Request for Information

The State of Minnesota will release a Request for Information (RFI) designed to identify and assess potential public-private partnerships with regard to the implementation of the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The RFI is directed towards commercial carriers, utilities, new market entrants, asset owners, and other interested parties that could provide network solutions and assets that make it feasible to roll out the MN-PSBN.

The data collected will be used as a basis for making an informed decision on the various deployment strategies the State or FirstNet could pursue to build the Minnesota portion of the NPSBN. Ultimately, this information will influence the Governor's decision to opt in or opt out of the FirstNet plan.

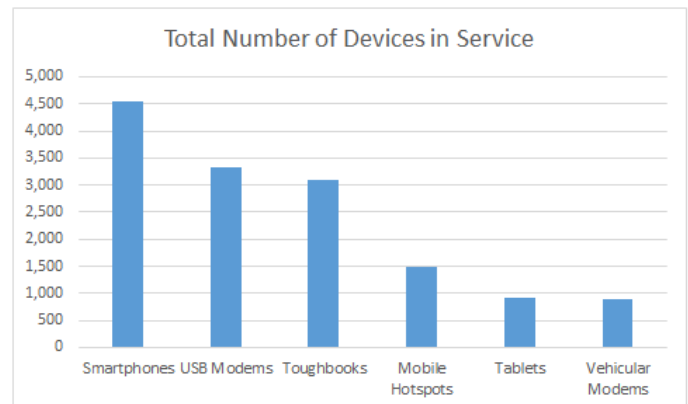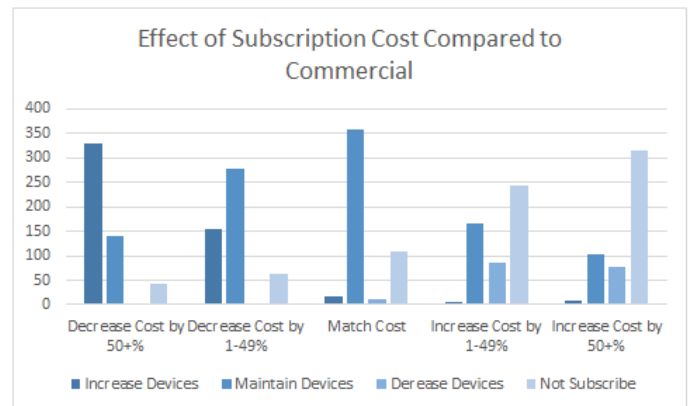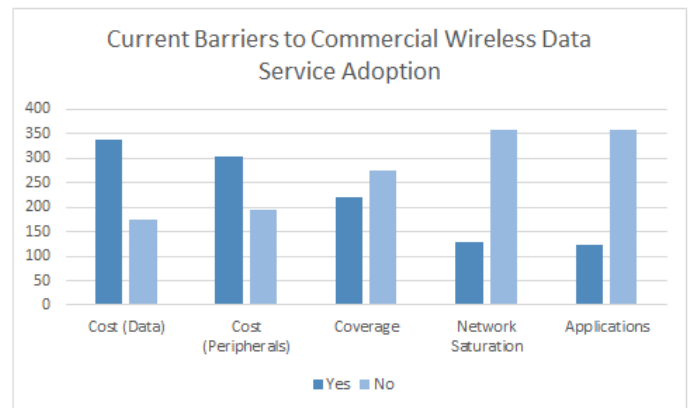## FirstNet Data Collection Elements

FirstNet has released a draft of their required data collection elements that identify the specific data points the States and Territories need to collect. We are proud to say that the majority of the required data elements were foreseen by the State's project team and are already being collected within the Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project (MnFCP). Other items are new and will require further stakeholder outreach. Please be on the lookout for a second survey request designed to gather additional, valuable MnFCP stakeholder information.

User Population Survey

The User Population Survey is a key component for quantifying the user base as well as identifying potential barriers to wireless adoption. The Project Team has sent the survey to every county and public safety entity (PSE) we have on file within the State. Moving forward, we continue to work with the Chiefs, Sheriffs, and Emergency Managers to solicit responses from each PSE.

Completing this survey is important for a number of reasons:

- It is a requirement of the Grant and a key marker in the Consultation process
- Your responses help in the budgeting of the State's strategic plan
- It identifies preferred device types to ensure they are made available on the FirstNet network
- It helps identify barriers to adoption for potential future grant opportunities

Current Barriers to Commercial Wireless Data Service Adoption

Effect of Subscription Cost Compared to Commercial

Total Number of Devices in Service

April 2015

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

The graphs illustrate early survey results received thus far. Participation ensures that your feedback is included, so please make every effort to complete the survey. The survey link is provided below.

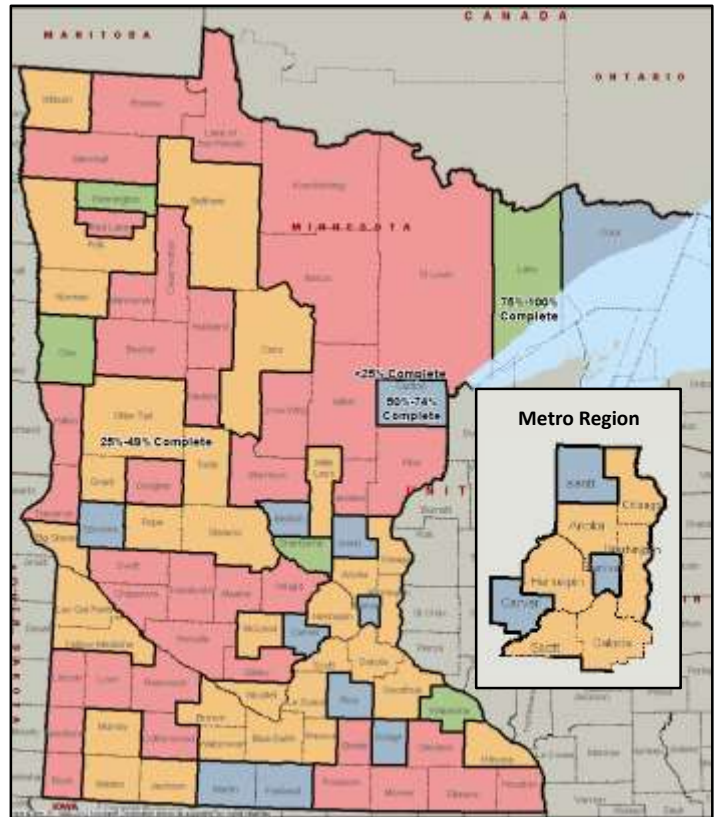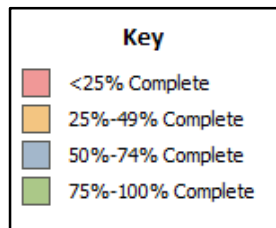https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MnFCP_User_POP_Plus

We are looking to obtain a response from each and every Public Safety Entity in the State!

Overall, the progress to date has been quite encouraging! We have received completed surveys from approximately 35% of all Law Enforcement agencies, 20% of Fire/Rescue agencies, and 20% of EMS/ambulance agencies.

The map shows the completion rate per county. If you have not yet filled out a survey, or if you have begun a survey but have not finished it, please take a few moments to do so now.

Thank you and congratulations to the following counties for attaining a completion rate of 75% or more!

- Clay County
- Lake County
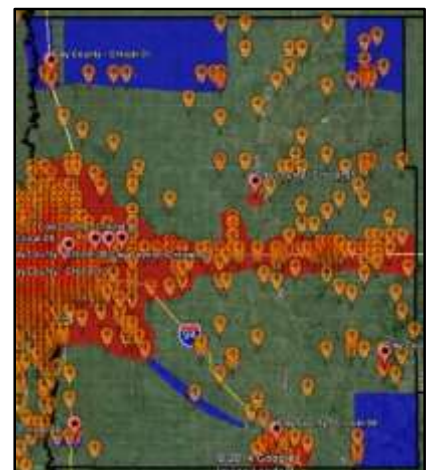- Pennington County
- Sherburne County
- Wabasha County

Key
- <25% Complete
- 25%-49% Complete
- 50%-74% Complete
- 75%-100% Complete

Metro Region

The Metro Region makes up a large percentage of the State's population. It is vital and necessary that the User Population Survey responses reflect the large number of PSEs in the nine-county region. Together with the Regional Interoperability Coordinator (Rick Juth), the team will be reaching out to these counties and PSAPs to determine ways to improve the response rate in the Twin Cities area.

Coverage Review Status

As of April 6, 2015, we have conducted Coverage Reviews with 66 counties and 4 tribes. The purpose of these meetings is to identify your needs, how you use your network, and areas in each county where first responders need wireless coverage. This includes:

- Critical service areas (highest priority)
- Required service areas (minimum service area required to adopt the service)
- Extended service areas (where service is wanted, but currently insufficient or nonexistent)

These Coverage Reviews have resulted in some key observations. Many counties have informed us they have significant areas that are currently unserved and/or underserved, especially in rural areas. In reality, their coverage is less extensive then what is portrayed in carrier-published coverage maps.

We look forward to scheduling meetings with all the remaining counties and tribes in order to identify your areas of need. We will continue to reach out and schedule your meetings, but please feel free to contact the MnFCP Project Team if your county or tribal PSE has not yet participated in a Coverage Review.

Preview of the 6th Annual Minnesota Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference

The 6th Annual Minnesota Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference is scheduled for Monday, April 27 – Wednesday, April 29, 2015, and will be held in St. Cloud, MN. The objectives of this conference are to develop a common understanding of key interoperability challenges and opportunities, share experiences and best practices, and provide the latest information about emerging systems and practices. There are over 40 Breakout Sessions and seven Workshops that include topics such as FirstNet to Amateur Radio in Public Safety. If you have not yet registered or would like more information on the Breakout Sessions or Workshops, you can find it here:

http://www.togpartners.com/interop/default.aspx

Welcome to the Team!

Minnesota has a new manager of its Wireless Broadband/FirstNet Program. Rubin Walker began work with DPS/ECN March 2. He previously served as the radio communications manager in Somerset County, New Jersey. Walker has design, operation and optimization experience with the Motorola system and vast experience with LTE technology from his engineering positions held with AT&T, Verizon, Sprint/Nextel and RCC Wireless here in Minnesota. Walker will also serve as the Deputy Statewide Interoperability Coordinator.

Your Project Team

You are encouraged to contact the project team at any time! We would be happy to answer your questions or hear your concerns.

Jackie Mines, MN DPS-ECN	Rubin Walker, MN DPS-ECN	Marcus Bruning, Northern RIC
Jackie.Mines@state.mn.us	Rubin.Walker@state.mn.us	Marcus.Bruning@state.mn.us
(651) 201-7550	(651) 331-7554	(218) 232-3762
Randy Donahue, Southern RIC	Rick Juth, Central & Metro RIC	Mark Navolio, Televate PM
Randy.donahue@state.mn.us	Rick.Juth@state.mn.us	mnavolio@televate.com
(507) 360-2660	(612) 743-0252	(301) 922-6691

For more information on the MnFCP, the NPSBN and FirstNet, please visit ECN's website for all project news and access to in-depth training modules on this subject and others: https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/broadband.aspx