

May 2017

## A message from the SPOC about FirstNet

*Curtis M. Wood , FirstNet Single Point of Contact and  
EOPSS Undersecretary for Forensic Science and Technology*



Thank you for your ongoing interest in FirstNet and its plan to implement the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). Following is a brief update on some of the major activities that have occurred over the past few months.

### FirstNet Contract Awarded

The Secretary of Commerce recently announced that FirstNet has **awarded a contract to AT&T** to build the national public safety broadband network. The announcement was made after a March 2017 decision by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims on a protest filed by another bidder.

FirstNet and AT&T have recently emphasized:

- Their commitment to aggressive public safety pricing – based on continued feedback that coverage must be the same or better at the same or lower cost.
- Their intent to provide access for public safety across Band 14 as well as AT&T's existing network bands. They anticipate that more than 99% of public safety will be covered.
- Their plan to implement priority and preemption for public safety on Band 14 as well as AT&T's existing network bands. Quality of service, priority, and preemption (QPP) are expected to be available within 12 months on all AT&T LTE bands.

### Meeting with Governor Baker

In April, representatives from FirstNet and AT&T came to Boston to meet with Governor Baker and Secretary Dan Bennett. The meeting was intended to help inform and support the Governor's upcoming decision to "Opt In" and accept the plan provided by FirstNet or "Opt Out" and develop Massachusetts' own radio access network. FirstNet and AT&T have also been meeting with other public safety leaders throughout the Commonwealth and country.

### Massachusetts State Plan Update

FirstNet and AT&T are working on the State Plans, which will include specifics on how the network will be built, financed, deployed, and operated in each state. Each governor will have 90 days to review its final State Plan and decide whether to "Opt In" or "Opt Out".

- Last week, FirstNet and AT&T provided each state with a Guidance Package and Checklist for the State Plan. These are to be followed shortly by a draft version of the State Plan for review and comment.

- The current goal is to provide Massachusetts with its draft State Plan in early summer and the final version this fall. Each state will have 45 days to review and comment on the draft plan.
- Large portions of the State Plan will be available to interested stakeholders via an online portal.
- In June, we plan to attend a meeting for the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) to learn more about the process and timeframes. More to follow based on that meeting.

---

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Safety Broadband Office at [psbo@state.ma.us](mailto:psbo@state.ma.us) or visit our website at [www.mass.gov/psbo](http://www.mass.gov/psbo).

Sincerely,

Curtis M. Wood  
*Undersecretary for Forensic Science & Technology*  
*Secretariat Chief Information Officer*  
*Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Single Point of Contact with FirstNet*