



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 10, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

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 with all Executive Board members represented.

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 (8-10-21).

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. 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 just over 200 participants.

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

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 8-10-21 – there has been no news on the status of the Access Board's efforts.

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

CtDOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 8-5-21 – Marci Petterson reported that the "cone of silence" period continues.

Next Update: As appropriate

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 February 25, 2022. More information to come.

Next Update: Fall 2021

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 7-13-21 Meetings -Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Troy Hughes, MODOT, the minutes from the 7-13-21 meetings were approved as submitted.

5. Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 8-10-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

- Balance/ Spend Rate

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent through April 2021: \$779,984.75
Balance remaining: \$ 464,743.12.
Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$392,628.44.
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,022.44
Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$72,114.68

- Plans for updating the NGEC two-pager

On the 7-21-21 FASC call, it was agreed that the two-pager should be updated again for 2022. The review will begin with the FASC, and recommended updates will then be provided to the Executive Board for consideration.

The goal will be to have a DRAFT update approved by the Executive Board by January 2022 to allow for time to be finalized electronically and in hard copy for distribution at the NGEC Annual meeting on 2-25-

22.

Troy Hughes agreed to have MODOT, once again, produce the document with whatever changes are requested and provide it electronically and print hard copies as needed.

- Timeline for Annual By-Laws Review

On 7-21-21, it was agreed that, in September, FASC Secretary, John Oimoen and Steve Hewitt will begin the annual review of the NGEC By-Laws and make any suggestions they may have to the FASC by the end of October.

Once the FASC approves the By-Laws as revised (or not), they will be sent to the Executive Board where they will be required to have them in writing for 30 days before considering any changes that may be suggested.

The goal will be for the Board to vote for consideration of approval by December 2021 and will fulfill the annual review requirement.

- Overview - Quarterly Progress Report to FRA – submitted 7-30-21

Tim Ziethen provided a brief overview of the Quarterly Report for the period ending 6-30-21 as submitted to FRA on time on 7-30-21.

The final version of the report will be sent to all Board members along with today's (8-10-21) minutes.

6.

Update: Multi-State Car Procurement – Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Grading, Caltrans:

Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update submitted on 8-10-21:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR has been approved and other system FDR meetings are complete. Several Cab Car FAIs are tentative for August and September. The Vending Car Interiors FDR occurred on August 3. The IDOT Café Car FDR is the completion stage. The Galley FAI took place in June and open items are being addressed. Several Cab Car FAIs are tentative for August and September. A wheelchair lift demonstration is confirmed for August 18th in Sacramento using an IDOT business class car.

The Cab Car Compression Test was successfully completed on July 23rd. Cab Car Collision and Corner Post is tentative for August in Germany. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans and IDOT 238.111 testing is complete and both reports have been submitted to Amtrak and FRA.

93 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT has conditionally accepted 8 coach cars and is preparing for revenue service. The Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are addressed.

7.

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

Ray Hessinger reported that the initial Design Review was completed on 7-16-21. Remaining open issues will be addressed when Metro-North has its site visit at the Siemens facility in Sacramento, Ca. in the latter half of September. Siemens will be (or may have) conducting temperature testing, within Grand Central.

8.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

George Hull reported:

CAF Cars: The last two sleeper cars under the contract are expected to arrive at the end of the month (August 2021).

Acela: Progress continues on the new Acela. The first produced trainset should be out at the end of August or early September 2021.

ALC 42 (Charger) Locomotives: Two units are in Wilmington, DE. for commissioning.

Intercity Trainsets: Preparations are underway for Design Review.

9.

Status: Finalizing the approved (7-13-21) TSSSA Primer document – George Hull:

George Hull reported that he has the task to finalize the primer by adding in the edits agreed to when it was approved by the Executive Board but has no progress to report today. George acknowledged that "I need to get it done". When complete, he will send it to Steve Hewitt for distribution and for posting on the website.

10.

Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided a mid-year progress report and work plan for the remainder of the year (through the 2-25-22 NGEC Annual Meeting). The report was provided as a power point presentation and will be distributed to Board members along with the minutes from today's call. The Presentation will also be posted to the NGEC website in the Executive Board section.

Steve Hewitt asked Tammy Krause to add the TSSSA primer to her presentation of accomplishments. The development of the TSSSA primer was important and should be noted. It will be yet another tool for entities procuring equipment. The plan is to post it as a stand-alone document for now, with the possibility that the Board may add it to the Recommended Practices document 305-200 at some point in the future.

Steve also noted that he had a couple of corrections to the presentation which he sent to Tammy prior to the call today. Tammy did not see the email but will look at it and make the suggested changes/corrections.

Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt asked for clarification on the process for completing the Trainset Specification re-write since it has produced 14 DCRs.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the trainset DCRs will need to go through the Document management procedures including Technical subcommittee approval, Review Panel review with a brief report and recommendation after comparing the DCRs for against the Requirements Document for compliance. Tammy will provide Larry Salci with the 14 DCRs and he will prepare a brief SOW and budget for submittal to AASHTO for a task order to conduct the review.

On the DMU revision – Larry Salci asked for confirmation from Tammy that he has all of the Stadler DCRs that are currently under review by the Technical subcommittee. Tammy confirmed that he has all 96. Larry needs this to prepare a budget revision to be submitted to AASHTO as the scope and budget have changed from the original task order on the DMU review.

11.

Cancelling the 8-24-21 Executive Board call – Ray Hessinger:

Ray Hessinger notified the Board that due to schedule conflicts, the 8-24-21 Board meeting is canceled. The Board will next meet as scheduled on 9-7-21. Steve Hewitt will send a notice of the 8-24-21 cancellation via email and Outlook.

On 9-7-21, Ray Hessinger is not going to be available, so he asked George Hull to Chair the meeting. George agreed. Ray and Steve Hewitt will prepare the agenda and get it to George and the Board members in advance of the 9-7-21 meeting.

12.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:18 pm.

Next meeting – 9-7-21.

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 8-10-21:

Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans, provided the following update submitted on 8-10-21:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR has been approved and other system FDR meetings are complete. Several Cab Car FAIs are tentative for August and September. The Vending Car Interiors FDR occurred on August 3. The IDOT Café Car FDR is the completion stage. The Galley FAI took place in June and open items are being addressed. Several Cab Car FAIs are tentative for August and September. A wheelchair lift demonstration is confirmed for August 18th in Sacramento using an IDOT business class car.

The Cab Car Compression Test was successfully completed on July 23rd. Cab Car Collision and Corner Post is tentative for August in Germany. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans and IDOT 238.111 testing is complete and both reports have been submitted to Amtrak and FRA.

93 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT has conditionally accepted 8 coach cars and is preparing for revenue service. The Caltrans cars are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service while open items are addressed.

Next Update: 9-7-21

Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 8-10-21:

The initial Design Review was completed on 7-16-21. Remaining open issues will be addressed when Metro-North has its site visit at the Siemens facility in Sacramento, Ca. in the latter half of September. Siemens will be (or may have) conducting temperature testing within Grand Central.

Next Update: 9-7-21

Update: Document Control Management 8-10-21:

Mid-Year Progress Report:

Tammy Krause provided a mid-year progress report and work plan for the remainder of the year (through the 2-25-22 NGEN Annual Meeting. The report was provided as a power point presentation and will be distributed to Board members. The Presentation will also be posted to the NGEN website in the Executive Board section.

Decisions/Actions:

Tammy to make suggested edits to the presentation and provide to Steve Hewitt for distribution and posting.

Tammy will provide Larry Salci with the Trainset re-write DCRs so that he can prepare a scope and budget for AASHTO for this task order.

It was agreed/clarified that the Trainset DCRS will go through the regular document management process for adoption by the Executive Board.

Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 8-10-21

CAF Cars: The last two sleeper cars under the contract are expected to arrive at the end of the month (August 2021).

Acela: Progress continues on the new Acela. The first produced trainset should be out at the end of August or early September 2021.

ALC 42 (Charger) Locomotives: Two units are in Wilmington, DE. for commissioning.

Intercity Trainsets: Preparations are underway for Design Review.

Next Update – 9-7-21

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEN 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)

NGEC Treasurer's Report as of 7-13-21:

- Balance/ Spend Rate

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent through April 2021: \$779,984.75
Balance remaining: \$ 464,743.12.
Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$392,628.44.
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,022.44
Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$72,114.68

- Plans for updating the NGEC two-pager

On the 7-21-21 FASC call, it was agreed that the two-pager should be updated again for 2022. The review will begin with the FASC, and recommended updates will then be provided to the Executive Board for consideration.

The goal will be to have a DRAFT update approved by the Executive Board by January 2022 to allow for time to be finalized electronically and in hard copy for distribution at the NGEC Annual meeting on 2-25-22.

Troy Hughes agreed to have MODOT, once again, produce the document with whatever changes are requested and provide it electronically and print hard copies as needed.

- Timeline for Annual By-Laws Review

On 7-21-21, it was agreed that, in September, FASC Secretary, John Oimoen and Steve Hewitt will begin the annual review of the NGEC By-Laws and make any suggestions they may have to the FASC by the end of October.

Once the FASC approves the By-Laws as revised (or not), they will be sent to the Executive Board where they will be required to have them in writing for 30 days before considering any changes that may be suggested.

The goal will be for the Board to vote for consideration of approval by December 2021 and will fulfill the annual review requirement.

- Overview - Quarterly Progress Report to FRA – submitted 7-30-21

Tim Ziethen provided a brief overview of the Quarterly Report for the period ending 6-30-21 as submitted to FRA on time on 7-30-21.

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document continues to be available electronically or in hard copy by request - contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

In a few months, the Board will begin its review of this document for consideration of an update in advance of the NGEC Annual meeting – 2-25-22 (see FASC update above).

Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board 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 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.

Next Update: as appropriate

DRAFT TSSSA Primer – Executive Board review/consideration:

The TSSSA Primer was adopted with agreed to changes on 7-13-21. George Hull will finalize the document and provide it to Steve Hewitt for distribution to the NGEN and to AASHTO for posting.

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 8-10-21, this procurement continues to be in the “cone of silence” phase.

Next Update – as appropriate

Reauthorizing the NGEN:

The Senate passed its Infrastructure bill including reauthorization on 8-10-21. It is not believed to have included an amendment to reauthorize the NGEN with funding.

If that is the case, the NGEN will continue its work with the funding included in its current grant which runs through 9-30-2023 and will look for other funding options (FRA/Amtrak) for the future.

NGEN 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 NGEN will meet at that location on the morning of the 25th. More information to come.

Scheduling change – next Executive Board Meeting:

The 8-24-21 meeting of the Board is cancelled due to several scheduling conflicts.

The next Board meeting will take place on 9-7-21. George Hull (NGEN Vice Chair) will chair the meeting in the absence of Chairman Ray Hessinger.

Steve Hewitt will send a cancellation notice for 8-24-21 and a reminder that the next call will be 9-7-21.

NGEN Executive Board Meeting

8-10-21

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

Agenda

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 7-13-21 meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Treasurer's Report/FASC update – Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| - Balance/ Spend Rate | |
| - Plans for updating the NGEN two-pager | |
| - Timeline for Annual By-Laws Review | |
| - Overview - Quarterly Progress Report to FRA – submitted 7-30-21 | |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 9. Status: Finalizing approved (7-13-21) TSSSA Document | George Hull |
| 10. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| - Mid-Year Progress Report - work plan and timelines for the next 6 months (through 2-25-22 Annual Meeting | |
| 11. Cancelling the 8-24-21 Executive Board meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 12. Other | Ray Hessinger/All |

Next call/meeting – 9-7-21