

September 2016

## A message from the SPOC about FirstNet

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EOPSS Undersecretary for Forensic Science and Technology*



On behalf of the Massachusetts Public Safety Broadband Office (PSBO), thank you for your ongoing interest and support of the work we are collectively doing to support FirstNet in its plan to implement the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). I wanted to take a moment to provide you with a brief update on some of the major activities that have occurred over the past few months.

### FirstNet Update (in 150 words or less)

Here is what you need to know about the status of FirstNet:

- FirstNet is currently evaluating responses to its [request for proposal](#) to build the public safety wireless data network. FirstNet plans to select a vendor by November.
- The Massachusetts [State Plan](#), which details the specifics of how the network will be built here in the Commonwealth, is planned to be provided to the PSBO in early 2017. Large portions of the plan will be available to all interested stakeholders via a FirstNet online portal.
- Each governor will have 90 days to review its final state plan and determine whether to accept the plan provided by FirstNet or conduct its own deployment of a radio access network. This decision is expected by the summer or fall of next year.
- FirstNet has approved a \$6.5 billion budget for network buildout starting in 2017.

### Massachusetts and FirstNet Host Regional Planning Meeting on Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption Needs

In June, FirstNet and the EOPSS PSBO held a northeast [regional planning meeting](#) at MEMA in Framingham to discuss how the National Public Safety Broadband Network will meet the “mission critical” requirements of public safety. A key planned differentiator of the NPSBN will be what FirstNet refers to as [Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption](#) (or QPP for short). QPP aims to assure that public safety users always have the wireless data resources they need, when they need it. The outcomes of how QPP will be implemented in the NPSBN will be documented in the state plans expected early next year. For more information on how QPP is planned to work, check out [our blog](#).

### Answering Your Questions about FirstNet

The PSBO continues to use our blog to answer questions that you may have about FirstNet and the NPSBN. Some of our recent blogs cover:

- [How is the NPSBN going to improve how public safety uses its technology?](#)
- [How is this network going to be different from existing wireless data networks?](#)

- [Does Public Safety in Massachusetts have to use the NPSBN? How would we go about using the NPSBN if we were interested?](#)
- What is the FirstNet State Plan and what is the “opt out” option? (coming on September 20)

Go to <http://blog.mass.gov/psbo/> to view these and other blog postings, or send us an email at [psbo@state.ma.us](mailto:psbo@state.ma.us) if you would like us to answer a question.

## Information in Your Professional Newsletters

Look for our recent articles in the following professional publications:

- Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, *Inside Information* (April 2016)
- Department of Fire Service, *All Hands Herald* (September 2016)
- Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters Association, *Smoke Showin’* (fall 2016)

These articles cover frequently asked questions specific to the different first responder disciplines. [Email us](#) if you would like us to contribute to one of your professional publications.

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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,

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To unsubscribe to future mailings, email us at [leave-eps-public\\_safety\\_broadband@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:leave-eps-public_safety_broadband@listserv.state.ma.us).  
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