

MAY  
2014



# MnFCP

## Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – DIVISION OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS



The Department of Public Safety (DPS) – Division of Emergency Communications Networks (ECN) is pleased to launch this inaugural edition of the State of Minnesota FirstNet Consultation Project (MnFCP) Newsletter. The Newsletter will be published quarterly over the next two years to provide our statewide stakeholders insight and status into the MnFCP and to better familiarize the community on the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), and the work that FirstNet, the authority tasked with implementing the NPSBN, is undertaking to advance the implementation.

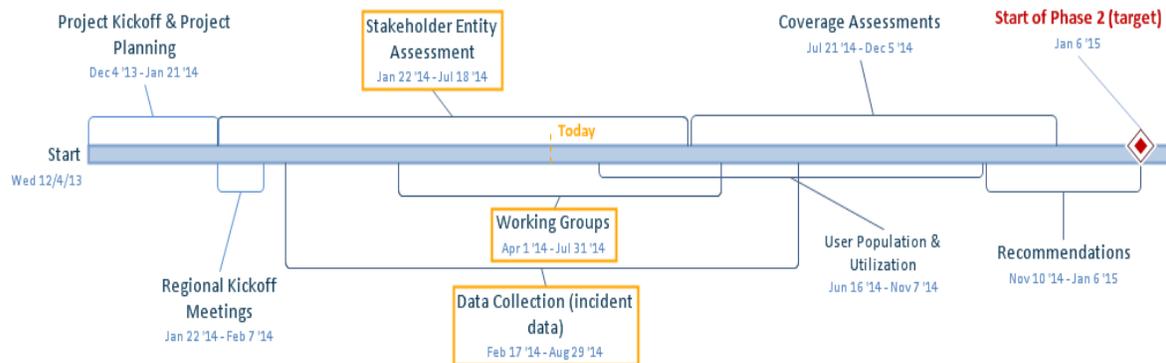
The MnFCP project team is leading our State effort to define stakeholder requirements, and to assemble information regarding the size of the network end user population, types of devices and applications, to assess governance implications, and to develop a strategic plan to support the State’s consultation with FirstNet regarding the rollout of the NPSBN within the State.



## MnFCP/FirstNet News

The State of Minnesota FirstNet Consultation Project (MnFCP) was initiated in January of 2014 with regional kickoff meetings being conducted throughout the State to introduce the MnFCP, to familiarize our stakeholder community with the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and FirstNet. Since the completion of the regional meetings, the project team has advanced the program schedule as illustrated in the MnFCP Working Schedule. The current emphasis is focused on the next series of important tasks highlighted in the timeline and detailed below:

1. Stakeholder Entity Assessment
2. Working Group Recommendations
3. Incident Data Collection



**Stakeholder Entity Assessment:** In conducting the Stakeholder Entity Assessment, the project team is reaching out to all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) to confirm the primary points of contacts (POC) for all public safety response entities within the State. We are tallying both first responders (e.g., Law Enforcement, Fire & EMS, and Emergency Management) as well as secondary responder support agencies (e.g., Departments of Health, Transportation, etc.). The Regional Interoperability Coordinators (RICs) are leading the effort and interacting with the PSAPs to identify and collect the POC information. The POCs will act as a gateway into their respective agencies to gather relevant information on wireless broadband utilization including the end user population, the number and types of devices (smartphones, mobile routers, pads, wireless cards, etc.), applications/use cases and the network coverage priorities. The project team looks to the POCs to further advance the MnFCP outreach efforts by disseminating news about the project and in gathering the required information.

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**Incident Data Collections:** In addition to the identification of the stakeholder entities, the RICs are busy collecting Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Incident Data from the PSAPs. The project team will process the incident data to complete the MN-PSBN coverage assessment and requirements tasks. Three years of incident data is being collected, 2011, 2012 and 2013. All incidents will be geocoded to map their location per incident type. As the stakeholders identify the applications used to support each incident type, we will then be able to translate these to specific network requirements regarding coverage and capacity. This data will provide a statistical justification for the coverage priorities as defined by the local jurisdictions. Thus far, we have made good progress in collecting the data; we now have valuable incident data from over 15 different PSAPs. For PSAPs who are unable to comply or facilitate the request for data, the project team is investigating alternative options to support this information gathering effort.

**Working Group Recommendations:** Five (5) distinct Working Groups have been established to define statewide recommendations and requirements with regard to: Applications, Coverage, Devices, System and Security. The Working Groups are made up of volunteers from all corners of the state. There are 46 participants in all from state, city and local government agencies and include a mixture of all public safety disciplines. The Applications and Coverage working groups have already made considerable progress. The Devices Working Group is set to kickoff shortly, and will be followed by the Systems and Security Working Groups later in the summer. For additional information on the MnFCP Working Groups, please visit <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/broadband.aspx>. If you are interested in joining a Working Group, please contact a member of the project team.

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**What's next?** *User Population Assessment & Utilization Criteria. Once the points of contacts are established at the stakeholder entity level, the project team will release short and easy to complete surveys that seek to establish the likely and potential user populations. Stakeholders will also be queried about their preferred devices, how they intend to use the new network, and obtain other information critical to the success of the MnFCP.*

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## FirstNet News

### Minnesota Delivers State Consultation Package

FirstNet delivered the consultation package that included guidance and a readiness checklist designed to increase FirstNet's understanding of state's unique requirements in developing the underlying state plans to support the implementation of the NPSBN. The State of Minnesota was the first in the nation to respond, submitting a 99-page report to FirstNet on May 2, 2014.

To read the FirstNet press release and obtain additional information, please visit:

<http://www.firstnet.gov/news/firstnet-delivers-state-consultation-packages>

For additional information and news on FirstNet, please visit: <http://www.firstnet.gov/>

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## Technical Brief

### What is Wireless Broadband?

Broadband commonly refers to high-speed communications to content and information over the internet or the office intranet. It is typically described by the amount of data transferred as bits per second or “bps.” Wireless broadband provides *mobile* access to the internet. There are many short-range standards for wireless broadband such as the 802.11, or WiFi, family of standards (a, b, g & n) that many of us use at home or in the office to provide mobile access.

There are many additional wireless standards that support wide area nationwide broadband services, including those delivered over the cellular telephone network. There is one predominate worldwide standard, LTE or Long Term Evolution. LTE is referred to as the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of cellular standards; in fact “4G” has become synonymous with the term “LTE” and is often referred to as “4G LTE.”

### Why wireless broadband for Public Safety?

In the last 10 years, more and more public safety agencies have integrated commercial wireless broadband, and the applications supported by these networks, into their daily operations. First Responders are often equipped with smartphones, mobile data terminals, laptops, and tablets which communicate wirelessly with their home networks (intranets) and that provide access to the internet. Robust broadband communications improves the safety and efficiency of the responder community in the field, and it also provides them many new capabilities and access to data applications that compliment radio communications.

These new capabilities aid efficiency (email, remote reporting, e-ticketing), provide greater situational awareness (real-time location tracking of assets and personnel, streaming video), provide access to important databases (NCIC lookups, incident reporting), and facilitate access to the many varied resources required to support the response and mitigation of emergency events that threaten life or property.

The Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), to be implemented by FirstNet, will inspire new ways of performing public safety functions that are more effective and efficient. In the future, public safety will have purpose-built applications and a new ecosystem that will provide agencies with incredible opportunities to improve service to their communities.

## Your Project Team

You are encouraged to contact the project team at any time! We would be happy to answer your questions or hear your concerns.

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For more information on the MnFCP, the NPSBN and FirstNet, please visit ECN’s website for all project news and access to in-depth training modules on this subject and others: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/broadband.aspx>