

June
2016



MnFCP

Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – DIVISION OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS



What would you do with wireless broadband?

Over the past five years, nearly all law enforcement agencies have integrated wireless data into their daily operations. Agencies write tickets in the field on ruggedized notebooks, process automatic feeds of license plates, and utilize mapping services as if they were in the office. However, commercial network limitations still exist in the form of congestion, low throughput and insufficient coverage. To some degree, these limitations have restricted the adoption of more data-intensive applications, such as:

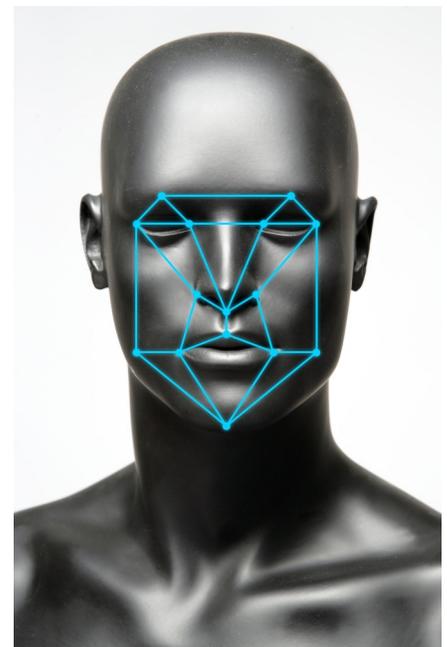
Streaming video.

Multimedia field reporting (photos, statements, etc.).

Facial recognition software for smartphones.

Real-time incident mapping.

A truly dedicated wireless broadband network, such as FirstNet, offers countless opportunities for law enforcement to use technologies to save time and lives. For example, law enforcement may want to scan fingerprints through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database to compare against known watch lists or identify potential suspects. FirstNet would allow them to do so.



FirstNet is Coming!

FirstNet promises to address the limitation of commercial services by building a new interoperable network that is designed for mission-critical data. FirstNet is on a mission to deploy and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. At the beginning of 2016, FirstNet released a request for proposal (RFP) to select a vendor to build the network. FirstNet expects to have the vendor under contract by the end of 2016.

For more information on FirstNet, please visit FirstNet.gov

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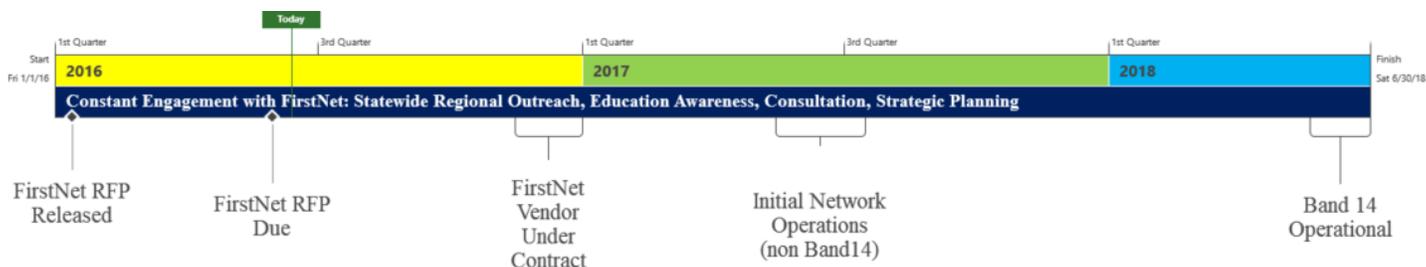
How does this affect end users?

FirstNet will function like a new wireless carrier, which means users will need to subscribe to the service. Subscribers will then need to purchase new devices with new chipsets to use the network. Alternatively, FirstNet plans to offer public safety agency employees and volunteers the opportunity to use their own devices (a practice commonly referred to as BYOD, or “bring your own device”). These commercial devices will undergo the same approval process for use on the network. The details on this option are pending the selection of a vendor.

The new network is designed to replace the subscriber’s existing commercial service. Although details are still in flux, FirstNet promises to be competitively priced. The procurement process includes provisions for the administration to influence adoption by reducing prices and applying penalties if adoption goals are not met. This really is about public safety having the best network possible.

Deployment in Minnesota

FirstNet is currently working with the state to develop Minnesota’s phased roll-out deployment plan and review coverage areas. The plan will then be reviewed by leadership. Users will still have a choice between FirstNet and a commercial provider. Any migration plan can be done at the agency level, as it is today.



Timeline for service

The remainder of 2016 will be very busy. FirstNet started the RFP response evaluations on June 1. That will be followed by contract negotiations. FirstNet’s current target is to award a winning vendor and then offer wireless data service to public safety agencies and personnel by 2018.

We encourage you to check the project’s website regularly for updates: go to dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn and select “Wireless Broadband” from the menu at the top.