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

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2023

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, Chair, NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting, and Steve Hewitt called the roll.

**2.**

**Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:**

Following the roll call, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**3.**

**Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:**

The action items review was tabled for this meeting. These minutes provide the current status.

**Industry Participation:**

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

There new members were added this month.

**2023 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:**

The 2023 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available electronically. (It will be sent with DRAFT meeting minutes.)

Thank you to MODOT for formatting the new version and for printing the hard copies.

150 hard copies printed by MODOT arrived this morning – they look great! Steve Hewitt will bring them to DC next week for distribution during the Annual Meeting.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

VIA Rail has accepted the invitation to give a virtual presentation during the 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting.

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**Next Update: 2-3-22 – NGEN Annual Meeting**

**Multi-State Venture Cars Procurement:**

**As of 1-20-23 (update provided to Steve Hewitt by Gurleen Boparai):**

*The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review and closure stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete and the test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car F-Coupler FAI and truck swing test is tentative for February.*

*122 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start first half of 2023 once all necessary agreements are in place.*

**Next Update – 2-3-23 NGEN Annual Meeting**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

As of 1-5-23 proposals were due by the end of the month (January). At that point they will enter the “cone of silence.”

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment:**

Metro-North has confirmed that “the first pieces of steel are on the floor – fabrication of the first car shell is underway”. Ray added that Metro-North and Siemens are still resolving some FDR comments.

**Next Update – 2-3-23 NGEN Annual Meeting**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on FRA qualifications and modeling. Four trainsets have been delivered.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. 22 have been delivered with 17 in service.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

This is now the “Airo” program. The Final Design Review (FDR) Phase continues.

**Next Update: 2-3-23 – NGEN Annual Meeting**

**Website Refresh:**

The website refresh is complete and the new site [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org) has officially gone live.

Steve Hewitt is in the process of reviewing the site and is sending any missing items and updates to Rebecca Anger at AASHTO to upload them to the site. At this point, AASHTO did not have the ability to go on the site and make changes. That permission had not been transferred to AASHTO from iEngineering. Once the permission is give, changes and updates can be made.

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 1-10-23 Executive Board Meeting– Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by Troy Hughes, MODOT, and a second by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 1-10-23 meeting were approved as presented.

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**5.**

**Update: Document Control/timeline – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause was not available for today's call, but prior to the call she provided Steve Hewitt with the DCRS for the Bi-Level Rail Car Specification update. Steve has forwarded the DCRs to Chairman Hessinger. Technical consultant Larry Salci has them as well and will conduct a review and prepare a Review Panel Report with Recommendations.

Tammy has updated the Technical working groups member lists as requested by Steve Hewitt and will ask for volunteers to join the groups at the Annual Meeting.

Tammy is also working with the technical writer to get an updated work plan and budget for the priority work that will be needed between now and the end of the current grant performance period.

Ray Hessinger stressed the need for Tammy to prioritize the technical writing that is needed over the last 8 months of the current grant performance period. Steve Hewitt noted that he has stressed that point with Tammy.

Ray Hessinger asked Larry Salci to prepare the Review Panel Report with Recommendations and he re-convened the Bi-Level Rail Car Specification Review Panel.

Larry Salci noted that he has prepared the budget and transmittal letter for preparing the Review Panel Report and will be sending it to Strat Cavros, AASHTO today to execute the contract for the work (as per NGEC process). Larry added that there are 175 DCRs to be reviewed and included in the report.

Ray Hessinger asked Larry if he could provide an anticipated schedule for completion of the work.

Larry said he expected to have the Report completed by 2-9-23 and that Steve Hewitt would transmit them to the Review Panel and schedule a Review Panel meeting for the week of 2-13-23. The intent would be to present the Report and its recommendation to the Executive Board on their meeting on 2-21-23.

**6.**

**Re-Convene the PRIIA Bi-Level Rail Car Specification Review Panel and fill vacancies on all review panels – Ray Hessinger:**

As Ray Hessinger convened the Bi-Level Review Panel, he also filled a vacancy that existed on that panel with Arun Rao moving on to Amtrak.

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans was appointed to the Panel.

Ray looked at all of the Review Panels and filled a vacancy that existed on the Locomotive Review Panel. Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans was appointed to serve on that Panel as well.

George Hull clarified that Mike Kraft would be the Amtrak technical support for all panels except the Locomotive Panel. Devon Parsons will serve as the Amtrak technical support on that Panel.

**Consultants/ Technical Support to the Review Panels:**

Review Panel Consultant – Larry Salci

NGEC Support – Steve Hewitt

Technical Support – Tammy Krause

Amtrak Technical Support – Mike Kraft for all panels except the Locomotive Panel (Devon Parsons will be the Amtrak Rep for that Panel)

**Bi-Level Car Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans

Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT

Jeff Gordon, FRA

**Locomotive Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans

Jennifer Bastian, IDOT

Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT

Jeff Gordon, FRA

**Trainset Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair

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Ed Engle, Iowa DOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA

**Single Level Rail Car Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair  
Ed Engle, Iowa DOT  
Jason Biggs, WSDOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA

**DMU Review Panel Members:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair  
Jeff Gordon, FRA  
Brian Beeler, for Maine DOT  
Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans

**7.**

**NGEC 20230 Annual Meeting –Steve:**

Finalize Agenda and confirm speakers and attendance:

Steve Hewitt walked through the agenda and called on Board members regarding their attendance and confirming who would be giving presentations.

Registration has picked up. As of 1-24-23 there are **60 in-person and 40 virtual registrants**. The list of in-person registrants was due to Kamasha Hendrickson on 1-20-23 and Steve Hewitt provided the spreadsheet to Kamasha along with a list of documents for printing and inclusion in the meeting packets. Since that submittal, several more industry representatives have signed up to attend in-person or virtually. Steve has asked for 75 meeting packets to cover those who may "pop in". Steve can send an updated list to Kamasha no later than COB 1-25-23.

AASHTO has asked, to save printing costs, if we would be ok with printing a sheet with links to the documents that were to go into Meeting packets. Steve told Kamasha that he would talk to the Board about this today and let her know.

The items to be printed (or set up as a link) are:

The NGEC Roster  
Org Chart  
By-Laws  
Statute (from the FAST Act)  
Monthly Activities Report from December 31, 2023

The Board agreed that the documents could be provided via a URL and/or via a QR code that would access the documents from the web site.

Following this meeting, Steve Hewitt contacted AASHTO, and they informed him that they had gone ahead and printed the documents and were inserting them into folders. Steve was asked to let them know what order he wanted them in and he provided that information.

Steve will bring the two-pager to the Meeting and the final agenda and put them in the folders.

Steve reported that he has received the AV order for the meeting and approved it this morning. It is pretty much the same as the original estimate with a reduced number of mics at the head table – one for every two people. Still, it is expensive – around \$8,000.

Tim Ziethen said most of those costs are imbedded into the budget and should not impact the bottom line by much, if at all.

Steve asked for speaker confirmations for each agenda item. Most of the speakers' slots were confirmed except for Amtrak's Government Affairs presentation speaker. (Following the call, Steve confirmed that Ran Barton, Amtrak will give the update.) Steve made a slight change in the draft agenda to accommodate the fact that Ran is on a 10:00am Acela that morning.

For the Hydrogen Fuel Cell presentation – Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans will give this presentation.

Cummins was also coordinating an Alstom presentation on fuel cell systems. On 1-24-23, Cummins informed Steve Hewitt that they will not be giving a presentation. Steve told them that was fine, and maybe they could give it on a future Executive Board bi-weekly Webex meeting.

Steve also noted that just prior to today's call, Mike Murray informed him that FRA Administrator Amit Bose has expressed interest in attending part of the meeting. A call has been set up for later today with Mike Murray and Monique Stewart, FRA Administrator's staff, Ray Hessinger and Steve Hewitt to discuss.

Ray Hessinger thanked Mike and expressed his appreciation for Administrator Bose's interest in the NGE. He noted that the Board would be pleased to accommodate the Administrator at any time during the meeting to give remarks. His attendance last year was the highlight of the meeting.

Ray Hessinger asked Tim Ziethen if he could confirm with Amtrak Grants how many letters of support were submitted with the CRISI grant application for NGE funding. Ray wants to include these numbers in his Chairman's report.

Tim agreed to follow-up.

**8. FASC Update and Treasurer's Report – Tim Ziethen:**

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
Expenses Incurred through November 2022: \$1,072,383.71.  
Balance remaining: \$177,616.29.  
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,491.67.  
Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): around \$32,699.57.

With the website refresh complete, \$12,000 will be due to iEngineering (after an invoice is provided to AASHTO and submitted not Tim Ziethen and Ray Hessinger for approval).

This will reduce the balance to about \$20,000 and with the additional funds needed to complete the technical writing to be included, the ending balance will be close, but "we should be able to squeak through".

**9. Other – all:**

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 12:09 pm Eastern.

**Next – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – 2-3-23**

**Next regular Executive Board Webex meeting 2-21-23**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Treasurer's Report – 1-24-23:**

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
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This will reduce the balance to about \$20,000 and with the additional funds needed to complete the technical writing to be included, the ending balance will be close, but "we should be able to squeak through".

**2023 NGE Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2023 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available and will be distributed in hard copy at the Annual Meeting.

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**Status – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 1-20-23:**

*The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review and closure stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete and the test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car F-Coupler FAI and truck swing test is tentative for February.*

*122 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start first half of 2023 once all necessary agreements are in place.*

**Next Update – 2-3-23**

**Status: – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 1-5-23:**

On 1-5-23, Marci Petterson, CtDOT reported that they expect to receive proposals by the end of January. At that point they will enter the “cone of silence.”

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Status - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 1-10-23:**

Metro-North has confirmed that “the first pieces of steel are on the floor – fabrication of the first car shell is underway”. Ray added that Metro-North and Siemens are still resolving some FDR comments.

**Next Update: 2-3-23 NGEC Annual Meeting**

**Status - Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

**As of 1-10-23:**

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on FRA qualifications and modeling. Four trainsets have been delivered.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. 22 have been delivered with 17 in service.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

This is now the “Arrow” program. The Final Design Review (FDR) Phase continues.

**Next Update: 2-3-23 – NGEC Annual Meeting**

**Status - Document Control Management as of 1-24-23:**

Tammy Krause was not available for the call on 1-24-23, but provided Steve Hewitt with the DCRS for the Bi-Level Rail Car Specification update. Steve has forwarded the DCRs to Chairman Hessinger. Technical consultant Larry Salci has them as well and will conduct a review and prepare a Review Panel Report with Recommendations.

Tammy has updated the Technical working Groups member lists as requested by Steve Hewitt and will ask for additional volunteers to join the groups at the Annual Meeting.

Tammy is also working with the technical writer to get an updated work plan and budget for the priority work that will be needed between now and the end of the current grant performance period.

Ray Hessinger asked Larry Salci to prepare the Review Panel Report with Recommendations and he re-convened the Bi-Level Rail Car Specification Review Panel.

Larry Salci noted that he has prepared the budget and transmittal letter for preparing the Review Panel Report and will be sending it to Strat Cavros, AASHTO today to execute the contract for the work (as per NGEC process). Larry added that there are 175 DCRs to be reviewed and included in the report.

<p>Ray Hessinger asked Larry if he could provide an anticipated schedule for completion of the work.</p> <p>Larry said he expected to have the Report completed by 2-9-23 and that Steve Hewitt would transmit them to the Review Panel and schedule a Review Panel meeting for the week of 2-13-23. The intent would be to present the Report and its recommendation to the Executive Board on their meeting on 2-21-23.</p> <p><b>Next Update: 2-3-23 NGEC Annual Meeting</b></p>
<p><b>VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:</b></p> <p>VIA Rail has accepted the invitation to provide an update presentation to the NGEC during its 2-3-23 Annual Meeting. VIA Rail will participate virtually.</p> <p><b>Next Update: 2-3-23 NGEC Annual Meeting</b></p>
<p><b>Status CRISI Grant Application:</b></p> <p>On 12-13-22, Tim Ziethen reported that the CRISI Grant for funding for the NGEC was submitted on time (early). He thanked the Board for its feedback – especially in light of the short turnaround time.</p> <p>Tim has requested a count on the number of support letters received and included with the application package.</p> <p>Tim added that the Amtrak grants office was impressed with the number of support letters and the enthusiasm for this application.</p> <p>The grants office also noted that the application was a strong and well put together document.</p> <p>Tim will confirm whether or not FRA and/or Amtrak is still accepting letters of support.</p> <p>On 1-24-23, Ray Hessinger asked Tim to confirm the number of letters of support submitted with the application. Ray wants to include them in his Chairman’s remarks.</p> <p>Tim will follow up.</p>
<p><b>Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive and Venture Cars Experience:</b></p> <p>Updates will be provided during the NGEC Annual Meeting.</p> <p><b>Next Update: 2-3-23 NGEC Annual Meeting</b></p>
<p><b>NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting as of 1-24-23:</b></p> <p>The Annual meeting DRAFT agenda is close to Final with a few speakers and times yet to be confirmed. All documents were submitted to AASHTO for printing and inserting in folders except a few items Steve Hewitt will bring with him to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Next Update – 2-21-23 – summary update from the Chair</b></p>
<p><b>Status of 2022 Priorities as of 1-24-23:</b></p> <p><b>Priority Area:</b> Review/Update the Bi-level specification currently in Revision C.4. With Amtrak looking at using some of the funding from the new IIJA for its western fleet, it makes sense for the NGEC to review and update the Bi-Level car specification.</p> <p><b>Action as of 1-24-23:</b> The technical subcommittee approved the DCRs as recommended by the working groups and has provided them to the NGEC Executive Board Chair. The Chair has tasked technical consultant Larry Salci with conducting a review and preparing the Review Panek Report with Recommendations.</p> <p><b>Priority Area:</b> Review the car body materials issue from a broader perspective for all NGEC equipment not only DMUs. Ray would like to take a look at developing a consistent approach for all of the NGEC vehicle specifications.</p> <p><b>Action as of 1-24-23:</b> The Carbody Materials Working Group has about completed its work and will submit its recommendations to the Technical subcommittee in early 2023.</p> <p><b>Priority Area:</b> Review “emerging technologies”: On the technical subcommittee call of 12-9-21 the topic of emerging</p>

technologies for propulsion was raised. Ray Hessinger believed that the technical subcommittee should conduct a scan of the industry regarding emerging technologies for propulsion and how they relate to the NGENC.

**Action as of 1-24-23:** A presentation during the NGENC Annual Meeting by Caltrans on its efforts and on the Stadler Rail Hydrogen Fuel Cell Multiple Unit Trains is scheduled. Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans will give the presentation.

**Priority Area:** Review and consider using the Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Specification organizational changes to determine if they should be adopted by the NGENC and applied across the board to all NGENC specifications. This would be an administrative change not impacting technical content of any of the specifications and could be resolved by the Executive Board.

**Action as of 1-24-23** -This is included in the DCM action Plan and will follow the Bi-Level Car Specification update or may begin simultaneously with making updates to that specification. Tammy Krause and the Technical Writer, Camren Cordell, have gone through the Metro-North Dual Mode locomotive specification format and have compared it to the PRIIA format. They are in the process of incorporating the Metro-North Dual Mode Specification's administrative/format changes into the Bi-Level Specification and will do the same for each of the PRIIA specifications as they are updated.

**Priority Area:** Review/update NGENC Reference and Drawings series 305-900 and 305-800.

**Action as of 1-24-23:** This item is on the DCM action plan for 2022 – no activity on reviewing the reference documents per se, but Tammy Krause, Document Control Manager will be working with Jeff Gordon to create a new reference specification to address the Volpe Center information on CEM.

**Action: This activity will be carried over into 2023.**

**Next Meeting -2-3-23 NGENC 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Next regular Executive Board Webex meeting – 2-21-23**

## NGEC Executive Board Meeting

1-24-23

11:30 AM – 12:30 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 1-10-23   | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Update: Document Control   | Tammy Krause  |
| a. Results: Technical subcommittee review of Bi-Level Specification DCRs and next steps                 |               |
| b. Status: developing work plan and budget for the technical writer through the current grant period    |               |
| 6. Convene – NGENC Bi-Level Specification Review Panel<br>Fill Vacancies in Specification Review Panels | Ray Hessinger |



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|--|---------------|
| 7. 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting            | Steve         |
| - Finalize Agenda                      |               |
| - Confirm Speakers                     |               |
| - Confirm attendance by Board members. |               |
| - Current Registration                 |               |
| 8. FASC Update                         | Tim Ziethen   |
| - Balance/Spend Rate                   |               |
| 9. Other                               | All           |
| 10. Adjourn                            | Ray Hessinger |

**Next – 2-3-23 NGEC 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**