



NORTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE RADIO NETWORK

SIRN 20/20 Newsletter
September 2016

SIRN 20/20 Publication Review with First Responders



Since the publication of the [August newsletter](#), Derrick Walker, the SIRN 20/20 Program Director has been traveling the state, visiting with first responder leaders, one on one, to discuss their concerns and interest in the recommendations proposed in the [SIRN 20/20 Feasibility Study](#). It's not unsurprising to hear again and again that there is a significant need for action. When asked about the feedback, Derrick commented that "the primary concern is that First Responders aren't always going to have the time to prepare radios ahead of a major event, where they can coordinate frequencies and reprogram radios."

After years of study and discussion, the study, recently endorsed by the North Dakota Association of Counties, will be going before the 65th Legislature in 2017 per guidance at the last session. When asked about the need for study endorsements, Gary Lorenz, Fargo Fire Department Assistant Chief of Support Services, said "Radio communications is a vital component of first responder daily operations. Responders rely on their radios to communicate with other members within their organizations, other agencies, as well as their respective dispatch centers. This communication is particularly vital during emergency operations. Therefore, it is critical that first responders are provided with a robust, dependable, and interoperable radio network like that which would be provide by the proposed trunked State Interoperable Radio Network. We have some time left, but now is the time to say so and endorse a change in how we communicate."



SIEC forming Governance Working Group

One key recommendation from the study was the need for a statewide organization representing the community of first responders of all types. As a result, the SIEC is establishing a working group to lay the foundation, beginning with the study recommendations and adjusting from there. Project sponsor Duane Schell, on discussing the SIRN 20/20 Study said, "This is a great first step and will help us to make sure whatever direction we go in, it'll be what the community wants and needs." The project team is still contacting participants and will publish names once confirmed.

SIRN 20/20 Study Presented to LITC

The Study results are in and the SIRN 20/20 team has been visiting first responders throughout the state to share the results, discussing the feasibility of a statewide solution. One key aspect of sharing the results was a presentation on August 31, 2016 to the Legislative Information Technology Committee in the State Capital Harvest Room. As part of the presentation, the SIEC project sponsor provided a brief overview of study results based on feedback from across all aspects of the state's first responder community. Next up, ITD will be presenting the Study along with budget recommendations to the State Information Technology Advisory Committee. The Committee will review the SIRN 20/20 recommendations, along with other State IT projects for consideration by the Legislature during the upcoming session.

