



NORTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE RADIO NETWORK

March 2016
SIRN Newsletter

What We Did in February 2016

Regional Conferences

The SIRN 20/20 Team conducted eight Regional Outreach Conferences to create awareness and evaluate the desirability for and feasibility of a statewide public safety radio system. Conference Locations included *Fargo, Jamestown, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Dickinson, Bismarck, Williston, and Minot.*

A wealth of insight was gathered from over 150 participants from 46 counties and four State agencies who contributed their valuable time and provided input on a wide range of topics including strengths and gaps of the current radio systems, potential areas of improvement, funding options, and other key elements to advance mission critical communications in the State of North Dakota.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the participants and to all those who helped organize and host the conferences.

Launched Website and Logos

In February, the SIEC launched its website to expand public access to information on various issues affecting voice and data communications. The website will serve as an information repository for the SIRN 20/20 program, the nationwide broadband initiative (FirstNet), and on-going activities of the SIEC. Visit the site at siec.nd.gov to watch a brief video describing the SIRN 20/20 Study and the pros and cons of a statewide radio solution and to see our new SIEC and SIRN logos. You are also invited to leave us a message and let us know what other topics you would like to see included.

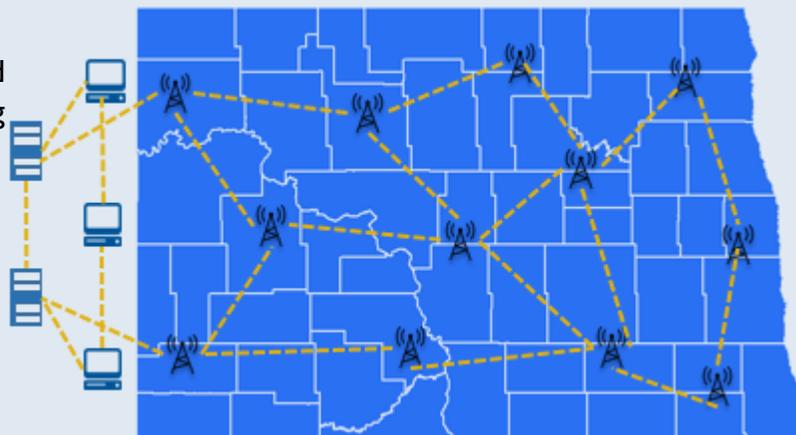
Asset Data Collection

The SIRN 20/20 team and Televate have been collecting data on current subscriber devices, towers, shelters, and other public safety radio assets. This information is extremely important in assessing the current state of communications systems, the investments made, improvement opportunities, and estimating the cost of any prospective future solution.

SIRN Technology Concept

The technical concept of SIRN 20/20 is a truly integrated statewide radio system that interconnects new and existing systems. This framework would:

- Improve coverage throughout the state
- Support interoperability across all jurisdictions
- Alleviate congestion
- Clarify operations for field and dispatch personnel
- Maximize efficient use of technologies





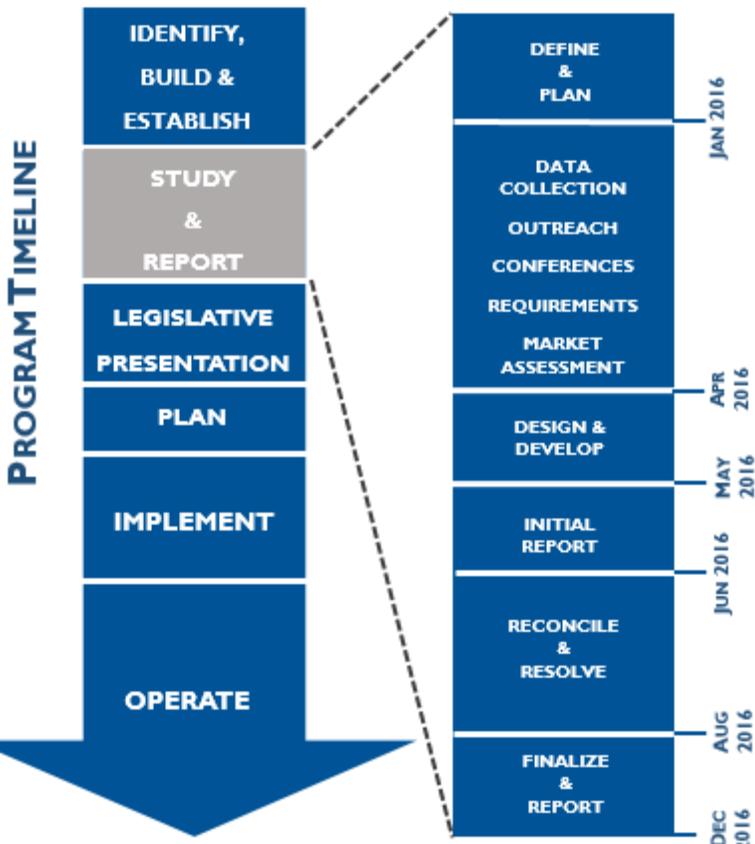
Other Project Tasks and Upcoming Events

Governance Considerations

Any successful network requires efficient and effective governance. The SIEC is researching and considering governance options to ensure the support and guidance required to meet the communications needs of North Dakota's public safety community.

Overall Project Plan

The SIRN 20/20 Feasibility Study will examine whether a statewide solution is the way forward. If SIRN 20/20 materializes, the Study is a foundational part, but only the beginning of the overall program with several stages. The SIEC has outlined and will continue to refine the overall program through outreach to technologists, public safety, government officials, and others prior to delivering to the Governor and the 65th State Legislature.



Upcoming Events and Activities

Coverage Design

The success and adoption of SIRN 20/20 is contingent on the reliable radio service it provides the public safety community. The team is exploring dozens of radio structures to create a baseline design that maintains or improves radio service within each of the 53 counties. SIRN 20/20 aims to maximize mobile and portable service and improve indoor coverage in populated areas. Additional rounds of feedback will be gathered from stakeholders to further validate the proposed design.

Spectrum Survey

SIRN 20/20 would primarily employ public safety VHF spectrum to maximize coverage and leverage existing radios and tower equipment to the extent possible. The VHF spectrum is optimal for rural geographies. However, the VHF spectrum requires careful research, planning, and coordination. Our team is conducting a statewide search of vacant, minimally used, and other potential VHF frequencies.

ONLINE SURVEYS!

We will be releasing a short online survey to expand upon the feedback we received during the regional conferences. The survey will focus on key issues:



- Interest in the SIRN 20/20 Plan
- Willingness to participate in a statewide effort
- Conditions under which counties would participate (technical, operational, and financial)
- Governance options
- Funding options