November 2014

MnFCP
Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – DIVISION OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

Minnesota-FirstNet Initial Consultation

On September 24, 2014, Minnesota was the second state to meet with FirstNet and formally begin the State – FirstNet Consultation Process.[1] The Initial Consultation meeting is the first of an extensive consultation process[2] that FirstNet designed to meet its legal requirement to collect needs from each state for the construction of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). It is important to note that during this consultation process the State will make the ultimate decision of whether to opt in or opt out of the NPSBN.

The meeting was highly interactive. Minnesota stakeholders from first responder agencies across the state conveyed their specific needs directly to FirstNet officials describing past public safety incidents with specific examples of their challenges and communications needs. The State presented its progress on the Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project (MnFCP) and preliminary findings from the Working Groups and requirements gathering process, including the outcomes of completed Coverage Assessments.

County-by-County Coverage Assessments

The goals of each county-by-county Coverage Assessments are to identify and to produce a map showing where each type of coverage is needed. The example to the right shows those areas highlighted in red and blue, along with the locations where a majority of incidents take place (based on historical CAD incident data). At the meeting, Minnesota was able to present results from nine (9) counties and Leech Lake Reservation.

FirstNet was very supportive of the Minnesota's Coverage Assessment process and is looking forward to the additional information that will come from the remaining Minnesota counties.

Preliminary Findings from Working Groups

Five Minnesota volunteer working groups were established to define statewide requirements on issues that affect all users equally. These working groups — Applications/NG911, Coverage, Devices, Security, and System (IT)[3] — are made up of

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[1] To read the FirstNet press release and obtain additional information, please visit:
http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/minnesota-state-plan-consultation-meeting
[2] More information about the multistep process is available in the following FirstNet slide presentation:
http://www.firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/firstnet-update-as-of-july-2014.pptx
[3] Please note that the Security and System (IT) working groups have not yet formally initiated their efforts. There are still opportunities for statewide stakeholders to join these working groups. Please contact the MnFCP project team if you are interested in joining a working group.
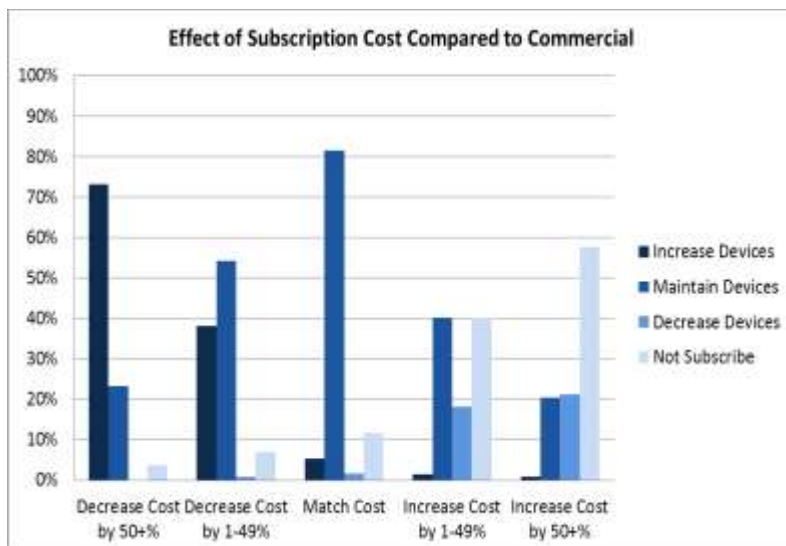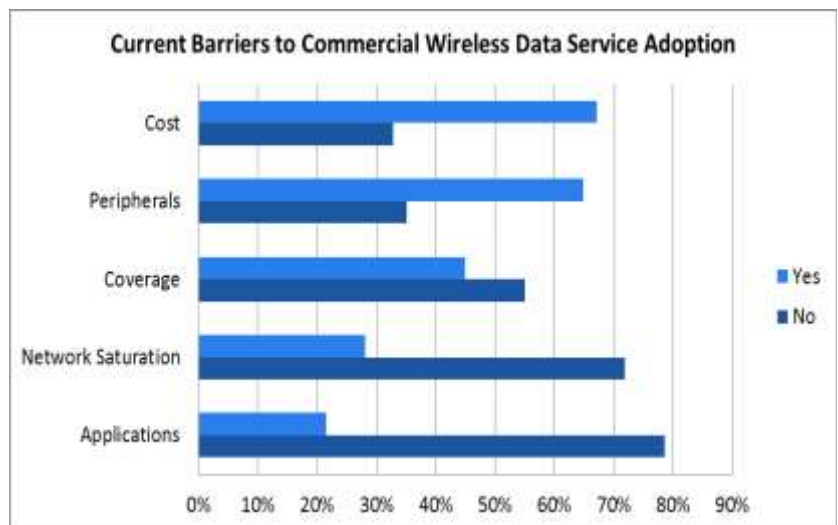
technical and operational experts from a wide variety of agencies across Minnesota. In addition to reviewing and approving the Coverage Assessment process, the working groups have arrived at the following preliminary requirements:

- Required: failover to a commercial network (ability to roam onto Verizon, AT&T and/or other)
- Required: Applications must be accessible while roaming and must retain priority, interoperability requirements, and NG911 support.
- Strongly Desired: Existing consumer form factor devices must be available on the NPSBN, in particular Apple iOS.
- Strongly Desired: Rugged devices must be an option; not all responder use cases call for a specialized, expensive MIL-STD-rated device.

Preliminary Findings from Requirements Gathering

In preparation for the consultation meeting, the MnFCP project team met with nine counties and one tribal nation to develop a comprehensive understanding of their public safety populations and associated NPSBN-based requirements. We conducted over 250 User Population Surveys from agencies in these counties and have relayed to FirstNet the following preliminary results.
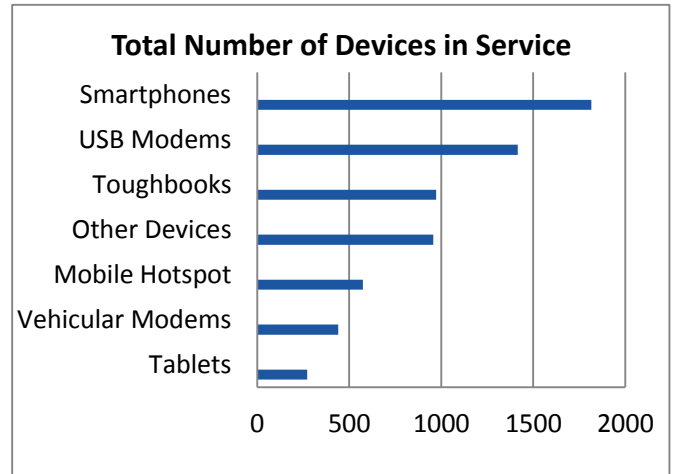
It is important to note that coverage, especially in rural counties, is vital to adoption of the NPSBN by public safety agencies. Many agencies report that if their coverage expectations are not met, the cost is irrelevant because NPSBN will not be adopted.   That said, cost remains the most significant barrier to adoption to date.

The survey results show that if FirstNet services are priced better than commercial services (Verizon, AT&T), there would be an uptick of potential users.

Thus far responders tell us that smartphones and USB modems are the preferred form factors of choice.

If your agency has not yet completed the User Population survey, please complete it as soon as possible using this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MnFCP_User_POP_Plus. The information is fundamental to the MnFCP project and our future consultations with FirstNet.

Total Number of Devices in Service

Other Recent Events

Recently the State submitted comments to two separate public filings; a Public Notice and FirstNet's vendor-centric Request for Information. Many of the points outlined here were addressed in these filings. A copy of these submissions is posted on the ECN/Broadband webpage.[4]

Public Notice

FirstNet's Request for Information
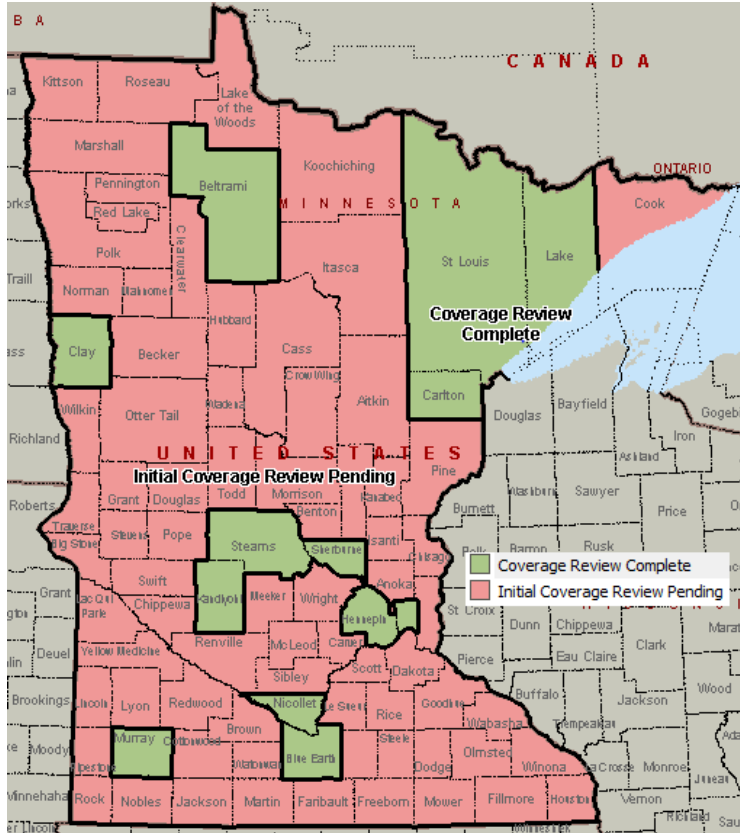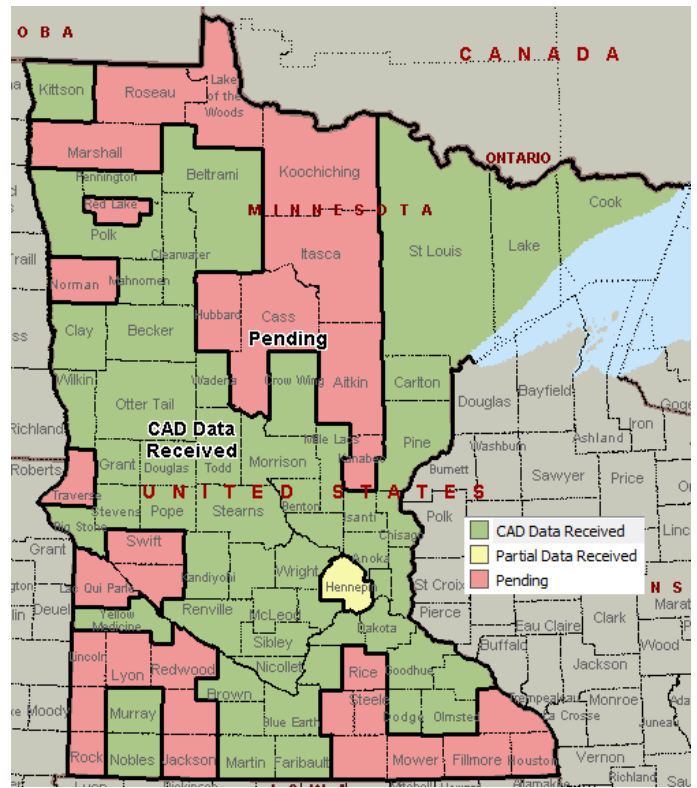

What's Next? – We Need YOUR Help.

The MnFCP project team continues to reach out to all public safety agencies across Minnesota to obtain their input, requirements, and concerns, but we need your help to be successful. We look forward to working with each agency in the State to identify your comprehensive needs.

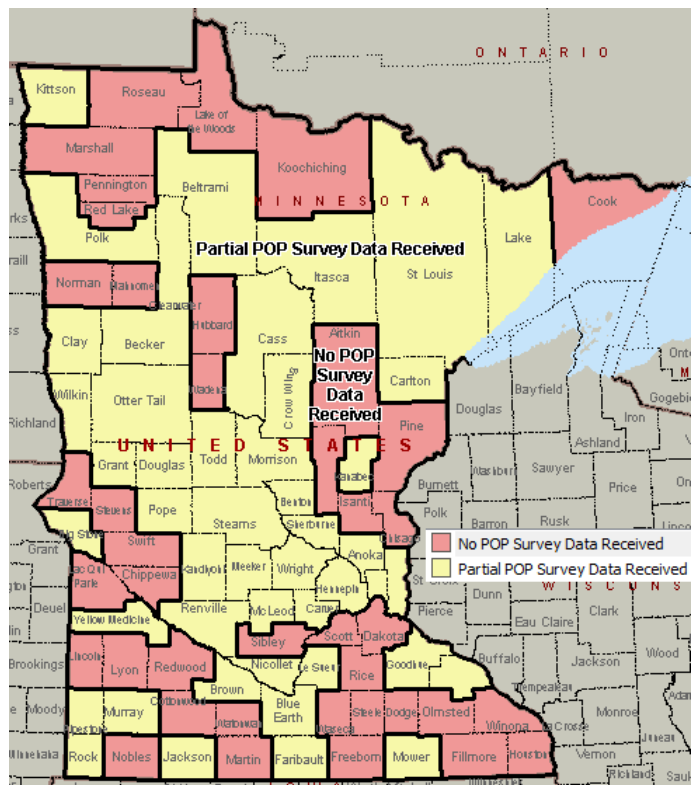[4] https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/broadband.aspx

The following status maps show project progress so far with CAD incident Data collection, User Population Surveys and Coverage Assessments. If you are a PSAP manager and you see your county marked in red in any of these figures, please contact your Regional Interoperability Coordinator or a member of the MnFCP project team immediately.

CAD Data Received

Legend:
- CAD Data Received
- Partial Data Received
- Pending

Coverage Assessment Meetings Completed

Legend:
- Coverage Review Complete
- Initial Coverage Review Pending

User Population Surveys Received

Legend:
- No POP Survey Data Received
- Partial POP Survey Data Received

Your participation is *vital* to ensuring that your specific requirements are documented and conveyed to FirstNet.

The success of this project is dependent on your input!