

Interoperability & Emergency Communications News Clips
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NENA, carriers seek commercial D Block auction

June 25, 2009

Urgent Communications

By Donny Jackson

URL: http://urgentcomm.com/policy_and_law/news/vena-700mhz-auction-20090625/

Wireless carriers and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) this week have called for a commercial auction of the 700 MHz D Block, less than a month after eight public-safety organizations asked Congress to reallocate the spectrum for first-responder uses.

Last year, the 10 MHz D Block swath was the subject of a public/private partnership FCC proposal that failed to attract a qualifying bidder last year. In late May, a group of eight public-safety organizations — many of which had disagreed on 700 MHz broadband strategy in the past — reached consensus that Congress should reallocate the spectrum to public safety, so the frequencies could be paired with the 10 MHz of public-safety broadband spectrum licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) that could be used to pursue a nationwide network for first responders.

NENA was not one of the participating organizations endorsing that proposal. Instead, NENA has floated a proposal — not yet filed with the FCC — that would call for a commercial auction of both the D Block and the spectrum currently held by the PSST.

A key aspect of the NENA proposal would be to ensure that public safety has short-term funding—for instance, half of the auction proceeds — and a long-term, sustainable funding mechanism, said NENA CEO Brian Fontes. In addition, it is important that any obligations that commercial bidders have to public safety be clearly detailed before such an auction, because uncertainty undermined the last D Block auction, he said.

“What this option is designed to do is increase the debate and discussion regarding how we create a nationwide wireless broadband network that public safety can benefit from, whether it’s public safety’s own network or whether it’s a network built by others that public safety has access to on favorable terms and conditions,” Fontes said. “It is designed only to create debate, and if it’s doing that already, fantastic.”

Others in the public-safety community were far less enthused. Charles Dowd — deputy chief for the New York Police Department and an outspoken critic of last year’s D Block proposal from the FCC — said he believes the NENA proposal is “frankly, worse than the original solution.”

“What they’re suggesting has absolutely no merit,” Dowd said.

Dowd has advocated that the D Block be allocated to public safety, something commercial wireless behemoths AT&T Mobility and Verizon Wireless — the two largest holders of commercial spectrum in the 700 MHz band — have said they would support. If the D Block is auctioned to commercial operators, many Beltway sources believe the

new FCC with a Democratic majority would establish spectrum caps that would prohibit AT&T or Verizon from participating.

Meanwhile, a group of four competitive wireless carriers — T-Mobile USA, MetroPCS Communications, Leap Wireless International and the Rural Telecommunications Group — have asked the FCC to auction the D Block to commercial operators with no obligations to public safety. However, the group is asking Congress to dedicate the auction proceeds — estimated to be between \$2 billion to \$9 billion — to public safety to help address its broadband-communications issues.

“I definitely think there is a need there [for public safety], but I’m not sure that giving them more spectrum at 700 MHz is going to solve that,” said Kathleen Ham, T-Mobile’s vice president of federal regulatory affairs. “I think they really do need funding and better technology, and we’re very supportive of that.”

PSST Chairman Harlin McEwen declined to answer questions about the NENA or the commercial carriers’ proposal during an interview, but the PSST did release a statement regarding the proposals.

“Proposals that would allocate the D Block to primarily commercial purposes would not be beneficial to public safety,” according to the PSST statement. “The current allocation of 10 MHz of broadband spectrum to public safety is not sufficient alone to serve the needs of public safety in the major urban areas or in times of major events and disasters.”

###

Emergency response to Metrorail crash shows post-9/11 gains

June 24, 2009

The Christian Science Monitor

By Dave Cook

URL: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0624/p02s21-usgn.html>

Washington - First responders' effective handling of Monday's rail accident in Washington, coupled with the smooth rescue after a Hudson River plane crash in January, may indicate that the post-9/11 demand for better, faster emergency response is being met – at least in some of the nation's big cities.

"The regional response that is required during extraordinary incidents (Hudson and Metro being two good recent examples) has, in my opinion, significantly improved since 9/11," Daniel Kaniewski, deputy director of George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute, wrote Wednesday in an e-mail interview. He served in the Bush White House as special assistant to the president for homeland security and senior director for response policy.

Triggering an effective response

On Monday afternoon, one Metrorail train slammed into a second train stopped outside the Fort Totten Station in Northeast Washington. The impact pushed part of the moving train onto the top of the stationary train. Two-thirds of the moving train's lead car was crushed, killing nine and injuring more than 70 people.

The Metrorail accident, which disrupted the daily commute for thousands in the Washington area, tested how the nation's capital would cope with a major incident. What happened was "an effective regional response," Mr. Kaniewski said in an online commentary.

In the wake of the accident, emergency vehicles converged on the scene. "As I monitored the radio traffic of the local agencies involved, I expected to hear chaos; but instead I heard the calm and ordered dispatch of emergency units and informative reports from arriving personnel," Kaniewski wrote.

Response teams working in unity

"When the DC resources became stretched, pre-identified units from surrounding jurisdictions were alerted and communicated on the same channel as DC units. There were no apparent coordination or communications issues ... police, fire, emergency medical services, transit, and emergency management officials worked together in a unified manner," the homeland security expert said.

There were, however, some ruffled feelings along the way. The Washington Post on Wednesday reported friction between city and Metro officials over Washington Mayor Adrian Fenty's assertive posture as lead spokesman during the crisis. "The spirit of cooperation is not what we would like it to be," Metro spokeswoman Candace Smith told the Post.

Confusion on casualties

The mayor came in for criticism for saying there were seven fatalities at a time when Metro and public safety officials already had determined that nine commuters had died in the crash. Mr. Fenty told the Post that he was using "an abundance of caution" in releasing the information and that "there's always things that could have been done differently."

During the Wednesday morning commute, Metrorail stations and trains were packed as trains moved at reduced speeds while the cause of the crash remained under investigation. The Takoma Metrorail station remains closed, clogging operations on the Red Line, the system's busiest.

The Associated Press reported that investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board planned to test the automated controls for Metro trains on Wednesday, looking for reasons the computerized system, which is designed to prevent collisions, failed to do so.

###

Public-safety task force begins 700 MHz work

June 23, 2009

Urgent Communications

By Donny Jackson

URL: http://urgentcomm.com/policy_and_law/news/task-force-700mhz-20090623/

A public-safety task force met for the first time last week in an effort to establish requirements for 700 MHz broadband systems that can be used as national standards, potentially providing guidance to the FCC and to metropolitan areas or regions wanting to pursue their own network buildouts in the spectrum band.

Participants in the process include the 15 member associations of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), the Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate–Command, Control & Interoperability Division, and the technical-support organization at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The goal of the task force is to ensure that interoperability and roaming is effective nationwide if the proposed system-of-systems approach is used to provide public-safety entities with access to broadband using 700 MHz frequencies, said Dave Buchanan, director of NPSTC's spectrum committee.

"I would stress that it's the minimum requirements — we're not trying to satisfy everything. It's up to the regional systems to decide their level of availability, their backup power and things like that," Buchanan said. "All we're doing is identifying those minimum things that are needed to have their systems be compatible with the other ones on a nationwide basis for roaming and interoperability."

During its first conference call on Friday, the task force created and gave tasks to three working groups — technical, governance and operations. The groups will work via phone and e-mail until July 16, when the task force will begin a two-day in-person meeting that is designed to generate draft documents, Buchanan said. The task force may meet again during the APCO Conference in August, he said.

"We basically want to wrap this up by the week of the APCO conference," Buchanan said. "We're not wasting any time."

###

Crash tests emergency response system

June 23, 2009

The Washington Times

By Cassie Fleming and Tom LoBianco

URL: http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jun/23/crash-tests-response-system/?feat=home_headlines

The emergency mutual-aid agreements between the local governments in the area helped first responders and hospitals from multiple localities and agencies coordinate in a way that would have been almost impossible before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Nine people died and more than 70 were injured in the worst disaster in Metro's history when a Red Line train crashed into a second train between the Fort Totten and Takoma Metro stations shortly after 5 p.m. on Monday.

More than 200 emergency workers from throughout the area descended on the scene Monday evening in response to the system. D.C. fire and EMS Chief Dennis L. Rubin said first responders from Fairfax County, Arlington County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County helped D.C. emergency workers manage the scene and respond to other medical calls in the city.

Prince George's County emergency management officials answered the call for help at 5:48 p.m. They sent three fire engines, a ladder truck, an ambulance and a mass-casualty bus.

Maryland emergency management officials answered the call from D.C. officials about 7:20 p.m.

"It sounds like the D.C. crew is doing a pretty good job," said Richard Muth, director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

Maryland officials sent more than 20 medical units and 30 pieces of equipment. At least three hospitals in Maryland were taking patients Monday night.

"There's been a lot of emphasis put on interoperability and multi-faceted management systems, which focuses especially on the regional management systems," said Daniel Zubairi, a D.C.-area homeland security consultant. "It appears the surge and the triage response by EMS and emergency services was actually pretty good."

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board took the lead searching for the cause of the accident.

At least a half-dozen ambulances were parked outside the Washington Hospital Center on Monday night, although it was not clear who was being taken to the hospital from the train wreck.

###

DHS funds IT-related projects

June 17, 2009

Federal Computer Week

By Alice Lipowicz

URL: <http://fcw.com/articles/2009/06/17/dhs-announces-preparedness-grants.aspx>

The Homeland Security Department is making nearly \$1.8 billion in emergency preparedness grants available to state and local agencies to fund information technology-related projects, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano announced.

The grants are for state, local and tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations. Funding for IT-related projects covers interoperable emergency communications, video surveillance systems, perimeter security systems, command and control centers, and information-sharing programs.

The 2009 grant programs reflect changes in DHS' procedures to improve the ability of state and local partners to apply for and use the grants, according to a DHS press release issued June 16.

The steps include considering feedback from state and local agencies when targeting allocations, offering assistance to state and local agencies to use the money for long-term projects, and developing greater transparency and efficiency in the application process, the press release states.

The grant programs include:

- State Homeland Security Program, \$861.1 million.
- Urban Area Security Initiative, \$798.6 million.
- Metropolitan Medical Response System, \$39.8 million.
- Citizens Corps Program, \$14.6 million.
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program, \$15 million.
- State Homeland Security Program–Tribal, \$1.7 million.
- Genachowski Glides Through Confirmation Hearing

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Genachowski Glides Through Confirmation Hearing

June 16, 2009

Internetnew.com

By Kenneth Corbin

URL:

<http://www.internetnews.com/government/article.php/3825401/Genachowski+Glides+Throug+Confirmation+Hearing.htm>

WASHINGTON -- Julius Genachowski, President Obama's nominee to chair the Federal Communications Commission, sailed through a breezy confirmation hearing this afternoon, but several members of a Senate panel emphasized the enormity of the task ahead of him.

The senators gave no indication that he will have any trouble securing a final confirmation, saving their most pointed comments for the way the FCC has been run in recent years.

Grousing most loudly was Commerce Committee Chairman John Rockefeller, who, perhaps indulging in a bit of hyperbole, said he was on the fence as to whether the FCC should even be reauthorized.

"Fix the agency, or we'll fix it for you," Rockefeller told Genachowski. "Prove to us that the FCC is not battered beyond repair. Show us that the FCC can put consumers first, and give them confidence that when they interact with the agency they will get a fair response."

Rockefeller and other members of the panel complained that the FCC has operated in a secretive, closed-off manner, selectively withholding information and kowtowing to industry lobbies.

Genachowski, striking a tone that has broadly defined the talking points of the Obama administration, promised that an FCC under his watch would operate with a "commitment throughout the agency to principles of openness, transparency, fact-based decision making."

"The FCC can be a model for excellence in government," he said.

The proceeding was flush with praise for Genachowski's extensive resume, which includes stints as a top adviser at the FCC, a clerk for three federal judges and a staffer on Capitol Hill.

Introducing the nominee, Sen. Chuck Schumer, the New York Democrat who gave Genachowski his first job out of college, called him a "renaissance man of public service."

Genachowski is also a long-time friend of President Obama, serving as an adviser and helping draft the technology agenda of his campaign platform.

But he also brings a breadth of industry experience, having served as a senior executive at IAC/Interactive Corp. (NASDAQ: IACI), and founded two D.C.-based venture capital firms, Rock Creek Ventures and LaunchBox Digital.

"If you're not qualified for this, I don't know who would be," said Nebraska Republican Mike Johanns.

As for matters of policy, Genachowski was a soft touch. He deftly avoided specifics, speaking instead in broad terms about things like the paramount importance of ubiquitous broadband access and the need to create a nationwide, interoperable communications network for first responders.

Now that the digital television transition is essentially completed, it is broadband that will take center stage at the commission.

"The growing consensus that we need a national broadband strategy for this country ... is a recognition that we as a country are not where we need to be with our communications infrastructure," Genachowski said.

"Creative use of spectrum"

As chairman, developing that strategy will be one of his biggest jobs -- at least in the first six months. The economic stimulus package directed the FCC to report a national broadband plan to Congress by next February, and lend its technical expertise to the agencies doling out the \$7.2 billion in grants and loans for broadband projects. Genachowski said he would "pursue and promote competition" in the broadband market without getting too deep into specifics about the policies he might craft to that end.

He did indicate that he will explore the "creative use of spectrum" to facilitate wireless broadband, an area where he sees considerable potential.

"I'm energized by what's been happening around the country in mobile," he said. "I believe that we have an opportunity for the U.S. to lead the world in mobile."

Spectrum policy is also at the root of the FCC's past failure to develop the nationwide public safety network for emergency workers that many senators urged swift action on today. The portion of the 700 MHz spectrum set aside for such a network failed to sell at auction last March, and the FCC has yet to decide how to move forward to create an interoperable network that many believe could have saved lives after the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

Genachowski also spoke of the need to modernize the FCC's consumer-facing operation, starting with its Web site, which many have lampooned as a counterintuitive labyrinth of buried information.

"My goal would be to have the FCC's Web site and its media operation be a model for the rest of the government," he said. However, he quickly added, "I've been around this area long enough that I know I won't be able to snap my fingers on day one and make it happen."

Again speaking as a man very much in step with the public image the Obama administration is trying to cultivate, Genachowski said he hoped to "use new media to communicate clearly in plain English to the public."

The committee dismissed Genachowski with instructions to return written questionnaires to the senators by 6 PM. Next they will put his nomination to a vote at a business meeting, upon which it would pass to the full Senate.

Free Press and Public Knowledge, two prominent advocacy groups that have been among the loudest critics of the FCC in recent years, issued statements today urging a swift confirmation vote for Genachowski, an appointee they see as very much aligned with their agenda.

The committee also considered the nomination of Republican Commissioner Robert McDowell today for a second term in what was seen as a largely pro forma proceeding, as his reconfirmation is all but assured.

###

NYC files 700 MHz waiver request for broadband network

June 16, 2009

Urgent Communications

By Donny Jackson

URL: http://urgentcomm.com/networks_and_systems/news/nyc-700-mhz-broadband-waiver-request-20090616/

New York City last week asked the FCC for permission to construct a 700 MHz public-safety broadband network on spectrum currently held by the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) while promising that the network would comply with national interoperability standards for an envisioned national first-responder broadband network.

In the waiver request to use the PSST's 10 MHz of spectrum, New York City reiterated a desire to also use the 10 MHz D Block frequencies if allowed by Congress and plans to build out its 700 MHz network using LTE as its broadband wireless technology. The waiver request was submitted prior to declarations by three public-safety organizations — the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) — endorsing LTE as the public-safety broadband standard.

In addition, New York City agreed that its broadband network would meet all standards established for a national broadband network. While these endorsements may make it more likely that LTE ultimately will be the technology choice for this endeavor, it is not a guarantee — something New York City realizes, NYPD Deputy Chief Charles Dowd said.

"We understand the obligations that go with that," Dowd said. "If we somehow make the wrong choice on technology, we would have to redo it."

Dowd said there is considerable overlap between LTE and WiMAX — the other technology typically mentioned in the public-safety broadband discussion — so he does not believe switching the network to WiMAX would be cost prohibitive, if necessary.

New York City already has a 2.5 GHz broadband network that was built by Northrop Grumman, which supposedly was built to public-safety standards. However, a 700 MHz system would provide better in-building coverage — making it a better choice for mission-critical voice applications than narrowbanding NYPD's current system — and would allow it to be on a band with the rest of the nation, Dowd said.

"That [2.5 GHz] network does not have the interoperable capabilities that a 700 MHz network is going to have," Dowd said.

By overlaying a 700 MHz network on top of the already-hardened sites associated with the 2.5 GHz network, New York City hopes to save money in deployment costs, Dowd said.

Exactly how New York City would be allowed to use the spectrum currently held by the PSST is questionable. There has been speculation within the public-safety community that entities like New York City could "sub-license" the spectrum from the PSST, but such a mechanism does not exist for that spectrum under current rules.

"We would want all the rights and privileges on that spectrum that we have on our existing spectrum today," Dowd said. "Again, there are obligations that go with that, and that has to do with being fully interoperable and building to the same technologies as everyone else is."

Most industry observers do not expect the FCC to act on the waiver request until the commission is reconstituted. The Senate today is scheduled to conduct the nomination hearing for Julius Genachowski, President Barack Obama's choice for FCC chairman.

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Authorities get ready for radio change

June 16, 2009

Albert Lea Tribune

By Jason Schoonover

URL: <http://www.albertleatribune.com/news/2009/jun/16/authorities-get-ready-radio-change/>

Freeborn County emergency response groups took their first step last week in replacing the countywide radio system with one that improves communication both in the county and with other emergency groups throughout the state.

"Communications has been our downfall the entire 37 years I've worked for the Sheriff's Office," said Freeborn County Sheriff Mark Harig.

After the Federal Communications Commission mandated that wideband very high frequency systems be replaced or converted to narrowband VHF systems by 2013, the

Freeborn County Board of Commissioners voted to approved a conversion to the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response, also known as ARMER.

Harig, Police Chief Dwaine Winkels and others met with representatives from Motorola, Inc., the project contractor, Thursday to kick off the conversion and begin work on a project proposal that will be approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and other state agencies.

ARMER is a statewide system designed to include all emergency response teams in a county, including the Albert Lea Police Department, Freeborn County Sheriff's Department, Albert Lea Medical Center, Albert Lea Fire Department and 16 fire departments and first responders throughout the county.

ARMER is designed to improve interoperability amongst emergency responders throughout the state. For example, ARMER will improve how police officers communicate with the officer in their department, and Harig said it will improve how police officers coordinate efforts with other emergency response teams in neighboring counties, the Minnesota State Patrol and other agencies throughout the state.

"This will give us a lot more channels, and some of those channels will be regional, and some of them will be state. So we'll have state channels where we can talk amongst the state. Regional ones that we can go out of the state, so if we get called to Iowa, we can talk to them," Harig said.

With the mandate to end all wideband VHF transmissions by 2013, many other counties in the state will switch over to ARMER before 2013. The 800 megahertz communications system is already being used by the Minnesota State Patrol and by emergency response teams in the Twin Cities, Rochester and St. Cloud.

"It's been up and running in the metro area for a while now, and by god it works," said James Sobey, presale business manager with Motorola.

In this first phase, Motorola will find out how many radios are currently being used both by emergency workers and in vehicles in Freeborn County. Eventually, all the radios carried by emergency workers and installed in emergency vehicles will be replaced by radios that can communicate with the digital ARMER system. Some radios purchased recently can be converted to work with the digital system.

The estimated cost of the project is \$3.6 million, but Harig said he thinks grant money will make up much of that.

Talk groups

County officials and Motorola will work to set up talk groups.

Police and other emergency response units will no longer communicate through traditional radio channels. They will communicate through assigned talk groups.

All communication will filter through a digital trunked radio communications system. This means when someone uses his or her radio, the call will filter through a computer that selects an available channel for that talk group to communicate on.

One talk group could be set up for the police department, and another could be set up for the fire department. There won't necessarily be a talk groups for each fire department, and fire departments and first responders in small towns often combine to make one talk group.

There are also state and regional talk groups to coordinate efforts with groups outside the county during emergencies.

A talk group could be set up for the Albert Lea Police Department. When a police officer communicates through his or her radio, only police officers in that group will hear that message. The computer will recognize each radio and the talk group it's associated with, and then it will select an available channel whenever the talk group communicates.

Sobey compared the system to waiting in line at a bank to talk to a teller: You don't select a teller to help you; the first available teller helps you. This is how the computer assigns talk groups to an available channel.

Analog and VHF police scanners will no longer operate. Digital scanners will work, but they'll only hear the talk groups as they are selected for a channel. The digital scanners will be set to one channel, but that scanner will cycle through various talk groups as the computer assigns them to that channel, so each communication will be from a different group. Certain talk groups will be encrypted, so tactics and other information won't be heard by the public.

Motorola will work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation on simulations to determine how many channels will be needed to meet the load of the various talk groups, so no one has to wait for a channel.

Improved communication

Harig also said ARMER will improve radio communication in areas of the county where officials have often lost signal. Police officers and firefighters have often lost radio contact in the past in certain buildings and in the outskirts of the county. After a bank robbery in 2003, Harig said officers had a difficult time communicating with dispatchers in the Freeborn area when they captured a suspect.

“In our world with VHF, the old system, we have a lot of dead spots where you get into terrain where there's a dip or a hill,” Harig said.

The goal is to have 95 percent coverage 95 percent of the time over all areas of the county.

ARMER communication towers are already in place near Alden, Geneva and Oakland, but there are preliminary plans to add ARMER communication systems to an existing tower near Glenville and to another at the Law Enforcement Center in Albert Lea.

The Glenville tower will improve communication in southern portions of the county and into Iowa. The Albert Lea tower will improve communication in buildings in Albert Lea, especially downtown.

Harig said the new communication will also benefit firefighters, because they need strong communication equipment when they go into a building to fight a fire.

Emergency officials have had difficulty with radio signal in certain buildings in town, especially Northbridge Mall, Albert Lea Medical Center and Albert Lea High School.

“You get into some of the businesses of the metal buildings, and you don’t have very good signal. You try to call and dispatch can’t hear you. If you’re in a bar fight, and you can’t talk to anyone, you’re on your own because they don’t know what’s going on,” Harig said.

There are currently five channels through each of the three existing towers. Sobey said one or two channels will likely be added at each tower, and an upwards of 12 channels would need to be added if two new towers went up.

Harig said Freeborn County is ahead of many counties in Minnesota in this process since the county already had GeoComm review their systems, while many groups are looking to do that now. The conversion takes about a year to 18 months from start to finish, and Harig said he hopes the system is operating by 2011 or 2012.

###

Grant would help get Woodbridge first-responders a communication upgrade

June 15, 2009

mycentraljersey.com

By Sergio Bichao

URL:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20090615/NEWS/906150346/Grant+would+help+get+Woodbridge+first-responders+a+communication+upgrade>

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, public officials nationwide called for radio systems that could allow police, fire and emergency medical responders to communicate efficiently across so-called department lines during a crisis.

As part of a national directive to upgrade local first-responder communications by 2012, the township has been working on bringing its 25-year-old radio network into the 21st

century. The upgrade also will benefit South Amboy, Carteret and Perth Amboy, which will share the system, officials said.

Toward that end, Mayor John E. McCormac and Rep. Leonard Lance, R-7th, stood in front of the Town Hall on Monday to announce a \$500,000 grant the congressman has requested in the \$42.6 billion Homeland Security funding bill expected to be approved by the House of Representatives this week.

U.S. Rep. Albio Sires, D-13th, who represents Perth Amboy, also sponsored the request.

The grant will help pay for a digital radio system officials expect to be in place by the middle of next year at an estimated cost of \$9.5 million, officials said.

“Our current system is a conventional system, which means there is a limit of channels and bandwidth that each public safety entity has access to,” Police Capt. Scott Kuzma said.

The new digital trunked system will allow all township agencies — police, fire, emergency medical responders and even public works — to talk to each other over the airwaves. Currently, emergency responders have to waste precious time going through each agency’s dispatcher on a telephone line to cross-communicate, Kuzma said.

The system also will allow Woodbridge to communicate with agencies in Perth Amboy, South Amboy and Carteret. In April, the three municipalities received a \$22,734 Sharing Available Resources Efficiently (SHARE) grant from the state Department of Community Affairs to pay for a feasibility study into developing a shared radio network.

“This system will allow the other towns and Woodbridge to share a joint infrastructure and we’ll have seamless interoperability,” Kuzma said.

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