



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – George Hull, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

In the absence of Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, Vice Chair George Hull, Amtrak, 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 (9-7-21).

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 560 electronic copies have been distributed.

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

A new (2022) version will be developed through the FASC with the goal of having them ready for the in person Annual meeting in Washington, DC in February 2022.

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 NGECC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGECC 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 NGECC 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 NGECC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

VIA Rail has added a new colleague to the NGECC email list: Erika Santana - she reached out to me and asked for the NGECC Backgrounder, and she has been added to the email list.

Next Update: As appropriate

CtDOT Rail Car Procurement:

Marci Petterson, CtDOT has informed Steve Hewitt that the "cone of silence" period continues.

Next Update: As appropriate

NGECC 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 NGECC 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 8-10-21 Meetings -George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 8-10-21 meetings were approved as submitted.

5. Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 9-7-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Tim Ziethen provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of today's call (9-7-21):

Balance/ Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Amount Spent through June 2021: \$811,187.00
Balance remaining: \$ 438,000.00
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): just over \$14,000.00
Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$50,000.00

NGEC Annual By-Laws Review:

The FASC has begun its review of the NGEC By-Laws and expects the process to be completed in time for Executive Board consideration by December 2021.

6.

Update: Multi-State Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Kyle Grading, Caltrans:

Caltrans provided the following update submitted on 9-2-21 to the Technical subcommittee. In the absence of Caltrans on the 9-7-21 call, Steve Hewitt read it into the record:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Carshell final design has been approved for production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are near the approval stage, and the cab car Clearance information will be submitted to Amtrak. The IDOT Café Car FDR is in the closeout stage with action items being addressed. Part 2 of the galley FAI is planned for September.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is tentative for the week of September 20th in Germany and the compression test report is in work. Several Cab Car FAIs are scheduled for September.

94 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT has conditionally accepted 8 coach cars. 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 – Steve Hewitt for Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Metro-North continues to hold their initial design review meetings.

They are scheduled to do an on-site visit of the Siemens factory in Sacramento during the week of 9-20-21. The purpose will be to review some of the systems that will remain the same in the Dual Mode Locomotive as those in the Charger.

8.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

George Hull reported on 9-7-21:

On the CAF cars: The last two sleeper cars have been delivered and Amtrak is looking to get them commissioned and into service. This will be the last update on this procurement.

On the Acela 21 – work continues to progress on testing and modeling. The FRA sample car inspection was completed.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset (Amfleet) – it is progressing well. It is in the initial design review stage.

On Long Distance Locomotive – there are two on the property with one ready to ship.

9.

Status: Finalizing the approved TSSSA Primer document – George Hull:

George Hull reported that the finalized document was “hot off the presses” and was sent to Steve Hewitt just prior to today’s call.

Steve noted that he will distribute it to Board members and ask AASHTO to post it to the NGEC website.

10.

Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes (9-7-21):

The review of the DMU proposed changes continued at the last Technical subcommittee meeting (9-2-21). We have finished reviewing all but Chapters 4 and a few items in Chapter 5. Stadler Europe has replied to the Structural and VTI working groups with the additional information requested. The final review of these chapters should be completed at the next Technical subcommittee meeting (9-16-21). Stadler Europe will be on the call just in case any additional questions arise. After completion of the review of Chapters 4 and 5 the TSC should be able to vote to approve the document.

Larry Salci, the Review Panel Consultant for the NGEC, had several questions/clarifications on the summary of changes and asked that Tammy Krause call him off-line. Tammy agreed to follow-up with Larry.

**11.
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Vice Chair George Hull adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.

Next meeting – 9-21-21.

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 9-2-21:

Caltrans, provided the following update submitted on 9-2-21 – Steve Hewitt read it into the record for the 9-7-21 Executive Board call:

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car shell final design has been approved for production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are near the approval stage, and the cab car Clearance information will be submitted to Amtrak. The IDOT Café Car FDR is in the closeout stage with action items being addressed. Part 2 of the galley FAI is planned for September.

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

Next Update: 10-5-21

Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 9-7-21:

Metro-North continues to hold their initial design review meetings.

They are scheduled to do an on-site visit of the Siemens factory in Sacramento during the week of 9-20-21. The purpose will be to review some of the systems that will remain the same in the Dual Mode Locomotive as those in the Charger.

Next Update: 10-5-21

Update: Document Control Management 9-7-21:

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Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – 9-7-21

On the CAF cars: The last two sleeper cars have been delivered and Amtrak is looking to get it commissioned and into service. **This will be the last update on this item.**

On the Acela 21 – work continues to progress on testing and modeling. The FRA sample car inspection was completed.

On the Intercity Passenger Rail Trainset (Amfleet) – it is progressing well. It is in the initial design review stage.

On Long Distance Locomotive – there are two on the property with one ready to ship.

Next Update – 10-5-21

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

NGEC Treasurer’s Report as of 9-7-21:

Balance/ Spend Rate

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
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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 FASC will begin its review of this document for consideration of an update in advance of the NGEC Annual meeting – 2-25-22.

NGEC Annual By-Laws Review:

The FASC has begun its review of the NGEC By-Laws and expects the process to be completed in time for Executive Board consideration by December 2021.

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

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Next Update: as appropriate

DRAFT TSSSA Primer – Executive Board review/consideration:

The TSSSA Primer was adopted with agreed to changes on 7-13-21.

On 9-7-21, George Hull provided Steve Hewitt with the Finalized version. Steve distributed the Primer to all Board members following the Board call on 9-7-21 and asked AASHTO to post it on the NGEC website.

Task Complete

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:

This procurement continues to be in the “cone of silence” phase.

Next Update – as appropriate

Reauthorizing the NGEC:

Neither the House nor Senate has included the NGEC in its Authorization Legislation.

The NGEC 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.

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

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

NGEC Executive Board Meeting

9-7-21

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

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| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | George Hull |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 8-10-21 meeting | George Hull |
| 5. Treasurer’s Report/FASC update – Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual mode Locomotive Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 9. Status: Finalizing approved (7-13-21) TSSSA Document | George Hull |
| 10. Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| 11. Other | George Hull/All |

Next call/meeting – 9-21-21