**Key Program Points:**

* Current public safety LMR systems may not consistently meet regional/statewide coordination needs or fall short in providing suitable functionality across all operating environments
* Multiple current networks are approaching end of life support from manufacturers
* ND Legislature requires verification of consensus desirability, feasible requirement, cost, timeline, and method for governance, procurement (as required), implementation and operation of a collaboratively devised solution prior to funding
* Necessary to gather data and study/report on current environment and options, define need, verify commitment to use
* Recommendations will be driven by public safety community broad participation; timing and scope based on feasibility of state/local fiscal participation

**Problem Statement:** A significant portion of the public safety community has stated that the current configuration and application of Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks impedes the ability of responders to consistently work together in providing timely response to day to day, mutual aid, and task force operational environments without significant effort. In those circumstances where collaborative systems can be and are utilized, interoperable communications can only be sustained for short periods of time.

**2014 Exploratory Study:**

* Results described a collection of networks lacking local and cross-jurisdictional interoperability
* Operators reported radio network coverage issues, communications traffic interference or overlap, and an inability to reliably communicate within buildings
* Recommended State consider conducting a comprehensive update of systems based on an integrated, interoperable, and trunked Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials Project 25 standard system
* Recommended implementation of a consistently applied governance model to ensure improved training and operations
* State Legislature approved $1.5M to expand, verify, and definitize solution recommendations

**2015-16 Feasibility Study:**

* 64th North Dakota Legislative Assembly allocated funds to study feasibility and desirability with recommendations due by next Assembly
* Recommend best solution for maintaining a LMR-focused representative governing organization that considers and incorporates the views of all stakeholders as appropriate
* Provide a model that enables all stakeholders to gain and maintain access to resources, training, and systems based on their need
* Shape recommended solution alternatives for implementing statewide radio interoperability communications within a fiscally responsible framework
* Define the basis for continual and collaborative resourced support of an operational, statewide solution
* Must have consensus support from the public safety community, to include fiscal commitment
* Study Aspects
  + Execution hinges on strong participation and community engagement on technology, governance, and financing for any future solution
  + Elements:
    - Data Collection: Document and assess the suitability of all public safety and other prospective tower assets, as well as subscriber devices, which may be used or upgraded to support SIRN
* Outreach and Education: Multimedia outreach effort to engage State, Local, and Tribal public safety practitioners and other associated entities to exchange concepts
* Governance Development: Develop governance and ownership structure that ensures equitable representation at State, Local and Tribal levels
* Requirements Gathering: Evaluate technical and functional needs of end users and operators through surveys, regional conferences and interviews
* System Design: Create a solution that fulfills user needs, is anchored on existing public assets, and is fiscally responsible
* Cost Estimation: Develop detailed capital and operational investments required for a sustainable SIRN 20/20, identifying funding and cost-sharing schemes
* Strategic Business and Implementation Plan: Provide recommendations and corresponding plans for procurement, implementation and operation
* Post Study:
  + Build a strategically defined program addressing, cost schedule, product, operation and management for discussion with stakeholders
  + Collaborate with stakeholders statewide to refine program requirements, timeline, cost and cost-sharing, and intended outcome
  + Solidify program objectives, build a defined program recommendation for SIEC approval
  + Prepare recommendation and presentation to the Governor and Legislature