



State of Vermont  
Department of Public Safety  
45 State Drive  
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1300

March 31, 2017

(Address Block)

(Greeting):

On March 30, U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced that AT&T was selected to build the first nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to America's first responders. This announcement completes a 15-month process by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to vet commercial partners who were able to provide public safety personnel with an interoperable, secure and reliable high-speed network required for mission-critical work. With the selection of AT&T, the national project moves from the planning phase to the implementation phase. What does that mean for Vermont?

First, it means Vermont and all of the states and territories, will eventually have priority access to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) through 20 MHz of Band Class 14 spectrum. Work is now underway by AT&T and FirstNet to develop individual state plans. In Vermont, the Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (PSBC) is responsible for reviewing those plans, negotiating with FirstNet for adjustments to the plan, considering other possible options, and then recommending to Governor Phil Scott the best course of action for Vermont. The PSBC is comprised of dedicated members of the first responder community and state agency personnel who play important roles in ensuring the best operation of the NPSBN in Vermont. I want to urge you to visit the commission web site. At this site you can see who is serving on the commission and learn more about FirstNet.

**The commission web site is found at [www.PSBC.Vermont.gov](http://www.PSBC.Vermont.gov).**

The contract with AT&T is for 25 years and it requires that the LTE cellular service be provided at an affordable cost to first responders. The enabling legislation calls for the nationwide network to be substantially in operation by 2022. During this five-year build-out, the network is tasked to serve both rural and urban areas. AT&T has announced it will be spending more than \$40 billion over the life of the contract to build the network and will connect FirstNet users to the company's telecommunication network.

The FirstNet project team for Vermont is located in the Department of Public Safety. We will work diligently to keep you informed and make project developments as transparent as possible. In addition to visiting the web site, please feel free to contact our outreach team at (802) 241-5535 or via email at [dps.psbcc@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.psbcc@vermont.gov).

Sincerely,

Terry LaValley  
Chair, Public Safety Broadband Network Commission  
Department of Public Safety, Radio Technology Services

