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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

MARCH 21 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, Tim Ziethen, John Oimoen, Jeff Gordon, Amanda Martin, Troy Hughes, Jason Orthner, Jason Biggs, Richard Kedzior, Gurleen Boparai for Kyle Gradinger, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II <b>Support Staff and Colleagues:</b> Steve Hewitt, Jon Dees, Shayne Gill, Barley Fields, Larry Salci, Mike Murray, Tammy Krause,
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members: Support:</b> George Hull, Joe Paul, Patrick Centolanzi, Strat Cavros, Dave Warner

### 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 could not immediately confirm the presence of a quorum, with Amtrak not being represented. Later in the meeting, Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, joined the call and a quorum was confirmed.

**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.

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

The 2023 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available electronically or in hard copy by request from Steve Hewitt. It is also posted on the NGEC website [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org).

To date: 330 copies have been distributed.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGEC website or by request from Steve Hewitt.

**Next Update - 2024 – NGEC 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 Procurement:**

On 3-21-23 – Ray Hessinger provided the following update. He also asked that – from now on – this be put on the second Executive Board meeting agenda each month due to the timing of him receiving updates from Metro-North.

- 
- Siemens is preparing a Change Offer for Bench Test Equipment (BTE) per Metro North’s direction.*
- 
- MNR is reviewing Change Offer COR-10 Maximum Weight Increase – Phase 1 – DEF tank*
- 
- FAI execution and planning continued through the month of February with motor and gear box FAI ,coming up in March 2023.*
- 
- Monthly Quality Meeting took place during the face-to-face project meeting on February 22nd.*
- 
- Metro North and Siemens are planning a pre-FAI current collector shoe review meeting with Schunk in NYC on March 28th and 29th.*
- 
- System Test progressed with ultra cap rack and alternator start testing.*
- 
- SMI submitted 34 FDR documents to MNR and received comments back from MNR on all of them, 28 topics are closed.*

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

As of 3-7-23:

On the Acela – Work is progressing well with one trainset now in production.

On the Charger Locomotives – There are thirty locomotives – twenty-eight have been shipped. Two are to be shipped in the next few weeks. There are twenty in service. They are operating on the Empire Builder, the City of New Orleans and the Coast Starlight.

On the new Airos – they continue with Final Design Review and the first shell is now in production.

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 3-7-23 Meeting– Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

On a motion by Troy Hughes, MODOT, and a second by Amanda Martin Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 3-7-23 Executive Board Meeting were approved as presented.

**5. Update: Multi-state Venture Car Procurement – Gurleen Boparai for Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

Gurleen Boparai provided the following update for inclusion in today’s minutes (3-21-23):

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

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F test reports are approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Car Complete FAI for Cab Car is tentatively scheduled for June or July.*

*125 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.*

**6. Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following timeline for the completion of the technical writing for the Bi-Level Specification

update to Revision D.

- Timeline to complete Bi-Level technical writing.

*I met with Camren and we worked out the following timeline for the completion of the Bi-Level Specification:*

<b><i>Task</i></b>	<b><i>Hours</i></b>	<b><i>Timeframe</i></b>
<i>Prepare Table of all changes to the specification</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>3/20 – 4/7</i>
<i>Change the Specification per the approved changes</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>4/8 – 5/19</i>
<i>Review entire specification for any formatting issues</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5/19 – 5/26</i>

*This is a time period of 10 weeks for 70 hours of work, there are 129 changes to be completed.*

Steve Hewitt asked if she had a plan of action for the remaining 6 months of the current performance period. Steve mentioned that he and the Chair had discussed the fact that we do not stop progressing the work of the committee. Yes, we need to be cognizant of the budget, but much of the work that is done – particularly by the technical working groups is in-kind service.

Steve noted that in her presentation at the Annual Meeting, Tammy had provided a list of items to be completed in 2023. Steve had reprinted those in the agenda asking that Tammy provide a plan of how she intends to proceed. (See below – excerpt from the Document Control Annual Meeting presentation).

Steve stressed the point that it is important to continue to move forward with the work and that starts with the technical working groups. They will need direction from the Document Control Manager (Tammy Krause) to proceed with what she deems as the most important work that will advance the NGECC's efforts while awaiting solutions to funding beyond 9-30-2023.

Tammy Krause said that she would rather take this up with the Technical subcommittee on its next call. Steve Hewitt said that is fine, but they will need her direction and recommendations as to what is the next priority – especially in updating specifications.

Ray Hessinger agreed that this can be taken up on the Technical subcommittee call next week. He noted that priority in specification updates should be based on what may be coming up for procurement in the near future.

Ray also agreed with the points made by Steve Hewitt, that the work of the committee should not stop. Yes, the funding is what it is currently, but work should proceed through the working groups and should be prioritized. This work should be based on prioritization while not incurring additional costs.

*Excerpt from Annual Meeting Presentation - below:*

- *Continue to review the APTA PRESS Standards and Recommended Practices for updates that may require changes to our specifications.*
- *Update the Single Level Specification. It is currently at Revision B2, dated 1/12/2019.*
- *Update the Diesel Electric Locomotive Specification. It is currently at Revision B, dated 6/20/2017.*
- *Review "Emerging Technologies" for alternative propulsion options.*

*Carry over from 2022:*

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

On this item – Tammy noted costs would need to be incurred in developing drawings unless Amtrak would take that up.

On the other items above, Tammy will address those with the Technical subcommittee and make assignments to the technical working groups.

**7.  
FASC Update and Treasurer's Report – Tim Ziethen:**

Tim Ziethen reported that there were no changes to the Balance and spend rate provided on the last call. He is still waiting for the January invoice from AASHTO. He stressed that this is the usual timeline and that the January invoices are not late. The invoices always lag a bit.

There were a few adjustments which now include the estimated expenditures for Document Management (Tammy Krause) along with Kasamar and the other expenses above the run rate. The total Forecast Above the Run Rate is now estimated at \$54,477.65 with a negative balance of about \$3,848.40.

He also noted that he has not received any further information from Amtrak grants on the questions he has posed with respect to gap and/or bridge funding options.

Tim added that discussions are ongoing internally (Amtrak), and he hopes to have some updates by the next Executive Board meeting (4-4-23) or possibly sooner - on the FASC call next week (3-29-23).

**Balance/Spend Rate Through December 2023**

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
Expenses Incurred through December 2022: \$1,084,266.24  
Balance remaining: \$165,733.42.  
Estimated spend at current rate for balance of the Grant: \$130,112.01  
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,456.89.  
Estimated Balance at the end of the Grant Period: \$35,621.00.

**Forecast:**

Remaining Funds through December 2022: \$165,733.26  
Balance Run Rate: \$35,621.25  
Carry Forward Balance: \$15,008.00  
**Available: \$50,629.25**

**Expenses Above Run Rate:**

Larry Salci: Tech Review: \$19,131.35  
Casamar/TLK: \$22,346.30  
Website Refresh: \$10,000.00  
Annual Meeting Travel/Misc.: \$3,000.00

**Forecast Above Run Rate: \$ 54,477.65**

**Balance Favorable/Unfavorable: \$ (3,848.40)**

**8.**

**Other – all:**

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 11:53AM Eastern.

**Next Executive Board Meeting 4-4-23**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Treasurer’s Report – 3-21-23:**

**Balance/Spend Rate Through December 2022:**

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
Expenses Incurred through December 2022: \$1,084,266.24  
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Annual Meeting Travel/Misc.: \$3,000.00

**Forecast Above Run Rate: \$ 54,477.65**

**Balance Favorable/Unfavorable: \$ (3,848.40)**

**Path Forward:**

On 3-7-23, the Executive Board accepted the FASC Recommendations to:

Continue to monitor the current funding and expenditures closely.

Accept the reduced scope and budget for Casamar through 9-30-23.

Continue to look at alternate funding sources.

Make a hard decision no later than June 2023 based on what happens with the CRISI Grant application.

Request other Amtrak projects sources to fill the gap if there is a shortfall - possibly \$10-\$15,000.

Look for bridge funds or pre-award funding depending on the results of the CRISI Grant application.

**Ongoing****2023 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:**

The 2023 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available electronically or in hard copy by request from Steve Hewitt. It is also posted on the NGENC website [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org).

To date: 330 copies have been distributed (hard/soft).

**Status – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 3-21-23:**

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

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F test reports are approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Car Complete FAI for Cab Car is tentatively scheduled for June or July.*

*125 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 – 4-4-23****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."

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**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Status - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 3-21-23**

On 3-21-23 – Ray Hessinger provided the following update. He also asked that – from now on – this be put on the second Executive Board meeting agenda each month due to the timing of him receiving updates from Metro-North.

.

*Siemens is preparing a Change Offer for Bench Test Equipment (BTE) per Metro North's direction.*

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*MNR is reviewing Change Offer COR-10 Maximum Weight Increase – Phase 1 – DEF tank*

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*FAI execution and planning continued through the month of February with motor and gear box FAI, coming up in March 2023.*

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*Monthly Quality Meeting took place during the face-to-face project meeting on February 22nd.*

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*Metro North and Siemens are planning a pre-FAI current collector shoe review meeting with Schunk in NYC on March 28th and 29th.*

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*System Test progressed with ultra cap rack and alternator start testing.*

.

*SMI submitted 34 FDR documents to MNR and received comments back from MNR on all of them, 28 topics are closed.*

**Next Update – 4-18-23**

**Status - Amtrak Vehicle Procurements as of 3-7-23:**

On the Acela – Work is progressing well with one trainset now in production.

On the Charger Locomotives – There are thirty locomotives – twenty-eight have been shipped. Two are to be shipped in the next few weeks. There are twenty in service. They are operating on the Empire Builder, the City of New Orleans and the Coast Starlight.

On the Airo trainsets– they continue with Final Design Review and the first shell is now in production.

**Next Update – 4-4-23**

**Status - Document Control Management as of 3-21-23:**

**See above for update details.**

**Action:** On the 3-30-23 Technical subcommittee call, Tammy Krause will address with the Technical subcommittee issues related to prioritizing work going forward through the end of the current grant performance period. Following the discussion and input from members Tammy will make assignments to the technical working groups. The intent is to move forward and be in position to complete updates with technical writing and technical review once new funding is in place.

**Next Update -4-4-23**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2023 NGEN Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGEN website or by request from Steve Hewitt.

**Next Update: 2024 – NGEN Annual Meeting**

**Status CRISI Grant Application:**

On 12-13-22, Tim Ziethen reported that the CRISI Grant for funding for the NGEN was submitted on time (early). He thanked the Board for its feedback – especially in light of the short turnaround time.

Tim has requested a count on the number of support letters received and included with the application package.

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Tim added that the Amtrak grants office was impressed with the number of support letters and the enthusiasm for this application.

The grants office also noted that the application was a strong and well put together document.

It is anticipated that the timeline for announcing which CRISI Grant applications are approved is May-June 2023.

**Next Update: As appropriate.**

**Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive and Venture Cars Experience:**

Detailed Updates were provided during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**Next Update: As appropriate**

**Next Meeting -4-4-23**

### **NGEC Executive Board Meeting**

**3-21-23**

**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**

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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 3-7-23 Exec Board Meeting | Ray Hessinger   |
| 5. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement        | Gurleen Boparai |
| 6. Update: Document Control                           | Tammy Krause    |
- Timeline to complete Bi-Level technical writing.
  - Executing 2023 – work plan:

Excerpt from Annual Meeting Presentation - below:

- Continue to review the APTA PRESS Standards and Recommended Practices for updates that may require changes to our specifications.
- Update the Single Level Specification. It is currently at Revision B2, dated 1/12/2019.
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- Review "Emerging Technologies" for alternative propulsion options.

Carry over from 2022:

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

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7. FASC Update

Tim Ziethen

- Balance/Spend Rate
- Review of anticipated expenses and budget through 9-30-23
- Gap Funding and Bridge funding options

8. Other

All

9. Adjourn

Ray Hessinger

**Next meeting 4-4-23**