by request from Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

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 7-14-20, Steve Hewitt agreed to reach out to John Oimoen to see if he would be able to provide an update on this procurement on the next call of the Executive Board (either 7-28-20 or 8-11-20).

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-21-20). Presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

On 7-14-20, Steve Hewitt agreed to reach out to Mario Bergeron, VIA Rail, to see if he or his colleagues would be able to provide an update on these procurements on the next call of the Executive Board (either 7-28-20 or 8-11-20).

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.

Update: On 5-28-20, Melissa Shurland, FRA, informed Steve Hewitt that The US Access Board extended the comment period for Recommendations on Access for Rail Vehicles until **7-14-20**. NGEC members were provided with this information and the link (below):

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/transportation/vehicles/update-of-the-guidelines-for-transportation-vehicles/advance-notice-of-proposed-rulemaking-2>

On 7-14-20, Today – 7-14-20 – is the deadline for submitting comments to the docket.

Next Update: As appropriate

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 6-30-20 conference call meeting – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On a motion by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, and a second by Jason Orthner, NCDOT, the minutes from the 6-30-20 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5. NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 7-14-20 - Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Grant Agreement extension request:

Tim Ziethen reported that he spoke to Amtrak grants this morning and they believe it is moving along well. It remains under internal review by FRA and is going through the final steps of what is hoped to be an affirmative response. Amtrak expects to hear back from FRA in August. Tim will keep the Board apprised as he gets a status update.

Balance/Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent: \$620,692.48
Balance remaining: \$ 629,307.52
Anticipated spending through the remainder of the current grant period: approximately \$76,000.
Estimated balance remaining at the end of the current grant period (9-30-20): \$552,000.
Approximate current spend rate: \$14,000.
Average Monthly expenditure estimated for the extension period is: \$15,000.00
Amount utilized if the Grant is extended for 36 months at estimated spend rate: \$540,000.00
Projected total remaining at the end of the 36-month extension: \$10-12,000.

6. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 7-14-20 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete, and CEM element testing occurred this Tuesday and Wednesday in Germany via remote video, and results appear to be positive. Setup for cab car structure compression testing is tentative for late July or August in Sacramento depending on travel restrictions. The Cab Car brake system FDR will occur Thursday. IDOT galley FDR reviews and releases are ongoing, and the latest

galley review occurred on June 16th.

Travel restrictions are being evaluated, but travel to Europe from the U.S. for testing is unlikely in the near term. Video and photos continue to be provided for tests that SMEs are unable to witness. NEC testing is complete, and the test report is in review. Caltrans 238.111 testing is currently planned to begin in the second half of July.

51 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs for standard coach are completed with final open items in work to complete first car overall FAI. The complete car FAI for IDOT and a follow-up FRA Sample Car Inspection occurred June 24th and 25th. There are nine cars total at the Stockton facility. Cars 11 and 12 were shipped to Stockton on June 30th. The IDOT cars are scheduled to begin shipments likely in August.

The project teams continue to monitor potential production and schedule impacts due to the coronavirus and are receiving frequent updates from SCOA and Siemens.

7.

Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 7-14-20 – Steve Hewitt for Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT:

Steve Hewitt read the following update provided by Marci Petterson, Connecticut DOT for inclusion in today's (7-14-20) minutes:

*RFP went public on April 30th
Pre-proposal conference held June 12th
First round of questions was due July 10th
Second round due at the end of August 2020
Anticipate awarding in January 2021
We are using a best value selection process*

Steve added that he has asked Marci if she would provide periodic updates (potentially every other call) to the Technical subcommittee and the Executive Board (via Steve Hewitt) and she has agreed.

8.

Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 7-14-20 – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Ray Hessinger reported that while the procurement effort remains under the "cone of silence", there is some "light at the end of the tunnel" as Metro-North has established a schedule to bring the effort to closure. Ray expects to have some announcements "eventually".

Patrick Centolanzi, FTA, expressed appreciation that there was a Commuter Rail procurement underway. He asked Ray Hessinger to explain what the equipment was. Ray responded that the procurement is for Dual Mode Locomotives. He further explained that Metro-North needs the Dual Modes due to entering the NY tunnels (Electric) and the fact that some of their (Metro-North) routes extend beyond the tunnels and switch over to Diesel.

Ray also noted that Metro-North is the lead on the procurement and that there are options included for LIRR and NYSDOT.

Steve Hewitt pointed out the fact that the NGEC developed the specification (with major input from Metro-North) and it was used as a baseline spec for this procurement.

Ray Hessinger confirmed that the NGEC spec was the basis for the Technical proposals and when the RFP was released, Metro-North used a "red-line" version of the NGEC specification.

9.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 7-14-20 – Charlie King, Amtrak:

On the Acela:

Testing continues on Trainsets 1 and 2.

Instrumented wheels are to come off Trainset 1 in Pueblo and will go to the NEC for Trainset 2 testing.

Trainset 2 continues to be "out and about" undergoing controlled tests for access and will be taken to DC either next week or the week after.

Charlie noted that there has been close coordination with FRA throughout the process and they have been supportive.

Trainsets 3 and 4 continue to be built in Hornell.

The COVID 19 virus is having an impact on some of the material – but the plan remains for revenue service sometime in 2021.

On the Locomotives:

Seven units are in various stages of construction – with the first one being the furthest along - the car body FAI is going on this week in the Siemens factory in Sacramento.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail (ICPR) vehicles intended to replace Amfleet and others such as Washington State DOT:

Amtrak continues to evaluate bid proposals and remains under the procurement “cone of silence” as they work through the technical packages. They are hopeful for some announcements by the end of this summer.

10.

Update: TSSSA Primer/Template development as of 7-14-20– Charlie King:

The Amtrak team continues to work on the development of the TSSSA primer. They are developing the verbiage after having received permission to use some of the diagrams. This effort has been put on the back burner due to other workload issues facing the same team including the California venture cars.

11.

Update: Document Control as of 7-14-20 – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of today’s call:

The past two weeks in Document Control were quiet. The DMU Revision A DCRs have been reviewed and received back from the Mechanical, Electrical, Interiors and Propulsion work groups. I am waiting to hear from the Vehicle Track Interaction and Structural work groups. I will continue to pursue them.

The Ownership and Acquisition Best Practice document continues, additional comments were received yesterday. There was a meeting three weeks ago of the working group and we are close on a final draft.

I continue to reorganize the Trainset specification to match the layout of the other equipment specifications. I hope to have it complete within a month.

12.

Other:

Ray Hessinger noted that he will be on vacation at the time of the next scheduled call (7-28-20) and is inclined to cancel the call unless something pressing comes up that would warrant holding it with Charlie King filling in on behalf of Ray. Ray and Steve Hewitt will talk this week and decide as to whether to hold the call or cancel it and a notice will go out.

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today’s meeting (7-14-20) at 11:55 am Eastern.

The next conference call will be 7-28-20

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 7-14-20:

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Next update – 8-11-20.

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Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group – Update as of 6-30-20:

The group last met on 6-25-20 to go over comments received on the most recent draft. It was a productive session with all comments addressed in one way or another. Some suggested edits will require additional rewriting to address comments made.

Another version of the document will be drafted, and another round of working group review will be needed. The next meeting will take place on 7-30-20 and Ray is hopeful it will be the last round of reviews by the working group before advancing the DRAFT to the Executive Board for its review and comment.

Next Update: 8-11-20

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**S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call
7-14-20**

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 | Ray Hessinger |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 6-30-20 conference call meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Status: Treasurer's Report and 36-month No-Cost Grant Extension Request and Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 7. Update: Ct DOT Rail Car Procurement | Steve Hewitt |

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| 8. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 9. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Charlie King |
| 10. Update: TSSSA Primer/template development | Charlie King |
| 11. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Status: Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B- Status: DMU Spec update – timeline- Status: Updating list of Technical working group members- Revising DRAFT "Recommended Practices" document | |
| 12. Other | All |

Next Meeting – 7-28-20 or 8-11-20 – (to be determined)