



Capital Region Communications System

Chief Douglas Brent, Barre City Fire Department
Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth, Barre City Fire Department
Chief Brian Peete, Montpelier Police Department

Capital Region Communications System

- Background
- What the Capital Region Needs to Support the State
- What's Been Done
- Next Steps

Background

- The Capital Region's Current Infrastructure is deteriorated and at End of Life (EOL).
- Both Barre City and Montpelier dispatch for roughly thirty police, fire and EMS agencies: Both centers provide redundancy and continuity of operations for the other.
- The Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) commissioned *Televate* to perform a telecommunications needs assessment. *Televate* is based in VA and its staff are consultants and subject matter experts in public-centric communications solutions.
- The Televate Study wrote *"Public Safety Radio Communications Supporting Firefighters are Woefully Inadequate..."* and that *"Communications gaps require immediate attention, this is an issue of (Firefighter) First Responder Safety."*
- Both Televate and the Capital Region Communications team recommend Land Mobile Radio (LMR) technology for emergency services communications in the area due to topography. It must be noted that current cellular services are not reliable or efficient throughout the region.
- In 2021, the over-reliance of the existing communications network on the Vermont State Police (VSP) pushed emergency communications to a breaking point.
- The Capital Region Communications Team became part of the Public Safety Commissioner's Working Group and began working with the Department of Public Safety to find ways to provide relief to VSP, as well as to improve the EOL communications infrastructure in the Capital region.

Capital Region Communications Team

- Chief Doug Brent, Barre City Fire Department
- Chief Braedon Vail, Barre City Police Department
- Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth, Barre City Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Larry Eastman, Barre City Police Department
- Chief Paul Cerutti, Woodbury Fire Department and Capital Fire and Mutual Aid Systems Communications Chair
- Chief Brian Peete, Montpelier Police Department
- Deputy Chief Eric Nordenson, Montpelier Police Department
- Dispatch Supervisor, Carrie McCool, Montpelier Police Department

Background

- Televate provided tiered recommendations from Priority 1 (Highest) to Priority 3 (lowest). Barre and Montpelier Administration, the Capital Region Communications Team, and the CFMAS membership have all agreed on record in support of meeting all Priority 1 issues highlighted in the Televate Report. Costs estimates are from a regional assessment study.

Primary Upgrade	Priority	Estimated Cost
Regional Radio System Infrastructure, Procurement, PM, Governance, Construction	1	\$2,900,000
Tower upgrades and reinforcement / Radio equipment shelters (if and where required)	1	\$330,000
Radio Consoles for Montpelier and Barre City dispatch	1	\$700,000 Paid By Twin Cities
Mobile and portable radios: P25 capable (assume 200)	1	\$700,000 DHS Grants Applied For
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE		\$4,630,000 3,230,000

The Public Safety Commissioner's Office noted the Capital Region Communications team as "...being in a more advanced phase of development."

What the Capital Region Needs to Support the State

- Funding for Priority 1 items updates the Capital Region Communications infrastructure drastically improves communications in Central VT and allows for Both Barre and Montpelier to assist in dispatching for several of the agencies VSP can no longer support.
- The infrastructure upgrade also allows for both Barre and Montpelier with the capability to provide backup dispatch services for all state emergency responders including VSP.

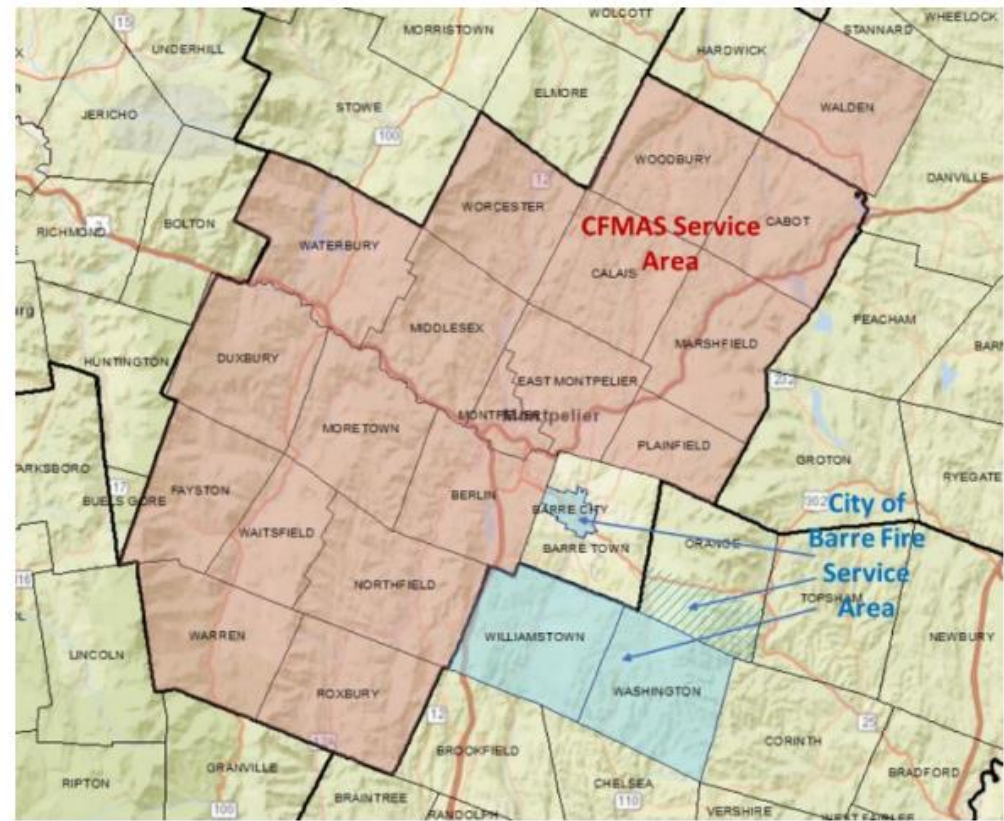


Figure 1: Central Vermont Towns Served by CFMAS. Barre City and Montpelier

We ARE Shovel Ready!

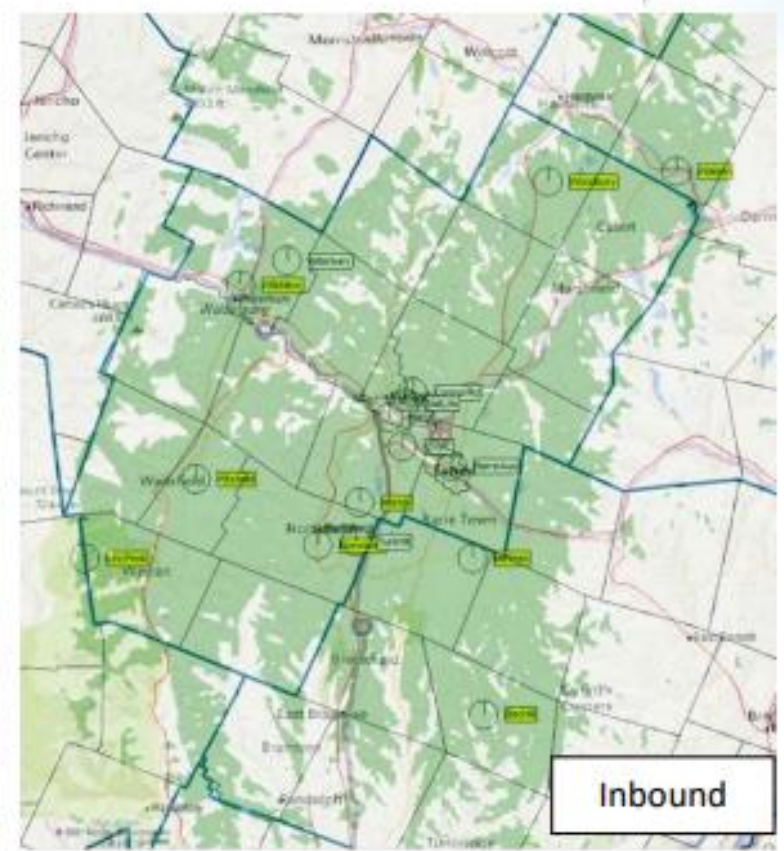
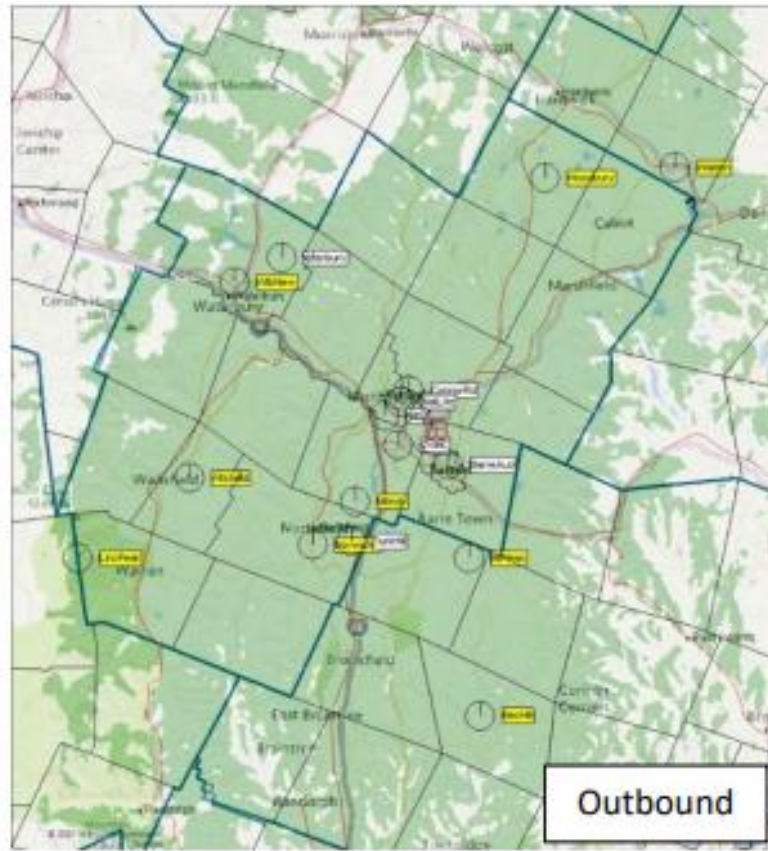
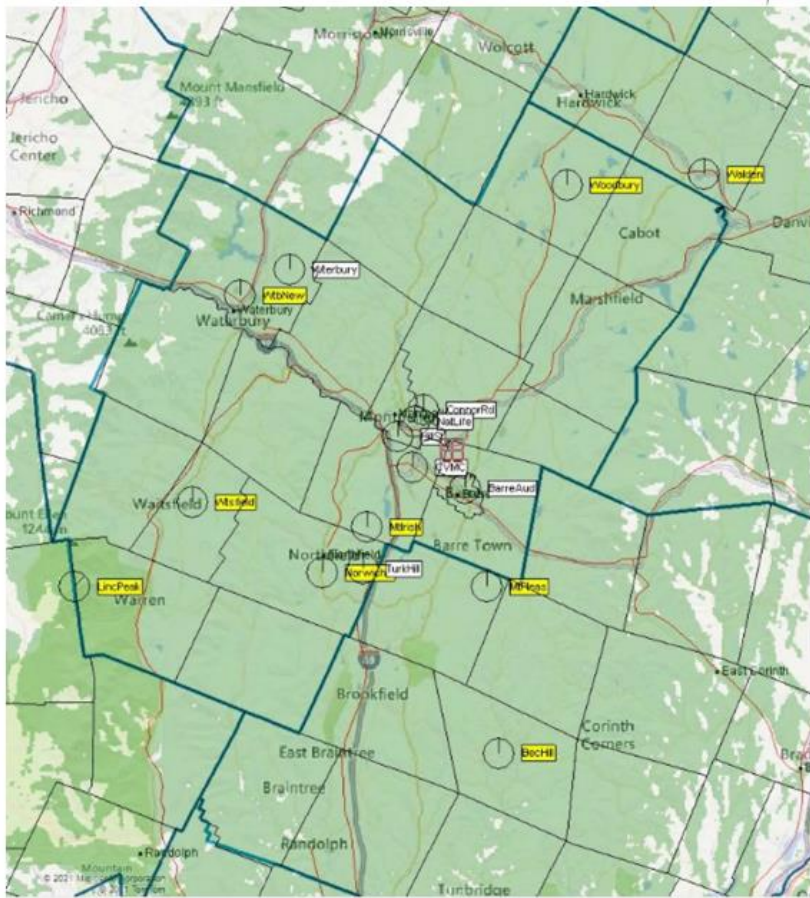


Figure 13: Proposed Towns Sub-System Predicted Mobile Coverage from Simulation

Figure 14: Proposed Towns Sub-System Predicted Portable on Hip Coverage from Simulation

What's Been Done

- Administration process and contracts have been in place since late 80s & early 90s
- Needs Assessment Completed! We know what infrastructure is exactly needed and what the real estimated costs are
- We have “skin in the game” in purchasing nine dispatch consoles
- All parties are onboard: Barre, Montpelier, CFMAS, the State, and key technological partners/companies
- Current fee structures are fair and at the lowest possible costs with clauses to revisit in the event costs are too high or low
- The Capital Region Communications Team has included Barre and Montpelier Dispatchers, and their Union, in the planning and feedback process

Next Steps

- Purchase Dispatch Consoles (Strive for Council Approval by End of April)
- Incorporate any future Televate recommendations to ensure operability
- Purchase Mobile and Portable Radios (Awaiting DHS grant award results)
- The Capital Region Communications Team needs the infrastructure funding from the state
- Enter into contract and begin building the necessary infrastructure as quickly as possible



Questions?