



Indiana Department of Homeland Security



Integrated Public Safety Commission

# Memorandum

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**To:** County EMAs

**From:** John Hill, Director, Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Dave Vice, Director, Integrated Public Safety Commission

**Date:** Friday, April 4, 2014

**Subject:** Statewide 800 MHz Radio System Upgrade/Information Meetings

For months, the Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) and the Indiana Office of Budget and Management (OMB) have been conducting a detailed review, analysis and procurement process for upgrading the statewide 800 MHz (SAFE-T) radio system to Project 25 (P25) standards. Several state agencies, including the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and the Indiana Department of Health, were intimately involved in the process, demonstrating unprecedented cooperation and forming partnerships to reach a goal that will benefit public safety professionals for decades to come.

During the entire process, the best interest of local agencies took top priority. Painstaking attention was given to details that will affect local public safety stakeholders, resulting in the decision to amend the existing Motorola contract to provide for the P25 upgrade and subsequent long-term maintenance and systems upgrades.

The move to a P25 system will offer many benefits, not the least of which is the ability to purchase radios from multiple manufacturers, thereby ensuring cost competitiveness and more choice in products. Additional benefits are detailed in the attached Fact Sheet.

We are aware that some of you have received direct vendor communications recommending the use of HSGP grant funds for radio upgrades, which has caused some concern in the EMA community. Interoperable communications are certainly an allowable HSGP expense, but the tight deadlines imposed by FEMA may not allow for realistic planning. If this is the case, please be aware that the 2014 HSGP is NOT the only opportunity you will have to acquire grant funding for the project.

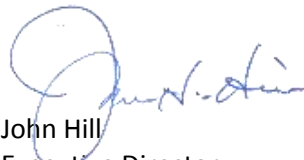
We are also aware that the biggest question about the upgrade, at this point, is “what will it cost my agency?” In fact, during the March 26 IPSC Commission meeting, these very questions were brought before the board. The Chair of the Commission, ISP Superintendent Doug Carter, assured members that “we are not going to leave anyone in the lurch or cause them undue hardship.” The P25 system is based on the same principles that drove the success of the current statewide system – voluntary participation, no user fees, and partnerships that allow for maximum savings.

Upgrading a statewide communications system is undoubtedly a complex project, and IPSC is planning a series of regional meetings to provide details about the P25 upgrade process and timeline. The dates for these meetings follow below:

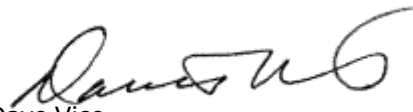
- Southeast – April 28, 2014
- Southwest - April 29, 2014
- Central – April 30, 2014
- Northwest – May 7, 2014
- Toll Road – May 8, 2014
- Northeast – May 9, 2014

Times and locations will be forwarded to you as soon as the meeting logistics have been finalized. In the meantime, please email Sally Fay ([sfay@ipsc.in.gov](mailto:sfay@ipsc.in.gov)) with any questions.

Sincerely,



John Hill  
Executive Director  
Indiana Department of Homeland Security



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David Vice  
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Cc: IDHS District Coordinators  
Indiana Fire Chiefs Association  
Indiana Volunteer Fire Association  
Indiana Sheriff's Association  
Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police

Attachments: Fact Sheet: Indiana Public Safety Communications System Upgrade