

September 30, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony to the committee on the status of FirstNet implementation in the State of Kansas.

In 2012, Congress passed Public Law 112-96, which directed the establishment, deployment, and operation of a nationwide broadband wireless network for public safety communications. The law established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and required it to consult with Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels of government to ensure that the FirstNet network was designed to meet the needs of public safety stakeholders.

In March 2017, FirstNet Authority awarded a 25-year contract to AT&T for the deployment and operation of FirstNet. On August 15, 2017, the State of Kansas opted into AT&T's FirstNet wireless public safety broadband network for first responders created by the FirstNet Authority. In 2018, AT&T launched FirstNet nationwide.

FirstNet is the country's only nationwide public safety communications platform dedicated to first responders. FirstNet is being built with AT&T in a public-private partnership with the FirstNet Authority, helping public safety agencies connect to the critical voice and data information they need every day, especially during an emergency.

Under the contract with the FirstNet Authority, AT&T has five years to complete the buildout of the nationwide public safety broadband network. To date, AT&T has reached 60% of the required buildout. Under its contract, AT&T was not required to reach the 60% buildout mark until the end of March 2020. The current buildout pace is about nine months ahead of the contracted schedule. AT&T anticipates that 70% of the buildout will be completed by the end of calendar year 2019.

FirstNet provides first responders with priority and preemption capabilities unavailable to them before. Public safety agencies have the ability to identify users for priority and preemption and then uplift the priority of those personnel/users on the network during emergencies. This allows public safety practitioners to avoid network congestion that may occur on other commercial networks.

Public safety agencies across the nation vary in composition from full-time paid departments to unpaid, volunteer departments. AT&T FirstNet deployed two plan structures to ensure that both career and volunteer first responders can qualify:

- Agency paid, where the bill is set up under a public safety agency or governmental entity. The public safety agency or governmental entity is responsible for paying the monthly bill.
- Subscriber paid, where the bill is set up under an individual who is a public safety practitioner. The individual is responsible for paying the monthly bill.

In addition to FirstNet smart devices, FirstNet subscribers have access to a fleet of 72 dedicated deployable network assets, such as satellite cell on light trucks (SatCOLTs) and cell on wheels (COWs). These are mobile cell sites that do not rely on commercial power to link to FirstNet. They provide first responders with similar capabilities and connectivity as a cell tower. Stationed across the country, these assets can either be deployed for planned events or called upon in emergencies to help first responders stay connected and operate faster, safer and more effectively when lives are on the line.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management in collaboration with the FirstNet Authority and AT&T FirstNet conducted in-person and virtual overview seminars that were available to public safety entities to highlight capabilities of FirstNet. In November 2019, the State will host a Kansas Statewide FirstNet Roadmap User Forum. These seminars and forum provide personnel from public safety agencies across the State to receive updates on the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network buildout, learn more about FirstNet capabilities, and ask questions regarding FirstNet services. Kansas Division of Emergency Management will continue ongoing collaboration with stakeholders and provide technical assistance to public safety agencies across the State regarding FirstNet.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you again for your time and opportunity to provide an update on FirstNet.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jonathan York
Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Response and Recovery Branch Director

Update on FirstNet

Joint Committee on Kansas Security

Jonathan York, Response and Recovery Branch Director
Kansas Division of Emergency Management



What is FirstNet?

- FirstNet is the country's first and only nationwide communications platform dedicated solely to public safety and first responders
 - Secure, interoperable communications network that supports voice, data, text, and video communications
 - Priority and preemption for first responders to avoid network congestion that may occur in other networks
 - Applications ecosystem with innovative applications and services for public safety
 - Devices connected to the network will relay near real-time information to improve situational awareness

FirstNet Timeline and Progression

March 2017:
25-year federal contract
awarded to AT&T for
FirstNet

August 15, 2017:
Kansas opted into AT&T's
FirstNet public safety
broadband network

March 28, 2018:
AT&T launches FirstNet
nationwide

Ongoing buildout of
AT&T FirstNet public
safety broadband
network; currently 60%
complete

Who is included in the FirstNet public safety community?

- Subscribers can include primary and extended primary users
- **Primary users** are public safety personnel whose primary job is to provide services to the public:
 - Law enforcement
 - Fire suppression and prevention
 - Emergency medical services
 - Emergency management
 - Public safety communications (911 call centers)
- **Extended primary users** include other entities that could be called upon to help support public safety:
 - Individuals
 - Agencies
 - Organizations
 - Non-profit, and for-profit companies
- Plans may be agency paid or subscriber paid

FirstNet Deployable Assets

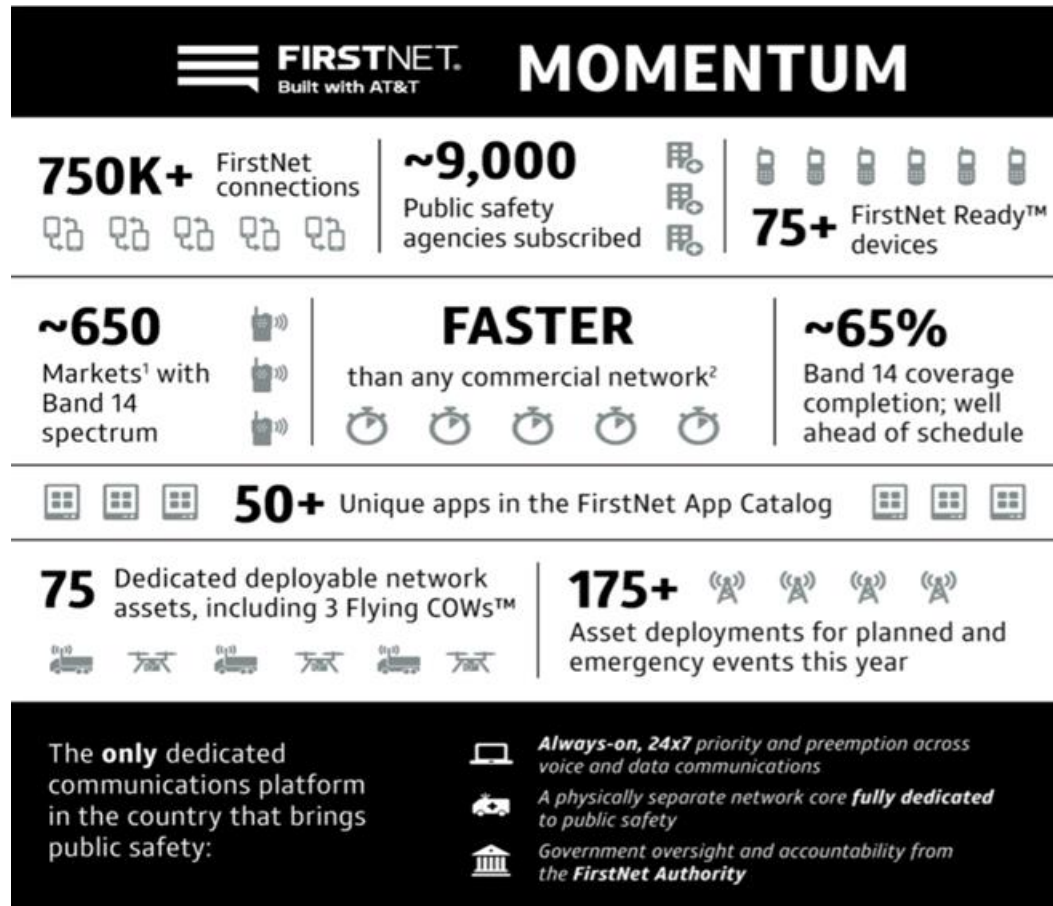
- Cache of 72 deployable assets across the nation.
 - Satellite cell on light trucks (SATColts)
 - Cell on wheels COWs)
- May be requested by any FirstNet public safety subscriber
- Closest cache location to Kansas is in Riverside, MO.
- 10-hour response time for deployment in Kansas
- Deployed to support public safety coordination for the Garmin Marathon in the Land of Oz in Olathe on April 13, 2019



Collaborative Engagement with Public Safety

- January-March 2018: Face-to-face and virtual FirstNet overview seminars conducted in collaboration between Kansas Division of Emergency Management, FirstNet Authority, and AT&T FirstNet prior to FirstNet nationwide deployment
- November 2019: Kansas Statewide FirstNet Roadmap User Forum
- Ongoing presentations to professional associations across the state
 - Provides personnel from public safety agencies across the State to receive updates on the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network buildout, learn more about FirstNet capabilities, and ask questions regarding FirstNet services

FirstNet Metrics



Future Approved Investment Areas

- The FirstNet Authority Board has approved FirstNet Authority to:
 - Expand the FirstNet fleet of deployable resources for better network coverage and capacity for public safety during emergencies and events
 - Complete initial generational upgrades to the FirstNet core to enable 5G network capabilities



Questions?