What is the need?
Priority Communications for Emergency Responders

Improve the reliability and resiliency of wireless broadband connectivity
Provide prioritized access to emergency responders over the general public
Expand coverage into rural areas while increasing capacity in urban areas
Introducing FirstNet

- The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 establishes responsibility for building and operating a Nationwide Public Safety Wireless Broadband System.
- The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was created as an independent authority under the National Telecommunications & Information Agency (NTIA).
- FirstNet is responsible for overseeing a new nationwide wireless network.
- The term FirstNet is used in reference to both the federal entity as well as the nationwide network.
What is FirstNet?

- DATA, VIDEO, IMAGE & TEXT
- HIGH SPEED
- PRIORITIZED FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS
- RELIABLE FOR ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS

4G LTE is 10x faster than 3G wireless service
Who are the users?
Funding Deployment

Funding a Nationwide LTE Network

- $6.5 Billion ‘seed’ money for deployment
  - Understood not to be enough to:
    - Build
    - Operate, and
    - Evolve a nationwide LTE Network
- Funds received from FCC Auction
Funding Deployment
Funding a Nationwide LTE Network

- Additionally:
  - Monthly Subscriber Fees
    - Competitive with current carriers
  - Leasing excess capacity to commercial users
    - 20 MHz of “prime” cellular spectrum
    - Public Safety will maintain priority
FirstNet Timeline

- Anticipated network availability rolled out over 5 years
- FirstNet presents its State Plan to NC
- Education and Outreach ONGOING
- 2016: FirstNet evaluates RFP bids and selects a Vendor
- Mid 2017: FirstNet presents its State Plan to NC
- Late 2017: Network and Infrastructure planning
- 2018 - 2022: Anticipated network availability rolled out over 5 years
## Putting FirstNetNC Together

*What we’ve learned*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Out</th>
<th>Rural and Urban built out concurrently</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% Build Out per year for 5 years</td>
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<td>First Deployments in 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Projected between 4 million and 13 million public safety subscribers nationwide</td>
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<td>Monthly subscription fee must be competitive</td>
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Covering the state

The challenge: Providing SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE to 700+ emergency response agencies, 100 counties, and a federally recognized tribe in coverage areas including urban and rural.

To meet this challenge, FirstNet will use land-based cellular, as well as satellite and deployable systems to provide coverage.
Operational coverage needs
The State’s Decision

Governor must decide to:

**Accept the recommended FirstNet plan**
- North Carolina works with FirstNet to implement Federal plan

**OR**

**“Opt-Out” of the federal plan and develop an alternative plan**
- State is responsible for significant portion of the build-out costs
The Adoption Decision

FirstNet service will be available to emergency responders in North Carolina regardless of the Governor’s decision.

Every agency will have their own decision to make about signing up for service with FirstNet.

Individual Responder’s might be able to sign up even if the agency does not.
Common Questions & Concerns
Common Questions & Concerns

Is this a mandate?

No. Every emergency response agency will have the choice to join FirstNet when it is available. FirstNet plans to have a compelling service and price to encourage agencies to join.

Text “FirstNetNC” to 22828 to receive updates
Common Questions & Concerns

Who is going to build it?

FirstNet is using the federal RFP process to select a vendor.

Text “FirstNetNC” to 22828 to receive updates
Common Questions & Concerns

Will this replace my Land Mobile Radio?

No. There is work in the LTE standard to address “Mission Critical Voice” services but those standards are just being developed. This could take years to be rolled out to devices.

Continued planning and funding for today’s LMR is very important.

Text “FirstNetNC” to 22828 to receive updates
Common Questions & Concerns

Won’t it take forever to build new towers?

The expressed intent to use existing infrastructure where possible will increase the speed of deployment in a cost effective manner. This is a part of the RFP evaluation that the federal FirstNet team will conduct.

Text “FirstNetNC” to 22828 to receive updates
Common Questions & Concerns

How will this effect NG911?

Next Generation 911 will connect Public Safety Answering Points (911 centers) with the public through an advanced network. Though these two networks are serving different purposes, FirstNet will need to be integrated with NG911 in order to be the most successful.

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Stay in touch!

- FirstNet.NC.GOV
- FirstNet@nc.gov
- Facebook & Twitter: FirstNetNC
- Text “FirstNetNC” to 22828 to receive updates