



March 3, 2014

Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Brenda L. Decker
Chief Information Officer

County Board Chairs:

The U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration have embarked on an a mandate of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creations Act of 2012 called FirstNet. The FirstNet Project is an effort to build a nationwide broadband network for first responders of many disciplines that can be used in emergencies and during day to day operations. It is intended to not only establish interoperability between agencies and disciplines but to provide the platform for various types and devices for voice and data delivery. The design and build out of the system is being preceded by the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) grant to provide states the funding assistance for planning and input of their needs from this network as well as to collect data on our state's available communications infrastructure. The Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) has been designated by Governor Heineman to be Nebraska's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for this effort.

In December the OCIO hosted a broadband workshop in Kearney in which we sought the involvement of various first responder disciplines and elected officials. Notice of this workshop was relayed to the County's through the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), emergency managers through the Planning Exercise and Training (PET) Regions and other first responder associations in Nebraska. The workshop was well attended and laid a foundation of knowledge about broadband, its capabilities and FirstNet's responsibility.

FirstNet will conduct a series in "State Consultations" that will result in their design to build the network in Nebraska. Once that process is completed FirstNet will deliver their proposed plan to the Governor who will decide if Nebraska will accept the plan.

At this point there are many unanswered questions about this network and the process. We do not know what the cost would be to a local jurisdiction for the system. But we do know that there will be no cost to local jurisdictions if they choose not to participate once the design and cost information is presented.

The OCIO does not want to nor can we speak to the needs and requirements of local jurisdictions. It is clear that there must be local representatives available to interact with FirstNet during the consultation process to ensure that you have input on design and coverage based on your needs.

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Lieutenant Governor Lavon Heidemann, Chair

State Capitol, Room 2311 • P.O. Box 94863 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4863 • <http://nitc.ne.gov>
(402) 471-2256, Fax: (402) 471-6031

We are asking each County Board to provide a representative who is knowledgeable about your county's current communications situation and who will be able to speak with FirstNet on behalf of the county. Upon notification of your representative I will work with them to bring them up to date on the FirstNet activities and keep them informed as the process moves forward. Please forward your representatives name and contact information to me by April 15, 2014.

If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Bob Wilhelm
Project Manager
FirstNet/ State and Local Implementation Grant Program
402.471.7973
Bob.Wilhelm@nebraska.gov

cc: County Clerk's Office

Enclosures: (2)