

April 2018

## *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) here in Massachusetts. The following is a brief update on some of the major activities that have occurred over the past few months.

### **FirstNet Opt In Decision**

In December, Governor Baker agreed to “opt in” to the State Plan prepared by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and its national vendor, AT&T, for public safety wireless data services in Massachusetts. The decision was made after a careful review of the options, including information learned through a Request for Response (RFR) for alternative vendors to develop and maintain the public safety network should Massachusetts have decided to opt out.

A sincere thank you to the members of the Massachusetts FirstNet Advisory Board (MFAB) and other public safety stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth who provided insight and information to help support the Governor’s decision. All US states and territories have elected to opt in.

Please note that “opting in” is a procedural agreement to allow FirstNet and AT&T to build the public safety network in Massachusetts. It is not an endorsement. While we are hopeful that the new FirstNet data services will be successful, there are still many aspects of the State Plan that need to be implemented.

### **Statewide Contract Updates**

In March, both AT&T (FirstNet) and Verizon Wireless [announced the launch of their respective public safety network cores](#). The decision on what data services your agency uses is up to you. You do not have to buy FirstNet services. AT&T and other vendors need to earn your business. You may pick the provider you think best serves your organization and your community. If you are comfortable with your current services, you can keep them as long as you want or until you see a compelling reason to switch to another vendor.

The Public Safety Broadband Office is working with the Commonwealth’s Operational Services Division (OSD) to create statewide contracts for all vendors providing public safety mobile data plans. Our hope is that these new statewide contracts will be established shortly. We are working with the vendors to include the best possible features and rates in these contracts. More to follow on how to access and use the new statewide contracts, once they are finalized.

## FirstNet Applications

FirstNet has established the FirstNet App Program for vendors to develop and certify first responder related applications for inclusion in the FirstNet catalog of app solutions. Per FirstNet, the program is intended to help encourage public safety focused innovation to help equip first responders with state-of-the-art communication tools. The Public Safety Broadband Office will continue to monitor the progress of the FirstNet App Program closely and will help establish processes for using certified applications in Massachusetts. We are also working with AT&T to ensure secure CJIS access for its customers.

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## FirstNet Questions?

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*

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