

Full Committee Pony for Grant Application
Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation requests that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a \$2.2 million federal grant application, to the US Department of Commerce for planning, consulting, and development activities.

The federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 authorized funding to support state, local, and tribal planning activities in support of a nationwide public safety broadband network. This network is to provide mission critical data to public safety first responders.

Amounts from the authorized funds are allocated to states based on population and geographic area. The grants are non-competitive, though recipients must comply with certain conditions placed upon the award. Applications are due March 19, 2013 and awards are expected in July 2013. The grant period is 3 years. A 20% match is required, which the Department will meet with in-kind staff work.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Transportation

Public Safety Broadband Network

Analyst: Linda Gilbert

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the US Department of Commerce National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) in an amount up to \$3 million for planning, consulting, and development activities.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 authorized \$135 million in awards to fund state, local and tribal planning activities in support of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

A nationwide broadband network, when fully operational, will provide mission critical data to first responders. Examples include live video feed from monitoring cameras inside a school, streaming video of patient and vital health stats from the ambulance enroute to the emergency room, a fallen firefighter's helmet camera transmitting real-time video of his location.

Amounts from the \$135 million are allocated to states based on population and geographic area. Though the grants are non-competitive, recipients must design an acceptable project, provide information NTIA requires, and agree to conditions NTIA places upon the award. Applications are due March 19, 2013. Awards are expected in early July 2013. The grant period is 3 years. NTIA requires a 20% match, which the agency will cover in-kind using existing Major Projects Branch staff.

Activities funded by the grant include:

- Establishing a governance structure to consult with FirstNet,
- Ensuring local and tribal representation with FirstNet,
- Education and outreach for relevant stakeholders,
- Identifying potential public safety users,
- Developing appropriate facilitation for the possible sharing of infrastructure,
- Developing future staffing plans.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.