



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JULY 30, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

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 (7-30-19)

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 7-30-19:

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, (7-30-19) 265 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 – as of 7-30-19:

All DRAFT sections for the report have been submitted and are under review by the members of the working group. The working group has a call scheduled for 8-8-19 to discuss the DRAFT sections and determine a path forward to synthesize all sections into one report – removing duplications and being written in one voice.

Next update upon completion of the DRAFT report and submittal to the Executive Board

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 7-16-19:

Vendor bids continue to be under review by Metro-North.

Next Update 8-13-19

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 7-16-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:

On a motion offered by John Oimoen, IDOT, and seconded by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 7-16-19 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

5.

Update: FASC discussion on S305 NGEC reauthorization – proposed language, funding amount, and performance length – Tim Ziethen:

Tim Ziethen reported that the initial Grant amount of \$1,250,000 has a balance of \$800,000. The current Grant agreement runs through 9-30-2020 which includes the approved/executed 12 month no cost extension. At the current spend rate of between \$15 - \$20,000 an additional no cost extension of about 2 years beyond 9-30-2020 would be possible.

Tim went on to report on discussions taking place among the members of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) around reauthorization of the NGEC in the next surface transportation authorization bill which is now being developed. Discussion on the last FASC call (7-24-19) revolved around preparing language that could be used by Amtrak and others in making their authorization requests. The language would need to include, not only the scope of the NGEC's work, but also the length of time and amount of funding that would be requested.

At the current spend rate, and with no change to the current scope, and through a performance period of 5 years, the NGEC would need, as a floor, \$250,000 per year or \$1,250,000 for the full 5 years. This would basically be a scope of work that does not allow for additional activities.

The FASC has been discussing what additional activities the NGEC should include in its scope as it goes forward.

Eric Curtit noted that discussions have revolved around continued document control management/ specification refreshment efforts, the ongoing work of the Equipment Acquisition and Ownership working group, and potential new specifications – possibly even getting involved in developing HSR specs.

Michael Lestingi, FRA, added that another question that should be asked is whether Congress should direct the FRA to make use of the NGEC specifications mandatory for future state/Amtrak procurements. In the current NOFO's FRA has remained silent on this as a requirement.

Eric agreed that this is a good point and should be a part of the discussion. He also noted that AASHTO, SPRC, Amtrak, and others are including the NGEC as a part of their reauthorization principles, and, in some cases, will need to be provided with more information – including scope and funding requirements for the future.

Steve Hewitt commented that Amtrak (Ken Altman) was looking for some language and funding amounts to include in Amtrak's request and asked Tim Ziethen if there was a timeline for providing that information to Ken.

Tim noted that he did not have an exact timeline, but likely it is within a few weeks – less than a month.

With that in mind, Eric Curtit agreed to send out some of his thoughts to the states for consideration so that, on the next NGEC Executive Board call - 8-13-19 – the Board could come to agreement on proposed language, scope and funding for a 5-year authorization that could be provided to Amtrak and to others (such as AASHTO) as they develop/finalize their authorization requests.

Eric also noted that he and Steve Hewitt have had some discussions about an NGEC session at TRB in January and will brief the Board on this on the next call. The session would tie in well with this reauthorization discussion.

Tim Ziethen will let Steve and Eric know if the Amtrak timeline is sooner than the next two weeks and whether placeholder language may need to be provided.

6.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 7-30-19 Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Gradinger:

Update excerpted from 7-25-19 Technical subcommittee call:

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

The Updated IDOT Galley PDR has been approved and the galley mock-up review is scheduled for October 2019. The IDOT Café Car IDR is scheduled for the week of September 2 in Sacramento. Action items for the Cab Car PDRs are in work and the Cab Car Brake System IDR is scheduled for September.

The first 27 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Trucks on Carshell #1 have been updated to the requested legacy piping configuration and the car is being prepared for static testing. Wiring, ducting and ceiling supports installation continues on Carshell #2. Interior work continues on Carshell #3 with wiring, toilet module and ceiling supports. Wiring and toilet module assembly also continues on Carshell #4. Interior work is in process on Carshells #5 and 6. The underframe and cable tray has been installed and cable routing and piping continues on Carshells #7 and 8. Carshells 9 through 27 are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.

The FAI process continues and most system-level FAIs have occurred. The FAIs for Vestibule Liners and Trap Door are occurring this week. The End Door FAI is scheduled for the last week of August. The complete Coach Car FAI and Sample Car Inspection are scheduled for Mid-September or Early October. SCOA and Siemens continue to work with CALIDOT SMEs to address the FAI open items.

7.

Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement – Charlie King:

Charlie King reported on three procurement activities:

Acela

The Acela trainset 1 remains on schedule for TTCI testing in January 2020.

Trainset 2 is on track for NEC testing in March 2020

Charger Locomotive:

On schedule – no issues.

Trainset Procurement:

On schedule for a November timeframe for bid submission.

8.

Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement – Robert Becker/Ronald Bartels:

VIA Rail reported that things are going well and that they are close to wrapping up the conceptual design review phase.

In September, they will begin the next phase – preliminary design review.

There have been no major issues.

They are in the process of fine tuning the final configuration after beginning with a base specification.

9.

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience – Eric Curtit:

Mid-West States Experience – John Oimoen, IDOT:

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 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 Tamaoki, Caltrans:

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.

There have been some instances of ice build up on the HVAC and they are working on determining the root cause.

Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.

Washington State Experience:

No report provided

Amtrak Experience – Charlie King:

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.

10.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

On 7-30-19, Tammy Krause provided the following update:

The first group of proposed changes to the Trainset Specification have been sent to the Technical Subcommittee members. I have asked for comments on these DCRs to be sent to me by July 12. So far, I have received just a handful of comments on the first group of DCRs. The second group of proposed changes was sent to the TSC and I have requested comments back by August 7. I will then put all comments together and submit them to the TSC for discussion at the 8/8 meeting followed by acceptance or rejection at the 8/22 meeting. The accepted DCRs will then be submitted to the EB and can be discussed at the 8/26 meeting. The EB can then request Larry Salci to review the changes and call for the review panel.

11.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Eric Curtit adjourned the meeting at 12:02pm Eastern.

The next conference call will be 8-13-19

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 7-30-19:

See agenda item 6 in the minutes.

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 7-16-19:

The procurement is still active.

Next Update – 8-13-19

Document Control Update – 7-30-19:

On 7-30-19, Tammy Krause provided the following update:

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Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 7-30-19:

All DRAFT sections for the report have been submitted and are under review by the members of the working group. The working group has a call scheduled for 8-8-19 to discuss the DRAFT sections and determine a path forward to synthesize all sections into one report – removing duplications and being written in one voice.

Next update upon completion of the DRAFT report and submittal to the Executive Board

Amtrak Locomotive Procurement -7-30-19:

Acela:

The Acela trainset 1 remains on schedule for TTCI testing in January 2020.

Trainset 2 is on track for NEC testing in March 2020

Charger Locomotive:

On schedule – no issues.

Trainset Procurement:

On schedule for a November timeframe for bid submission.

Next update 8-27-19

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 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 the plan to use it or if they will be in contact with the NGEC or not.

Next update – as appropriate

Treasurer’s Update – Current Balance and Spend Rate as of 7-16-19:

As of 7-30-19:

Initial grant amount: \$1,250,000

Balance remaining: around \$800,000

Spend rate is approximately \$15,000 per month. At this rate, the NGEC will have funding that will carry it through the grant period (9-30-20) and should enable the NGEC to request (at the appropriate time) a no cost grant agreement extension for possibly another 2 years.

Next Update 8-13-19

Developing proposed NGEC re-authorization language (scope and funding)

Eric Curtit will circulate proposed language to Steve Hewitt for distribution prior to the next call. On the next call, the Board will consider the language, scope and funding and provide it to Amtrak and others for their use.

Tim Ziethen will let Steve and Eric know if the Amtrak timeline is sooner than the next two weeks and whether placeholder language may need to be provided.

Charger Updates from States and Amtrak as of 7-30-19:

See agenda item 9 in the minutes of today's call.

Next Update – as appropriate

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document as of 7-30-19:

The current 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, (7-30-19) 265 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.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update as of 7-30-19:

See agenda item 8 in today's minutes.

Next update: 9-24-19

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call

July 30, 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 7-16-19 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Update: Finance and Administrative Subcommittee discussion on S305 NGEC Re-Authorization - proposed language/funding amount and performance length | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement | Charlie King |
| 8. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement | Robert Becker |
| 9. Update: States and Amtrak - Charger Locomotive Experience | Eric Curtit |

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- a. Mid-West States Experience – John Oimoen, IDOT
 - b. California experience – Kyle Grading, Caltrans
 - c. Washington State Experience – Jason Biggs, WSDOT
 - d. Amtrak Experience – Charlie King, Amtrak

10. Update: Document Control

Tammy Krause

- a. Status of the update to the Single Level Trainset Specification/timeline for completion
- b. Update: Finalizing member lists for all Technical working Groups

11. Other

All

Next Call-8-13-19