



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

## Department of Transportation

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January 23, 2014

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin,  
Co-Chair  
Oregon State Representative  
900 Court St. NE, S-211  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley,  
Co-Chair  
Oregon State Representative  
900 Court St. NE, H-272  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) request the Joint Committee on Ways and Means receive a report on the plan to transfer the State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) support functions and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) from ODOT to DAS, and the current status of grant funding for FirstNet, the First Responder Network Authority, as included in House Bill 5008 (2013):

Senate Bill 665 proposed moving the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position and support for the State Interoperability Executive Council from ODOT to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The bill was not heard. The agencies are instructed to complete planning for the transfer and report to the February 2014 Legislature on status of the federal FirstNet grant funding and how the SWIC's salary and other expenses will be paid.

### **Background**

#### **State Interoperability Executive Council**

The mission of Oregon's State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, to identify technology and standards, and to coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide interoperable wireless communications for public safety. The SIEC is responsible to coordinate interoperability solutions for all public safety entities in the state and to plan, develop and implement statewide interoperability for public safety communications at all levels of government. The council provides a mechanism to ensure that statewide strategic planning is aligned with legislative direction. In addition to public safety communications, the SIEC is the primary governance entity for the FirstNet in Oregon effort.

#### **Statewide Interoperability Coordinator**

Congress established the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) function in 2007. It is responsible for the daily operations of state interoperability efforts and it is the single point of contact for FirstNet in Oregon. Implementation efforts will be guided primarily by the initiatives outlined in the National Emergency Communications Plan and Oregon's Statewide Communications Interoperability

Plan (SCIP). As implementation proceeds, the SWIC will seek guidance, input and recommendations from the SIEC, local stakeholders, state agencies and regional governance entities.

This position requires a high degree of public safety communications knowledge and experience with broadband systems development. SWIC duties require working with high-level and elected officials and multiple agencies statewide and regionally.

### **FirstNet**

FirstNet, which Congress created in 2012, is a nationwide program being developed by the National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA). FirstNet will be the first high-speed wireless, broadband data network dedicated to public safety, using a single, nationwide network that facilitates communication for public safety users during emergencies and every day. FirstNet will be similar to a cellular phone system for public safety, except that it is used primarily for mobile data applications.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the public safety community worked to fulfill the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that it needed a dedicated, reliable network to provide advanced data communications capabilities nationwide. Commercial networks get overloaded or fail, and don't provide priority access to public safety users during emergencies. Congress allocated \$7 billion to begin the development of this system.

### **Federal FirstNet Grant – State and Local Implementation Grant**

Oregon, through ODOT, received a federal grant for \$2.1 million to help the state prepare for outreach and data collection in support of FirstNet. The grant has a \$550,000 matching requirement that will be paid through in-kind services of other state staff working on the FirstNet initiative. The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) will:

- Support planning, consultation and outreach activities as Oregon prepares for FirstNet.
- Fund efforts to collect data on existing infrastructure and equipment that could be used by FirstNet in building out the national system.

The grant has a performance period of three years and is broken into two phases. Allowable grant activities for education and outreach in Phase 1 are:

- Establish or enhance a governance structure to consult with FirstNet.
- Develop procedures to ensure local and tribal representation.
- Conduct education and outreach for all relevant stakeholders.
- Identify potential public safety users for FirstNet.
- Develop a standard memorandum of agreement to facilitate the possible sharing of infrastructure with FirstNet.
- Develop plans to involve local and tribal stakeholders in Phase 2.
- Update the SCIP to include public safety broadband initiatives or create a complementary plan.

Phase 2 activities will support infrastructure data collection activities that may assist FirstNet or continue Phase 1 activities. Phase 2 funds will be released to Oregon when:

- FirstNet has approved and released the data elements and collection methodology.

- NTIA works with Oregon to collect updated budgets and then with the grants office to approve the modified budgets and release the Phase 2 funds.

As of Dec. 31, 2013, the "FirstNet in Oregon" office has spent a total of \$52,000 in SLIGP grant funds and provided a total of \$73,000 of matching in-kind services. FirstNet in Oregon outreach efforts to date include in-person and conference presentations to more than 1,000 public safety professionals and civic leaders throughout Oregon and webinars to nearly 60 public agencies.

### **Proposed Transfer Plan**

The transfer of the SIEC and functioning components (the SWIC) clarifies the role of the SIEC in support of Land Mobile Radio systems today and the strategic long-term coordination of FirstNet. The role moves to one of statewide oversight and coordination of public safety communications versus alignment with a state agency radio project. The Oregon Legislature transferred SIEC to ODOT in 2010 when the legislature moved oversight of the previous Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN) program from the Oregon State Police to ODOT.

Now that the system is essentially constructed, the statewide emphasis for public safety communications in Oregon is a better fit with the core mission of DAS.

The proposed date of the transition is July 1, 2014. Authority for three staff positions will be transferred to the DAS Chief Information Office. The transfer will include staff and records, including current consulting team efforts, with funds from the grant to be transferred by intergovernmental agreement.

### **Positions and Responsibilities**

Principle Executive Manager F (SWIC):

Oversee the FirstNet in Oregon office and manage the strategic initiatives involved with the statewide interoperability function in coordination with the SIEC. FirstNet requires each state to have a single point of contact to act as a clearinghouse of information between the state, FirstNet and local government entities while working on the implementation of the national Public Safety Broadband Network.

Oversight of FirstNet implementation in Oregon will be a complex undertaking that combines policy, technology, advocacy and resource allocation. ODOT has established an interim interagency, collaborative "FirstNet in Oregon" office that will be expanded to act as the interface between the state and FirstNet. This position can be funded up to 60 percent of salary through the SLIGP grant, with the balance from DAS General Funds.

Operations and Policy Analyst 4:

This vacant position is grant funded for a three-year period. Key tasks associated with this position include:

- Plan, develop, schedule and oversee the total Oregon FirstNet education and stakeholder awareness campaign that complements and extends national outreach efforts.
- Coordinate closely during campaign development and delivery with Chief Jeff Johnson(Retired), the FirstNet board member responsible for outreach at the national level.

- Establish with the SWIC and DAS Chief Information Office target organizations to receive a briefing of the presentation material. Target organizations will be state, regional, local, tribal and rural as well as potential partners and secondary users.

**Project Manager 3:**

This vacant position can be grant funded for a three-year period (will require a grant change). Key tasks associated with this position include:

- Support outreach and education efforts on FirstNet. Through coordination of activities on the state broadband initiative program, help the Oregon Public Safety Broadband office work with public safety communities in rural areas of Oregon where broadband services are not available.
- Participate in outreach and education discussions on FirstNet and on an as-needed basis dependent upon follow-up questions from stakeholders.
- Leverage existing contacts throughout Oregon to assist in planning engagements with stakeholders.
- Assist the financial grant management team in the management of SLIGP grant efforts.
- Will be critical in implementation of the Phase 2 portion of SLIGP.

Administrative assistance will come from within existing resources at DAS and will be used when needed in a matrix-type environment.

**Logistics Coordination**

DAS and ODOT will agree to manage the federal FirstNet grant (SLIGP). ODOT received the federal grant and will continue to oversee issuance and fiduciary measures as federally required. The DAS "FirstNet in Oregon" office will manage use of the funds required for outreach, education and asset data gathering for FirstNet.

The transfer of position authority and individuals will be accomplished in the language of the bill designating the transfer of the SIEC responsibility and the SWIC position from ODOT to DAS. Applicable memoranda of agreements between the agencies may be needed for limited equipment transfers.


**Action Requested**

ODOT requests the Joint Committee on Ways and Means accept this report.

**Legislation Affected**

No legislation is affected by the report.

Sincerely,



Matthew L. Garrett  
Director, Oregon Department of Transportation



Michael Jordan  
Chief Operating Officer, State of Oregon  
Director, Oregon Department of Administrative  
Services