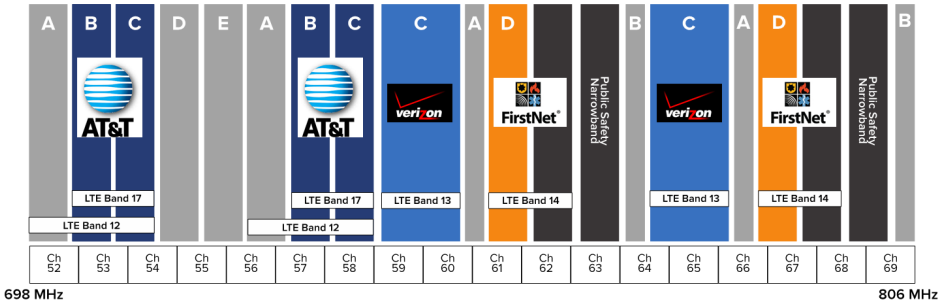
Wisconsin Public Safety Broadband
Quarterly Newsletter | September 2016

Introduction to FirstNet

What if first responders had access to a cellular data network that was always available, even when major carrier networks were down due to natural disasters or major events? Public safety communications is key to saving lives and first responders need priority and preemption over regular commercial traffic to complete their life saving missions.

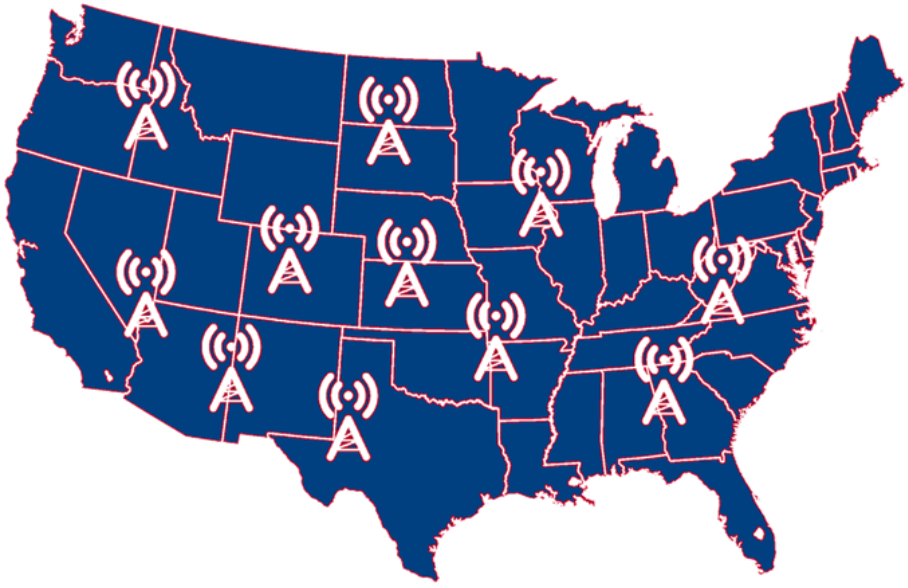
This is where the new, nationwide initiative known as FirstNet comes in.

The U.S. Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 ("The Act") created FirstNet, an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), charged with building a nationwide high-speed broadband cellular data network exclusively for public safety. The Act included $7B in funding and 20 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band—the same amount of spectrum Verizon uses in its nationwide 4G LTE network.



FirstNet Spectrum

FirstNet's mission is to provide first responders with a nationwide private cellular data network built to public safety standards, providing interoperability, priority, coverage and capacity.



Meet Our Team

Dennis Fortunato, SPOC

Mr. Fortunato retired in January 2009 from the Fond du Lac Police Department after 31 years at the rank of Major in the position of Assistant Chief of Police. He attended the FBI National Academy's 204th Session, has a Bachelor of Science Degree (Quality and Productivity Management) from Marian College, and an MBA from Cardinal Stritch University. During his career with the Fond du Lac Police Department, Mr. Fortunato worked as the accreditation manager during the Department's accreditation process and also was assigned to the Department's SWAT Team from 1985 until 2000 in the capacities of Team member, sniper, team leader and team commander. He recently worked as the Co-coordinator of the REMS grant for the Fond du Lac School District working on their emergency response plans and procedures as well as instructing District personnel in NIMS and ICS training.

Mr. Fortunato currently works in the position of Deputy Director for the Crime Information Bureau within the Division of Law Enforcement Services of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. He has been appointed as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for WI for the FirstNet Broadband Initiative. He also acts as the Attorney General's designee on the State Interoperability Council.

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Meet Our Team

Molly Boss, Program Manager

Molly Boss began acquiring experience working with public safety when she joined the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) in April 2014 as a Criminal History Records Specialist in the Crime Information Bureau. Throughout the past two years she has broadened her experience working as a Program and Policy Analyst in the TIME & Technical and Interoperability Units at DOJ. She also currently serves as a voting member on the Wisconsin Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Subcommittee and works closely with the Wisconsin State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for FirstNet.

Before joining DOJ, Ms. Boss received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, and her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Bowling Green State University where she participated in research on prisoner reentry.

About WiPSB

The Wisconsin Public Safety Broadband (WiPSB) program, which is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Interoperability Unit, was established to help determine Wisconsin's requirements for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and prepare the State to consult with FirstNet. WiPSB's priority is to ensure that FirstNet produces a network that meets the needs and expectations of Wisconsin's public safety community.

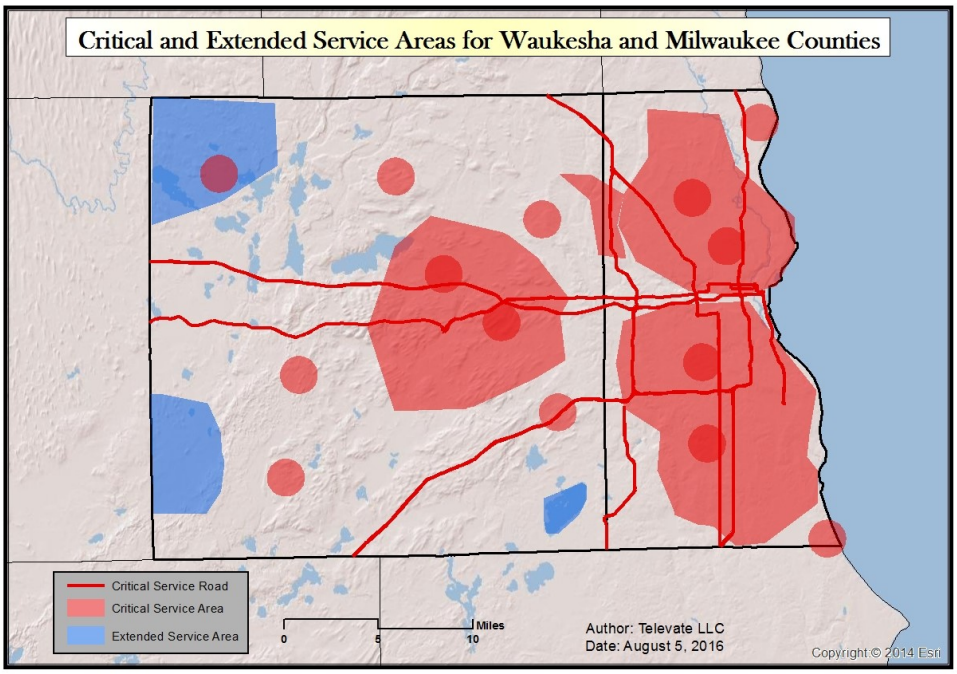
In order to identify assets, locate problematic coverage areas and model a sustainable plan, the WiPSB Project Team will be engaging Wisconsin's public safety stakeholders to provide requirements specific to your agencies. These requirements will be relayed to FirstNet for use in the development of Wisconsin's State Plan and the construction of the network within the State.

Constructing a network to meet the needs of public safety requires your input, and during the course of this project, we will be identifying your wireless broadband needs through survey data and interactive coverage reviews.

Requirements Gathering

Through our web-based **User Population Survey** we will assess the total number of potential NPSBN users, identify device and network requirements, and assess barriers to broadband adoption. In order to ensure that your data contributes to the State's strategic plan **please make sure to complete the User Population Survey by September 16th 2016**.

Interactive **Coverage Review Meetings** will allow first responders from counties, cities, tribes, and State agencies to provide first-hand information about coverage requirements and existing insufficiencies within your jurisdictions. We will hold an individual meeting with each county in the state on an ongoing basis through February 2017.



Sample Coverage Review Outputs

On September 30, 2016, the data that has been gathered to date will be turned over to FirstNet for use in the development of an implementation plan for Wisconsin and will form the foundation of the State's strategic plan.

Schedule your coverage review today with the WiPSB Project Coordinator or your Regional Interoperability Coordinator (RIC).

County Coverage Review Request Contacts:

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Eric Anderson
WC RIC
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Meet Our Team

Gene Oldenburg, SWIC

Gene Oldenburg is the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) for Wisconsin. He is responsible for working with various local, state and federal partners in coordinating numerous public safety voice and data interoperable communications initiatives. He joined the Crime Information Bureau (CIB) at the Wisconsin Department of Justice in September 2014.

Mr. Oldenburg served as a law enforcement officer with the West Milwaukee Police Department for over 32 years. He retired in 2009 after a 17 year tenure as Chief of Police. In 2010, Mr. Oldenburg became the first Regional Interoperability Coordinator (RIC) for the eight counties that comprise the Southeast Wisconsin Region. As one of six regional coordinators in the State, he was responsible for working with the various public safety agencies to improve interoperable radio communications.

After leaving the regional interoperability coordinator position in 2013, Mr. Oldenburg became the Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO) program manager for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at the Statewide Traffic Operations Center (STOC) in downtown Milwaukee. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and is a graduate of the 164th session of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia.

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Meet Our Team

Jessica Jimenez, Program and Policy Analyst

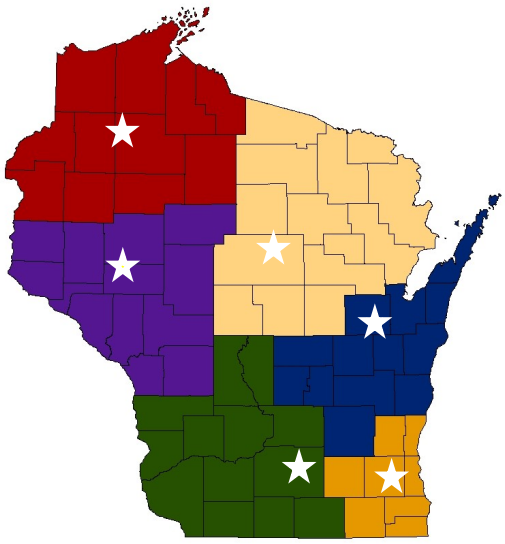
Jessica Jimenez graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in 2015 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Policy and Administration and joined the Interoperability Unit at the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) as a Program and Policy Analyst in April 2016.

Ms. Jimenez began her work in public service in 2011 assisting in a Grants Management program at the former Office of Justice Assistance and has also worked as a Criminal History Records Specialist and a License/Permit Program Associate at DOJ while attending UW-Whitewater. She was appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission in 2011 and was recently nominated as chair of their Youth Engagement Committee. She is eager to learn more about public safety and do her part to assist the FirstNet initiative in Wisconsin.

Outreach Meetings

We appreciate everyone who joined us for our first round of outreach meetings in July. These meetings—which took place throughout the State in Eau Claire, Grand Chute, Hayward, Madison, Waukesha, and Wausau—introduced stakeholders to FirstNet, the objectives of the WiPSB Project, and the WiPSB Project Team who will engage with you throughout the process to make sure your requirements for the network are met.

We will be performing a second round of outreach meetings in early 2017, again visiting each of the six regions to provide information about FirstNet, about our program, and to answer your questions.



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