As reported in the May edition of The Postal Record, the contract to design and produce the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) was awarded on Feb. 23 to Oshkosh Defense. Since the awarding of the contract to replace the current fleet of delivery vehicles, Oshkosh Defense has been working on the initial design of the first production models of the NGDV. Its design is based on specifications developed by the Postal Service after discussions with representatives of NALC.

In July, a group of 21 letter carriers selected by NALC traveled to Oshkosh, WI, to review Oshkosh’s design and provide feedback. Two of those included in the group, Amanda Greer of St. Paul, MN Branch 28 and Reed Ordoyne of Houma-Thibodeaux-Lockport, LA Branch 2464, were part of the initial group of carriers who met with Postal Service representatives in 2014, at the beginning of the process.

During the two days in July that the group spent in Oshkosh, the carriers had the opportunity to inspect the features of the NGDV and ask questions of Postal Service engineers and representatives of Oshkosh Defense. After reviewing the new NGDV, each carrier subsequently had a chance to provide feedback, both oral and written, about the vehicle’s positive features and about what could be improved.

Going forward, the NGDV team, which includes NALC Director of City Delivery Christopher Jackson as well as Oshkosh Defense personnel, will review the feedback from the carriers and decide which changes should be made to the final design of the new NGDVs. Once the final design is approved, Oshkosh will begin building prototype vehicles, which will go through several rounds of testing. These tests will include durability testing of the vehicle and its components, as well as testing of the vehicle during delivery conditions. Once all testing has been completed, Oshkosh plans to begin production of the NGDVs in Spartanburg, SC, for delivery to the Postal Service. PR