NORTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE RADIO NETWORK

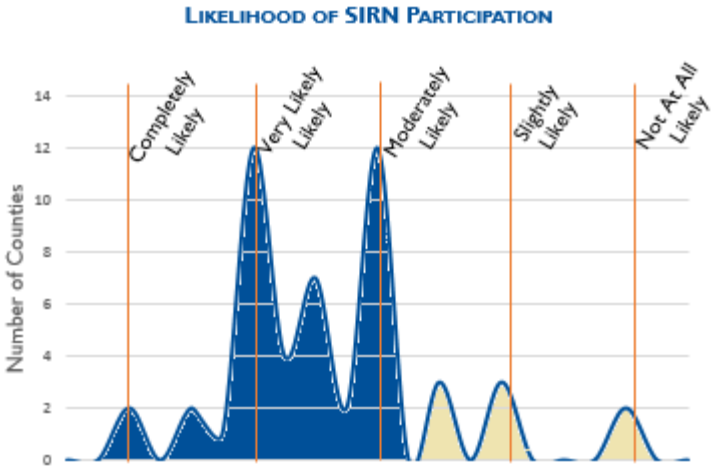
May 2016
SIRN Newsletter

What We Did in April 2016

To SIRN or Not To SIRN

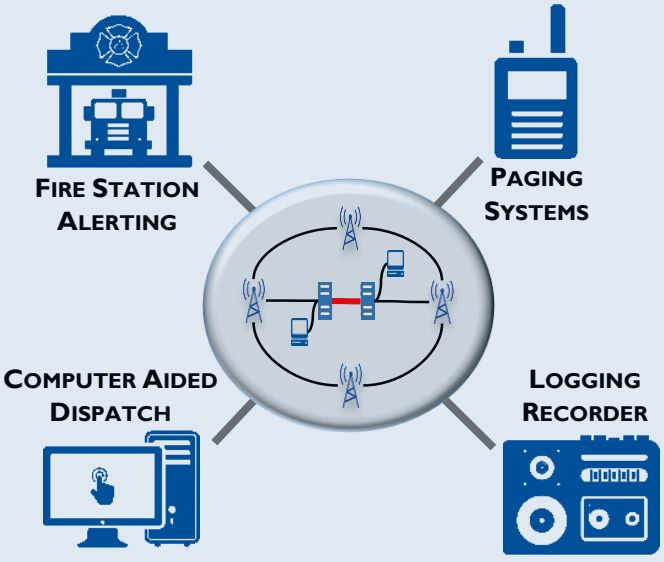
The success of SIRN as a truly interoperable and statewide solution hinges on its widespread adoption at the State, Local and Tribal levels. Over the course of the study, the SIRN Team has pursued various avenues to engage the public safety community and assess the level of interest in SIRN, particularly at the County and City levels of government.

Most recently, an online survey was conducted primarily to evaluate the individual counties' likelihood of participating in SIRN. Of the 50 counties that submitted one or more responses, 42 counties stated that they were "moderately likely" to "completely likely" to participate in SIRN. Several conditions including affordability, fair representation, adequate radio coverage, and the remaining lifespan of their current local systems were cited as key factors that will continue to influence local stakeholders in this important effort to evolve mission critical voice communications in the State of North Dakota.



Ancillary SIRN Elements

While the primary purpose of public safety radio networks is to provide reliable voice communications, most networks support several other key functions and applications within the dispatch and first-responder community. An integrated radio system is interfaced with, or directly facilitates, critical PSAP applications such as Computer Aided Dispatch, Fire Station Alerting Systems, Logging Recorders, and Paging Solutions. Therefore, it is appropriate to think of SIRN or a comparable solution not simply as a radio system, but to also consider how it could improve or affect the overall communications ecosystem.



NORTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE interoperability executive COMMITTEE

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Subscriber Devices by the Numbers

Enumerating the end user control station, mobile and portable radios in use by public safety is integral to architectural development and cost estimation efforts. The SIRN Team spent a great deal of effort to quantify all public safety and public service radios across the State. Because the type, model and age of a given radio will determine its ability to operate on modern platforms, detailed data was collected to classify radios and to determine whether they would be replaced or upgraded.

Device	Public Safety	Public Service
	8,100	1,225
	4,700	6,050

Through grant and local funds, several jurisdictions have made recent investments in public safety grade which are compliant with future technologies. However, a significant percentage of the radios listed above would likely have to be replaced to support the proposed SIRN technology. In addition, an estimated 1,000 – 1,500 Vehicular Repeaters (VR) are used to extend the coverage of current networks for portable or hand-held radio service.

Architecture and Cost Options

The SIRN Team is working on multiple cost-effective and operationally efficient solutions for SIRN. The primary drivers include the operational requirements of public safety, existing state and local assets, and robust solutions that can be deployed in a timely manner. The architectural options will define what SIRN could look like, how much it could cost, and the pros and cons of each option. This migration has to be affordable, but importantly, it has to improve critical communications for daily operations and support large events and emergencies.

Defining SIRN 20/20

During our various stakeholder interactions, comments from the public safety community have consistently identified several shortfalls considered important to their day to day work environment. These base needs will shape the framework for all SIRN options, guide how SIRN meets them, and influence adoption by local stakeholders. Here are some of the common themes:

- Coverage needs to be better
- Usability should be a key objective of any solution
- Additional procurement and training standards would be useful
- Agreement that enhanced and recurring radio-focused training – train with the radio like we do with our other tools – would be useful
- Integration of paging services and current systems is important
- Continued use of existing PSAPs and associated applications should be integrated into any solution going forward

Derrick's Travels

Derrick Walker has been crisscrossing the State meeting with local stakeholders to better understand day to day challenges and needs of the public safety community. Throughout the trip, he has continued to mature community knowledge about the opportunities of a statewide public safety solution and ensure that we study the problem with an appreciation for cost and community responsibilities. For SIRN to take root, stakeholders have to be equipped with the right information. His focus is exactly that—to ensure the community is informed. Only with that knowledge, can we make choices that benefit the citizens of North Dakota.