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Transcript

FirstNet Board of Directors Webcast, Houston, TX, December 8-9, 2015

FirstNet Board Meeting

SUE SWENSON: Well, good morning, everybody. Welcome to Houston again and the December 9th FirstNet Board meeting. Welcome to those of you in the audience and those of you on our live webcast.

Yesterday, when we had our Committee meetings, I talked about how impactful coming to Houston and seeing some of the opportunities to use this FirstNet network has in store for us. Todd Early and Shing Lin will talk about this a little later in the meeting today. But the Board and the PSAC actually were able to go out and do a demo and see a demo on all of the applications that we're seeing on Band 14 and the applications and how public safety is using Band 14. And not that we needed inspiration to work harder and to move faster, but seeing how this capability changes the way we do public safety, frankly, is inspirational.

And what's inspirational is I was telling Todd Early this morning, I said, "Great to see the nice big shiny trucks, and that's really cool. But the really nice thing is to see how the people who are on the street every day, in their cars and the line officers dealing with the public every day and how it impacts their life and how excited they are, is truly an inspiration.

Todd, I know you'll talk later; but I just wanted to mention that at the beginning. It's pretty exciting, and I really appreciate the whole Board making themselves available to do that and also the PSAC.

Harlin, having the PSAC, I think, go and see that yesterday was very good as well. Yesterday I talked about the city of Houston and just the significant things that go on here.

First of all, Mayor, beautiful city – thank you for your hospitality. We were talking with actually some of the public safety folks yesterday about, for example, getting ready for the big events coming up. And having that capability for those big events is going to make a huge difference. The Harris County project has been able to—around Texas A&M, you know, there are hundreds of thousands of people there. And the folks who are on Band 14 are actually able to do their work when those big events occur. And the commercial networks can't handle the traffic, and so being able to do that just brings it home.

So I just wanted to make a comment about the significant work that the Board is doing. I wanted to thank the Board for everything they've done up to this point. I think we're at, frankly, a monumental point in the project – so looking forward to today's meeting and the presentations that we'll have.

To start the meeting this morning, we need to take a look at our minutes. But the first thing I think we need to do is probably take roll, Mr. Secretary.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Thank you, Sue.

Sue Swenson?

SUE SWENSON Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Jeff Johnson?

JEFF JOHNSON: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Barry Boniface?

BARRY BONIFACE: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Ed Horowitz?

Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Christopher Burbank?

CHRISTOPHER BURBANK: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL James Douglas?

JAMES DOUGLAS: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Kevin McGinnis?

KEVIN MCGINNIS: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Annise Parker?

ANNISE PARKER: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Neil Cox?

NEIL COX: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Ed Reynolds?

[No response]

ELI VEENENDAAL Richard Stanek?

RICHARD STANEK: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Teri Takai?

TERI TAKAI: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Dave Mader?

[No response]

ELI VEENENDAAL Suzanne Spaulding?

SUZANNE SPAULDING: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL Ron Davis?

RON DAVID Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Madam Chair, we have a quorum.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you.

Ok. Now we can take a look at the minutes. I think the Board has before them the minutes from the last meeting in October; and asking if there are any corrections, additions, deletions, modifications to those minutes. Hearing none, I would entertain a motion to approve those minutes.

TERI TAKAI: So moved.

SUE SWENSON Thank you, Teri.

UNKNOWN PERSON: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you. All those in favor, please signify by saying, "Aye."

ALL: Aye. (Multiple voices)

SUE SWENSON Those opposed, same sign?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON: Any further discussion? Minutes are approved and we'll put those in the record, Eli. Thank you.

As is our tradition, of course we need to do a potential Conflicts Notification. So our Board Secretary will read our Conflicts Notification.

ELI VEENENDAAL: In advance of FirstNet's December 2015 Committee and Board meetings, the Management Team has provided the Board with an agenda outlining each of the items that will be discussed during the Committee and the Board meeting. The Board members were also provided a Conflicts of Interest Assessment, which was produced jointly by the Commerce Department Office of General Counsel and FirstNet Office of Chief Counsel.

Providing these documents to the Board members allows them to identify potential conflicts of interest, to recuse themselves from participation, if required. We have, prior to each Committee and the full Board meeting, reminded all Board members of their obligations relating to conflicts of interest and ask each of them to identify whether any recusals from deliberations or voting are necessary.

With that said, if any Board members believe they must now recuse themselves from this meeting, please do so and state for the record.

[No response]

ELI VEENENDAAL: We are prepared to proceed.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you.

Just a few comments about today's session— we'll have a couple of presentations, and we'll have a guest presenting today and go through a couple of management reports. We'll have a very brief closed session after those presentations, and we'll come back and report out. So that's the order of events for today.

To start out, Mayor Parker, I think you have a guest here with us today. So if you'd be so kind as to do that introduction; if not, I have the information.

ANNISE PARKER: I don't have the information.

SUE SWNESON: Okay, I'll do the introduction. Chief Mike Montgomery is here today. He's a Harris County Fire Marshal. I assume Mike is here.

Oh, there you are, great, Mike. I didn't know where you were. Come on down. He has 28 years as a first responder, responsible for code enforcement, hazardous material response. He has been deployed to the World Trade Center in response to 9/11 with Task Force 1, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike. So, obviously, Chief Montgomery has a lot of experience in this area. And, Chief, we are delighted to have you here today. So, the floor is yours.

CHIEF MIKE MONTGOMERY: Thank you very much. It's an honor to be here to represent the Greater Houston area and Harris County and the surrounding agencies.

First, let me just say what an important step this is for first responders and how important of an initiative this is across the board. It's not only going to enhance what we have been able to do in the past, but we've just got some tremendous ideas about how we can better utilize not only the technology but also the interoperability and the capabilities across the board.

Just a few points that I would like to make is, what is really important to us is if we can capture information, we can share information. And one of the most critical aspects of emergency response is being able to understand what is it that I know that other people need to know, and what is it that they know that I need to know, and how can we better share that information. And obviously, the more information that we can share real time, the better the quality of the decisions we're going to make and so forth. So this ability to capture not only data, but voice and video and every other aspect of information that we have that's necessary, and to be able to share that across the board, not only locally but to remote locations as well: to emergency operation centers, to crisis centers and so forth is very critical.

Second is that by going to an industry standard, we are able to not only share this information near or real time, but it allows us to enhance our interoperability capabilities. For many years, people thought that interoperability was just the ability to talk with each other on radios, across radio frequencies and radio systems. But interoperability is much, much more than that. It's the ability to share operational practices. It's being able to just basically blend in seamlessly in any incident across the nation so that we can expand those capabilities to local first responders to enhance those.

And those are lessons that we learned during the events of Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, Hurricane Sandy, what we've also found in the response to the 9/11 attacks and so forth. So this concept of interoperability across industry standards is also very critical.

And then the third and the final point is that this technology and this capability is going to allow us to extend our reach far beyond what we can do locally, to regional, statewide and at the national level as well. And basically, to be able to share this information real time, the capability is just awesome. And the tremendous impact that's going to make on leaders' ability to make good quality decisions that affect those that we serve. And that's the bottom line, is that this technology and the application of this technology and the ideas that we're already beginning to share, are going to help us save lives.

JEFF JOHNSON: Absolutely.

CHIEF MIKE MONTGOMERY: Thank you very much.

SUE SWENSON: Any comments from the Board members?

Chief, I would just like to make a comment. You said a couple of things that really resonated with me, and that is the sharing of information. When we were with the folks yesterday, it was really interesting to hear how organizations that in the past may have not been working together, they're already, because of the technology, thinking, okay, why don't we do this and why don't we do that? You're already seeing that, aren't you, in some of the work that you're doing?

CHIEF MIKE MONTGOMERY: Yes, ma'am. Without a doubt, this idea of sharing information not only across local responders but to other agency types as well is very critical. It was very interesting yesterday during the demonstrations to watch the various groups interact and begin to come up with different ways that we can share ideas that we hadn't thought of even before yesterday. So as the technology expands, as it evolves and as it matures, we're going to find out that we're just continuing adding new ideas. So to us, this is an evergreen initiative, and it's never going to end. This is just the beginning, and we believe that it is just going to continue on as long as it's available to us.

SUE SWENSON: Absolutely.

Any comments from the Board on the Chief's comments, or your visit yesterday that come to mind?
Chief, I'm sure you have something to say.

JEFF JOHNSON: Well, I'm grateful to the Chief and I'm grateful to the public safety community here in Harris County for not only the demonstration they gave us yesterday, but to actually talk to street level officers and firefighters, hazmat team responders that are using this technology today. They have no motivation to show us a smoke or a mirror. Their motivation was to tell us how this technology and having a dedicated network is changing their operational ability. And I think that's what the Chief was speaking to, and it was just nice to see that.

It's not going to be a surprise to you, but Harris County will be leading this country, along with the other early adopters of this technology into the future. And we're already seeing operational changes here, and we're going to see more.

CHIEF MIKE MONTGOMERY: Thank you. And we agree. Absolutely.

ANNISE PARKER Sue, if I could, one of the reasons that we wanted to have this Board meeting here was because we are a pilot area and early adopters. But it was a good example of the many overlapping jurisdictions that share space. And we actually built that TranStar facility because we felt that we needed - it was so difficult to communicate that we needed to have key personnel in one place in an emergency situation. That's not so necessary anymore, but the amount of data coming in and the ability to share that data very rapidly is the new phase of being in that TranStar facility.

But I hope that you really engaged with the Brazos County Sheriff's deputies because, Sue, as you said, having the big hazmat vans and so forth out there, those are cool tools. But these deputies are using this every day and communicating with each other. And I don't know if every Board member got to hear that the Sheriff can actually key in and see exactly what the deputy is doing while he's in that car.

JEFF JOHNSON: Some would find that not attractive. (Laughter)

ANNISE PARKER: Some would, and we talked to the deputy about that. In an emergency—and there's a light that comes on, and they do know when the Sheriff is watching. But in an emergency situation, when there's nobody else around, and you may have an electronic tether somehow on the fire ground --

Chief, as you know, on the fire ground, that's critical. You lose track of one of your people, and it enables you to find if they're passed out someplace. Well, it works for the police as well. Also, the ability to get feeds from multiple angles from the dash cams.

And to the public who may be watching, I was a little disconcerted being in the TranStar facility, which is our joint city/county/state facility and to see a downlink with a four-alarm fire going on in this city that was live. But again, we use it for the port; we have the feed from the helicopter. That happened to be a DPS helicopter, but we have a large fleet of city helicopters.

The City's Command Center operates much the same way, but the reason that we have a separate Command Center is that in an emergency situation, we are using the same type of radio communication, and we need the same type of communication because who do we send out first after a hurricane? Not the police, it's Public Works and Solid Waste to move debris out of the roads. So our Command Center is set up, it looks very similar to this one, but it's staffed with the various City departments that need to respond. So you see the complexity and the need for that communication, so I'm glad that everybody went out.

And thank you for being here this morning, Chief.

CHIEF MIKE MONTGOMERY: If I could echo on Mayor Parker's thoughts there, it's not just for first responders. The ability to use this technology every day allows us to extend our reach in both directions, and that is from the street back to a central location. But it's also from that central location back to the street. And as the Mayor pointed out, we are able to get many angles now that replace just one set of eyes and ears on the scene. Now we're being able to get information from multiple sources, from multiple angles, and bring those together to help us make better decisions – so very critical information.

SUE SWENSON: I'll just make one additional comment. Talking to one of the deputies in the vehicle, it was interesting too. And actually when I visited Harris County actually a couple of years ago, they were already starting to do this. But they said, "What's great about this for me personally is that I don't have to keep driving back and forth to the office to do all the paperwork. Essentially, everything from my office is now in my car." And so they don't have to hassle with the traffic. So personally, it just makes their life a lot better; it makes it more efficient.

And if you think about it from a community standpoint, just the presence of the law enforcement in the community versus back at the office, has got to be having a very positive impact as well – so, again, multiple benefits of all this.

And thank you, Chief, for taking the time to be here today. And thank you, Mayor Parker, again, for hosting us. This is a great event.

CHIEF MIKE MONTGOMERY: Thank you very much, appreciate it.

SUE SWENSON: OK. Next on the agenda we have Chief Harlin McEwen.

Chief, glad to have you here as usual and giving us an update on the terrific work done by the Public Safety Advisory Group; and so the floor is yours.

HARLIN MCEWEN. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

There are many PSAC members in the room; I wanted to acknowledge that. And of course, we're going to have a meeting this afternoon. But the members that are here, many of them participated in the demo that you mentioned yesterday. And I think almost universally, everybody was very impressed. What it is that we saw is the real world use of Band 14, and a great view of what we believe the future is going to be from the development of this nationwide network. So, it was great. So we were very impressed.

I'm just going to go through a few updates. First of all, we have a couple of vacancies in the PSAC. One of them was caused by the fact that we hired away one of those members, Mike Worrell, who is now a

member of the staff on the fire side of it. So we're really pleased that Mike has joined the staff, but it created a vacancy, so we have that vacancy and one resignation.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you for providing those resources for us to bring on to FirstNet. (Laughter)

HARLIN MCEWEN: We build them up.

And then, of course, we're very pleased that Todd Early has been able to join us. He's the new representative of the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators. And of course Todd has been very much involved. I guess I want to go back to the demo and just say, Todd, to you and your staff and to Jim and all of the people from Harris County that put together the demo, you did a wonderful job. And I just want to thank you publically for that.

You've heard me report, and I'm not going to go into any detail today, on the three tasks that we've been working on for the past year. And we've now completed those tasks, and we've presented our findings to TJ officially for the use of the FirstNet staff on priority and preemption, public safety grade, and user equipment. And those have been very exciting projects.

The task teams have been engaged. Here's a list of the various people that were involved. We had a number of volunteers from the PSAC who were engaged in this for almost a year-long task. Every one of them put their all into it. The strength of the PSAC is the fact that we have so many different kinds of backgrounds. These people come from police, fire, EMS, local government, state government, and various other disciplines, emergency management. And they bring to the table the kind of diverse opinions to give you the best advice that we can give you, so I think that was really very good.

Again, I'm not going to go into the details of those recommendations. I think they're on the slides here. But basically, again, it was to put together the best advice we could give you as you finalize the RFP.

One of the things on the public safety grade recommendations I just wanted to mention was that was an interesting task because we started out with a whole long list of what we call critical assets and finally identified 19. We brought that down to what we feel are the most critical assets, such as fire stations and law enforcement locations, hospitals, major stadiums, arenas, airports, PSAPs and so on. I think the work that put that together was important.

Secondly, we worked with the staff—tremendous depth in your staff, in the CTO staff, in Jeff's staff—developing the ability to identify hazards, such as earthquakes and flooding and wild fires and tornados and all of those kinds of things, and try to decide how best to address hardening of the facilities so that we don't have to harden everything. But we are actually especially giving our attention to those things that are most vulnerable. So I think that was very helpful.

On the user equipment, again, an interesting mix of people dealing with this. As you know, we coined a new term. We used to call it the Mobile Communications Units. We coined a term called Vehicular Network System, and the reason was that the MCU term was being used by FEMA, and we didn't want to have a conflict. We think this is a good term, and of course it deals with various kinds of mobile capability.

You all know about the traditional COWs, the cellular on wheels, the system on wheels, the light trucks, and all of those kinds of systems. But we're now focusing on the public safety vehicle itself as one of those vehicular network systems. So that particularly where the vehicles are in more rural areas, where they won't have as good a coverage as they might have in other places, they will actually have a system in the police car, in the fire truck, in the ambulance, that will allow them to—and that's been an exciting discussion that we've been going through. Along with the bring-your-own-device discussion, a very important discussion, we envision those kinds of things as being important to the whole outcome of this.

We have been requested to do some future tasks. Let me see, I missed one thing here. I wanted to also mention that last week, the Executive Committee, under a non-disclosure agreement, reviewed Section M of the new RFP. And of course, we can't discuss the issues, but the issue that I wanted to raise here was

the fact that the Executive Committee was extremely pleased with the effort that's gone into this particular part of the RFP. We have extreme confidence in the way this is going. And we just wanted everybody in the public to know, and we wanted the Board to know, that we think it's been going really well.

And then last, I wanted to just touch on the fact that TJ and Mike and I and others were talking about requested future taskings. And we'll be commencing those; we'll be getting those instructions, TJ, right after the first of the year?

TJ KENNEDY: Correct.

HARLIN MCEWEN: And so one of them is local control. Local control is heavily connected to the whole issue of priority and preemption. And I think just to give people a sense of what we're talking about is that, we want the control of the assets of this network to be as automated and to be as dynamic as possible. We really believe that the capability of the technology is such that we'll be able to do that. In other words, people don't have to be pushing buttons and twinking things. On very rare occasions, we'll be discussing how to make use of the technology in a way that will give true local control when it's absolutely necessary. So that's what that's going to be about.

Identity, credential, and access management (ICAM), as you know, we've talked about that. We're going to tackle that now head-on, and we've got some good ideas on that already. That's going to be critical to how we manage the users of this network, and we're excited about that task.

We're also going to be taking advantage of the newly-hired discipline staff— fire people, law enforcement and EMS—who will be working directly with those disciplines. What we're going to do is we're going to start to assign various people from the PSAC to working directly in those disciplines. We're starting to get ourselves organized in a way that will make it better for us to take advantage of those kinds of capabilities of the people we've hired.

And then last, as you know, the law required that – well, first of all, the law provides for I think it's up to \$300 million to go to NIST for research and development. And the law requires that the – and PSCR has been tasked to do that for NIST – and the law requires that they do that in consultation with the PSAC. And so I wanted you to know that Derek Orr and I and the Executive Committee, we're engaged in those discussions. And they're already starting to gear up for the first of the year for a number of tasks related to that. So I think we're headed in a great direction for the first of the year, and I think the PSAC as well, and we appreciate your support.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Chief. Just a couple of comments. First of all, I'm delighted to hear that you had an opportunity to read an important section in the RFP. And thanks for your feedback on that. I know that was a long time coming to make that happen, so glad to see that it did. You reviewing that and giving us the confidence that you feel good about it sure makes a big difference, so thank you for taking the time because I know there's a lot to read there.

Just a comment about the public grade, that activity, for me, having been involved in FirstNet since its inception, it's a topic we talked about early on. It was one of these big, amorphous kinds of topics, and you've actually, I think, boiled it down to make something sensible of that. When we first started talking about it, I remember talking to a couple of folks at FirstNet. And we said, well, what's the standard for public safety? And they said, well, we really don't have one. So thank you for taking on that big task.

And then on the device side, as a person who has been around networks for a while, I always view devices as an extension of the network. And I don't know that people always think about it that way, and it's really, really important, so another important task. These new efforts that you're undertaking, particularly local control, I think is really critically important and to get the view of the PSAC, because I think initially we thought of it as something else. And now that we're more familiar with what the technology is going to do for us, I think we're in a better position to deal with that.

And as you've said, we've started work on ICAM. And then I know we have a great relationship with PSCR, and I know that will go well. So great work. Thank you to your Executive Committee and all of the PSAC for all of the work you do. I think we have a very good relationship, and I think we're doing some good work here. So thanks for that, appreciate it.

Any comments in the room?

Okay, we're going to move on to some administrative responsibilities here. Yesterday the Committees actually took a look at their individual charters. And so I'm going to ask our Chief Counsel, Jason Karp, to bring everybody up-to-date on the review of the charters. And I think the Board needs to actually vote on adopting those changes.

JASON KARP: Great, thanks, Madam Chair. This won't take long. I do realize this is probably the highlight of everybody's reason for being here today, is to talk about Board governance, and I appreciate you coming and listening to this topic.

As you're aware, there is an annual requirement in our bylaws to review the Committee charters to make sure they continue to be in alignment with FirstNet's mission and goals, as well as to provide essentially an annual report and read out of the many activities that the Committees engaged in throughout the year.

Yesterday, the Committees gave their reports for those who are here. You certainly can see that online. It was a tremendous year, an amazing amount of work that this Board has done. And so they've taken care of that.

We've reviewed the individual Committee charters, made some updates. The good news is there really were no material substantive updates to the charters. They are mostly ministerial, which is good. They are still very much in alignment with our goals and our mission. The Committees each individually voted to approve those charters, and now it's just a matter of governance to ensure they're adopted for the next year.

We need to turn it over to the full Board, Madam Chair, for you to initiate a vote so that the Board can discuss and/or adopt the charters as they were presented yesterday.

SUE SWENSON: Great, I think everybody has had ample opportunity to review the charters; and we did that yesterday. So I'm open to a motion to actually approve the charters.

ED HOROWITZ: So moved.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Ed. Is there a second?

ANNISE PARKER; Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Mayor Parker. All those in favor of adopting the changes that we discussed yesterday, please signify by saying, "Aye."

ALL: Aye. (Multiple voices)

SUE SWENSON: All those opposed, same sign?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON: Any further discussion?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON: Any further abstentions or objections?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON: With that, we have that passed; and we'll put that in the record. Thank you, Jason.

I don't think the State of Texas or Harris County needs any further introduction. We've probably done all the introductions, Todd and Shing, on what's happening in Harris County. So we welcome you to present to the full Board and to the listening audience and the audience here today, what's happening in Harris County and the Early Builder project there.

Welcome, Todd and Shing.

TODD EARLY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everybody. I want to first of all thank you for the chance to get to speak to you a little bit this morning. As you can tell, we're very passionate about this Early Builder project, and the work that's going on in the state of Texas. So thank you for that.

I want to thank everyone for being able to make the demo yesterday, and also thank Chief McEwen and the PSAC members for being able to make that yesterday. We had great interaction, and I think it was great to really put some first responders speaking to you directly and let you see the impact it's had on responders. So thank you for that as well.

And thank you for the partnership first of all from the Board and the FirstNet staff. We feel that these Early Builder projects are extremely important to being able to put the technology in the hands of the first responders, and really get lessons learned and see what works and what doesn't work and provide that feedback. So that engagement and the engagement of the PSAC is really good to see, and we appreciate that very much.

I want to take a few minutes this morning to talk to you about really from the state point of contact perspective, the consultation perspective, and the requirements gathering and some of the great work. We're very blessed with a great team of folks who have been very innovative and really trying to do some innovative things for outreach to the folks on the ground, and so I wanted to take a few minutes to discuss that.

And then Shing Lin from Bruce High's team. Bruce has been a very innovative person in this and really been behind this from day one. And he'll talk to you about the Early Builder deployment here in Harris County and what it involves.

Just a quick history of this: this really started with the Harris County folks, not the State of Texas but with the folks in Harris County, after the hurricanes in 2008. The State of Texas really got involved in 2010 when we started getting involved in the lease agreement and the spectrum piece of that. The FCC had asked us to get involved from a state perspective, coordination perspective. But they really got involved in that when the roadways looked like this.

When you start contra flowing traffic from a major hurricane, as you can tell there, the commercial network is going to be extremely inundated. And public safety has to have a network that we can communicate on for our first responders. And when you really dig down into this perspective and this piece of it, you've got an EMS crew right there on the side of the road working on somebody who has to have that network and that reliability for that to happen. So the importance of this, not only in urban areas but also the rural parts of Texas, is extremely important.

We got involved and did a lot of paperwork and documents. We received a waiver even ahead of FirstNet in 2011, back when it was the PSST. Then, obviously, FirstNet was created in 2012, and that process started over. We worked closely with the Board and with the FirstNet staff to establish the lease agreement that's in place. The lease agreement that's in place, we worked very hard with the FirstNet staff on that, and in August of 2014, that was signed.

And what you see here are the five key learning conditions that we agreed to work with the FirstNet staff on and the CTO Team. And I want to take a minute. We've worked very closely with all of the directors, and the CTO Team has worked very closely with us. I'm very grateful for Jeff's team and the work that they've done and engaged us very closely in this.

These are the things that we'll be documenting and working on. But I think one important key factor there to talk about and discuss are the informal key learning conditions. There have already been informal key learning conditions out of that. I think there will be more to come. And there are some things that we can do when it comes to local control and ICAM and those things to really get it in a real live operational system and in the hands of public safety to partner with the CTO Team and see what works for public safety and what doesn't. And I think those are really the important things that are coming out of these Early Builder projects that I'm excited about, and I think we'll be able to partner and work on when this is rolled out and ahead of state decisions.

Just from our perspective, these are some of the challenges that my team has. And I know you all know this acutely from all across the nation. But having 254 counties and about a quarter of a million first responders in the state, 1,200 miles of international border, these are the challenges we have.

As you know, and I think it was discussed, Madam Chair, I think you discussed yesterday about the importance of really reaching the boots on the ground. That's the challenge that we have as well. So the strategy and some of the innovative things that we've come up with, we're excited about. And I think that's the importance of some of the grant money that NTIA and others have put out there in being able to leverage that.

And some of the things that we've done, other states can utilize and leverage as well. But really getting into these folks and educating them and letting them know what this is, what it isn't, the innovative things and technology that is going to provide our first responders, is one of the things that's important to us and the challenge that we have to be able to do that.

One of the things that we've been working very hard on is trying to come up with and figure out a way to have the optimum network design. To really have the involvement, an interactive and iterative process with all the local first responders to allow them the chance to give us data and input and requirements so that we can make sure that's included in the State plan that Rich and his team give the State so that it's a success. And we've been trying to do that.

One of the ways that we did that was for the first initial dataset, we utilized the Mobile Data Survey tool that was developed by OEC, and we rolled that piece of it out. That was really talking about capacity and how much, and devices and the things that FirstNet asked for in the first phase of the data collection. Obviously, we're still continuing data collection. And that will be an iterative process to make sure that's included in the State plan that's delivered.

We had a great response. Very proud of the team, did a great job and received over 1,100—I believe we're almost up to 1,200—responses to that survey from public safety now. So that was a great response, and they did a great job. We submitted that data to FirstNet at the end of September.

One of the ways we did that through the Mobile Data Survey tool was the team created an online learning tutorial that talked about the importance of gathering the data, and walked them through all the steps of why it's needed, why FirstNet needs it, and rolled that out to all the jurisdictions. They also did a large, I would say, telephone campaign. They called entities and told them the importance and physically walked them through doing that. And I think that's why they got the great response that they received.

The next thing we're working on now is, obviously, coverage. And I'll go through that here in just a minute. But knowing where folks need coverage, the important things to them. Because what's important in West Texas is different in East Texas in the importance of the coverage that's out there and what needs to be covered.

As I said, we did it in two phases, the first phase really being the data. Now we're focused on the coverage objective mapping. And we've created a tool and leveraged some other tools that were out there, added to it a little bit. And we'll be rolling that out sometime toward the end of this month to jurisdictions all across the state. We actually have created a video to roll out the importance of that and also take them step-by-step through the interactive mapping process.

This is just a map of some data that we received for first responders all over the state. But the coverage planning mapping tool really is what you see here. And what we did was take the baseline coverage objective map that FirstNet and the state plans team gave to us. We went in and added 9-1-1 call data from all over the State of Texas. We feel that's very important to have that call data. We still have some to add, but as you can see, there are a lot of 9-1-1 calls that happen. So having the coverage for where the first responders go on those 9-1-1 calls is extremely important.

Hurricane evacuation routes—extremely important. We added those hurricane evacuation routes to that. We'll be also looking at adding some TEA data for coverage at schools because they have resource officers and they have the needs there when schools go in lockdown to have that data.

This is just a picture of the interactive tool that's been created. What this will allow us to do is roll this out to the regions and to the first responders and allow them to go in and mark coverage of the important places that they need coverage, so that we can provide that back to FirstNet and the state plans team to be able to do that.

We know that we have to try to reach some type of phased rollout, that's consistent with what FirstNet will be rolling out in the five phases. So the importance of doing that— we have to have the ability for first responders to give us that data and that input, but also allow us to look at the attributes and the things that are important to those local counties.

What one of our working groups came up with, you see here, is a tool to really input data to help us with that phased rollout, so that they can go in there and put in all the attributes that are important to their local area. It may be the oil industry. It may be the port right here. It may be various things across the state. And this allows them to go in and put in those important attributes and data that's readily available and then weight that data to come up with a consistent phased rollout across the state.

This way they have local input. We cover the things that are very important to them. And then we're able to provide that to Rich and the team for the state plan that's delivered. So we're extremely excited about this. They're still working on it, but we feel that's going to give us some output from the state and the local planning perspective, to really have the input into the state plan.

These are just some of the strategic advisory groups that we have working across the state. Some various committees that we have, giving us input from the local perspective, from the first responder. We know the NG9-1-1 is going to converge with this network. So having that involvement now, figuring out how that's going to work—we have some folks around the state who are already doing texts to 9-1-1. So having that input and when they need it and the involvement.

Education—very important to the Administration for education to be covered in this. So what are the use cases in K-12 and in colleges and things that we can utilize this network for.

Rural deployment is extremely important. As I discussed yesterday, last Thursday we had an explosion at a gas plant in West Texas, a population in that area of two people. Three hundred people in that. Thank God they all got out safely and no one was severely injured. But the importance of rural deployment is extremely important in a state that has 85 percent rural area.

Tribal. We're very engaged with our three tribal nations here and with the FirstNet team and that engagement.

VOAD and Private Sector—I want to talk real quickly about that, extremely important to us with our volunteer organizations when it comes to disaster response. And then our private sector who is extremely involved with us when it comes to disaster response and helping us get water to PODs (points of distribution) and other things that are out there. And then state agency involvement.

One of the things that I want to spend just a minute on is really a couple of the innovative things that the team has done to really get outreach out to the boots on the ground. We have the same challenge. You walk up to the folks on the ground, and they still don't know what this is. With over 250,000 responders, that's really important to us.

So they've come up with an e-Learning portal. And this e-Learning portal that you're about to see, one of the ways that we're able to get folks to it is, we worked with the credentialing agencies across the state. And first responders who require CE credits will get two CE credits for going through this presentation and this involvement in this e-Learning portal to help them. So that's kind of a carrot, if you say, to really get them involved in that.

And this e-Learning portal walks you through many facets and assets of what is public safety broadband? It really starts at the basic level of what is public safety broadband, what is FirstNet, how is it going to affect their discipline, all the way to the fact of applications. What applications do you see in fire and EMS and in law enforcement? It talks about some disaster response that we've had across the state. You heard the Chief earlier talking about some of the hurricane responses.

But really, what did communications look like before, during, and after that disaster and what were some of the challenges and how would this technology really improve the response of that disaster, and that piece of it? It compares some of this to the commercial industry today—what the challenges are, what's in commercial, what would FirstNet be.

And then one of the things that we're really excited about is when we talk about this technology and this network, we talk about the innovation. We talk a lot about requirements of the network, but we really want to get their mind thinking about what type of innovative solutions would this provide? We talk a lot about the West Fire, where we lost 15 first responders in that incident. We talk a lot about the Bastrop wildfire complex, where we lost over 1,500 homes.

And really, if you think about those incidents and you talk about after action reports, what's always the number one issue that comes out of that, right, is communications. And really, when you dig into it, folks most of the time have the ability to communicate. They either don't have the plan on what channels they're supposed to be on, or they don't have the data ahead of getting there to staging before they get to that incident.

So we created a scenario, the team did, that talks about a bridge collapse. And when you think about that, you could actually geo fence an area of an incident, whether it's 50 miles, 75 miles, whatever it be. And when you responded in that area, it has this device that says, "Are you responding to this bridge collapse?" And you hit, "Yes." Once you do that, the ability to push out applications to that device ahead of them ever getting there. So now when they go, they have a complete situational awareness of that emergency disaster and that response, all the way for a unified awareness of who is staged where, what entity they're from, what is their contact information. You see here just an example of fire and EMS, where you would be able to stage those and where they're at.

Medical maps so that you know where the hospitals are, the burn centers, the triage areas, where your EMS folks are staged, all the way to mandatory and voluntary evacuations. When you do evacuations, we have many that can't evacuate themselves in the State of Texas. And we have to send folks down in there. Right now, it's really by LMR radio and a map being able to do that. So having an application where you can check off what you've hit, what else you have to go evacuate, and what's being done and the other folks that are there, we feel is extremely important.

And then down into the ICS forms that the incident commander actually uses on that incident scene and then the communications plan, knowing what channel to communicate. So now before the first responder ever gets there, they have a unified situational awareness; they know where to stage; they know where to stage their equipment; they know how to communicate; they know all the important information that previously we had to wait for the information when they got on the scene. That's the type of innovation and technology that we think this network will provide. And so I'm really proud of the team and some of the innovative things that they've done. But it walks folks through this to kind of get their mind to start thinking around that piece of it.

Now, the team also created this website, www.TxLTE.com. It has all kinds of information about public safety broadband, FirstNet. It also allows them to go and take this online learning portal. A couple of things we're working on now are just some of the deployment planning, some of the planned events. The next big one here is the Houston Rodeo. You heard the mayor talk about it yesterday. That's a big one as well, and the Super Bowl obviously next year and some of the events that are going on in the Austin area as well.

Just a couple of key points, and I'll end this, and turn it over to Shing. One thing that I want to make sure that the Board is aware of is we have many jurisdictions. It's not just here in the state of Texas, but many jurisdictions all over the nation, that can't afford to buy devices or pay for their monthly service, specifically, the volunteer fire units. We have thousands of volunteer fire departments in the state who literally have pancake suppers and spaghetti suppers to buy mobile radios and portable radios. So somehow the importance of being able to subsidize that, whether it's through grants or what we can do, I think it's one thing we have to keep in mind as we roll this out for adoption.

Border coverage is critical. We got the chance to show you yesterday some of the operations we're doing along the border. And having the technology to put in the hands of first responders is extremely important and critical to the operations.

Broadband coverage to schools is a very important point to the Administration. And that is to be able to get broadband coverage to those schools. Specifically also to the resource officers who are there when a school is on lockdown because of a bomb threat or a SWAT team going through a school district is extremely important to us as well.

I talked about rural deployment. It's very critical to us as well with 85 percent of the state is rural.

And then the last thing is leveraging existing infrastructure. Harris County has done a great job. They've spent a lot of grant money to put that infrastructure in. And then you see a difference here from the other Early Builders as well. Harris County Commissioners Court has invested \$5.8 million that Shing will talk about of local money into the further deployment of this network. So it shows you the partnership and the importance to them. So leveraging what's already out there we feel is extremely important, and we hope will be considered as well.

All right, I'll turn it over to Shing Lin.

RICHARD STANEK: Madam Chair, may I ask a quick question?

SUE SWENSON: Go ahead.

RICHARD STANEK: When you talked about border coverage, often it's just a little line in the sand or maybe a fence or something else. Are you talking about being able to communicate across the border with law enforcement or military on the other side of the border as well?

TODD EARLY: Yes, sir, I'm talking actually about both. So the first one being on the US side for providing actually just coverage. There are certain areas down there that the commercial providers don't have coverage. There are folks who need that technology and that coverage for the operations that are going on, but also for cross-border communications.

We actually had OEC down a few months ago to talk about cross-border communications and the need. As we have folks in the air who are following or in operation, the ability to communicate on the other side is extremely important and that notification. And today it's done through CBP. But we need that direct not only voice communication, but also data communication, as needed and when needed also across the border for response.

RICHARD STANEK: Madam Chair, is that a decision made by the state or a decision made by FirstNet?

SUE SWENSON: The cross border issues are something that we're actually not only working in Texas, but it's one of the things that we're actually also looking at in New Mexico. And that was one of the focus areas because that is obviously critical. It's a little more challenging, I think, with our colleagues on the other side of the border, on the south side, than it is on the north side. So I think that's one of the things.

And I'm not as current on the New Mexico project, but that was one of the key things, because we knew it was a big, big issue. So it's definitely on our radar, and it's something that we're paying attention to. We haven't solved it yet, but Jacque Miller is here in the audience, and she is now one of our regional people. So we can certainly talk with Jacque afterwards and see if there's any progress there.

TODD EARLY: Sheriff, there's also some work been done by OEC with some existing network into those locations. And I would say also, I believe the FCC and the State Department are doing negotiations on plans and the ability to communicate across the border as well, and those have been ongoing as well.

Shing?

SHING LIN: Thank you, everybody. Before I get started, I want to thank everybody for coming. We're very proud and happy to be participating in FirstNet, this buildout project. And over the last 12-18 months, we've invested heavily in talent, bringing people in to help make sure that this is a success. And hopefully, yesterday's demonstration has shown what we can do with this network going forward.

I'd like to spend a few minutes this morning to share with everybody the progress on the network, where we're headed, the strategy of the buildout, and what we think the timeframe might be for our project to get to a point where we could be operational. And by operational, I mean we are providing sufficient coverage, where the first responder community will trust that the network will be there for them, and will be willing to come on board full time.

Just a quick project summary. We are one of the first five builders, but one of the main differences between us and the other builders is that we were not an original BTOP project. Our project was originally funded through Port Security grants. And so the initial phase of the buildout, of course, focused heavily on the ship channel. As Todd said, earlier this year Commissioners Court and the Judge found that this project is important enough to move forward, and elected to provide us additional funding to finish out what we're calling the first phase buildout of the project, which I'll get into a little bit more in a little bit.

As a quick reminder, the project [inaudible] consists of for the County the Harris County Service area; the mobile unit that was out on display yesterday at the demo; as well as the one site out in Brazos County; and the intent on that site is to really test out extended range capability. The one interesting thing to point out is everybody had conversations yesterday with the Brazos County Sheriff's Department. And the interesting thing is that site is not fully in our extended range test mode yet. And so to see the difference that it's making operationally, when we're not even fully complete down there, is quite exciting.

The current status and a quick discussion. There are 18 sites that are actually up/operational inside the county at the moment. One of the sites, it's right over there at the TranStar location right behind the demo area. We have that one site in Brazos County, and of course the mobile unit is up and running.

The moving forward strategy is that we would like to provide mobile coverage first. So similar to terminology in the radio world, mobile meaning vehicle coverage. We feel like this reflects the industry in

terms of devices, in terms of UE at this moment. And this is a very important part of this. The vehicles out in the field have become such computing forces that they need the connectivity.

So moving forward, our Phase 1 will be data. We will do the mobile coverage. In this phase, originally if you guys recall some of the original conversations, we were talking about 33 sites. But we've decided that we really need to up that count to provide better coverage, so we're hoping to finish 37 sites in Phase 1. We are funded. The \$5.8 million is funding the completion of this phase, so we'll be able to finish the project here.

The portable coverage will follow. I think the growth of the portable coverage will come naturally. First will be locations where even the mobile coverage may have some weaknesses, and we'll fill those in. And then as the portable devices come in, we'll start to recognize the usage pattern—where things are going to be used—and that will naturally fill in.

And then we are actively researching and looking at a VoLTE strategy on how to provide voice communications, and stressing that it's non-mission-critical voice.

So this map conveys the current coverage that we have in the county. Again, heavily focused initially on the port side of things. One of the things we did do was we covered on the southeast corner of town, that's Interstate 45. And it's a major evacuation route for hurricanes. One of the things we made sure we'd try to do is go ahead and cover that up as our strategy builds. So the Phase I buildout will provide as a coverage of roughly, it's a little less than the 1,800 square miles, that's in the county. I do want to point out that this is a bit of an older coverage map. This map represents 33 sites. Our strategy of moving to 37 sites has a lot to do with where you currently see some gaps within the county. So the intent is the gaps that you see on the northern part of the county will be covered as part of Phase I.

As you're looking at this coverage map, you're probably thinking to yourself, you know, this looks pretty good with 37 sites. Why do we need to build out the additional 60-plus sites? Looking at the same part of the county, looking at the same sites, as you start to model and evaluate mobile coverage versus portable coverage, you start to see the gap that will develop. So the 60 additional sites will be there to not just fill in the gaps, but also provide better in-building coverage.

So this is roughly what the county will look like once we put all the sites in. Now, I want to emphasize so Jim won't hurt me when we leave here, this is a proposed coverage. The evaluation of the sites, as everybody knows, is a constant exercise. We're always looking for better coverage so our end-users will have a better experience.

So what's next? What are we focused on today? Having a network is one thing, but being able to provide support is another. When somebody calls us at three in the morning saying, "Hey, I have connectivity issues", I have to be able to support them. Of course there is the business aspect of this. There is the whole revenue aspect, so building support is important. So we're spending a lot of time and effort right now focused around the customer support/customer experience process, building out those processes, putting in place systems and folks that can answer calls when they come in.

Of course we are continuing the buildout. We are continuously evaluating where to put sites, working with our partners locally, different jurisdictions, including the City, which has been a big part of enabling this to make this a success.

The goal for Phase 1 completion at this time is to try to get those 37 sites up on air by the end of the summer of 2016. So at that time, what we are hoping to be able to do is to have countywide coverage and really initially try to test everything out, so that we can ensure that the big event coming in 2017 will have sufficient support, and we will have vetted the network completely.

We continue to work with Todd and the state team on communication and outreach. That is such an important aspect of this. As Todd mentioned earlier, there are a lot of boots on the ground that still don't quite have a good feel for what this network will do for them. And so we continue to work with them to

make sure that they understand that this is a network for them. This isn't a network for those of us that are building it or anything like that. This is to enable them, to keep them safe and to allow them to do their jobs more efficiently. So that's very important.

And then the last bit, of course, is we have great partnerships with all the agencies around here. But we've got to have our legal documentation and things in place, so all the inter-local agreements are a constant discussion and things that we're continuing to work on.

So that's our goal. That's our plan. And we hope that by summer of 2016, the conversation we'll be having is, hey, the county is covered. We would have covered the fourth largest city and the third largest county in the country. And I think that's going to be a real exciting moment, when the network is complete. Thank you.

SUE SWENSON: Go ahead.

JEFF JOHNSON: Thank you. I have a question regarding the portable coverage. Knowing the statutory schema today, what changes are there that you would see that would be helpful, in either the building code or whatever, that would help us with in-building coverage? Because every time you don't have some type of device in a building, we've got to build a tower to achieve that. So are there things that you're seeing that will be helpful for us to put our eyes on?

SHING LIN: Looking at what the manufacturers and the vendors are doing out there, I think it is actually a topic that they're aware of. And there are very innovative products that we're seeing, that are coming up, to try to help address the in-building coverage challenge. I think as schools are a great example, where RFs and new schools that are being built are just incompatible seemingly. And I think there are a lot of interesting products and solutions that vendors are coming up that will enable the coverage. I think they're looking for ways to design less expensive and much more portable eNodeBs that you can deploy quickly. And I think that will be a dramatic help.

And I know there are discussions for high-powered UEs. I think that too will also help. What we're seeing is that usually it isn't the network that's having the issue; it's the devices, being lower powered. They can't actually get out of the building. So those are the type of things that we're seeing that I think will help.

SUE SWENSON: I just have – oh, Todd, go ahead.

TODD EARLY: I just want to say, Chief, in response to that also, one of the things that we've had discussions with the outreach and the consultation staff is the ability in the five phases of deployment. We know we're going to have folks who are going to want to provide resources and money to extend that coverage, whether it's inside a hospital with a distributing antenna system, whatever it may be. So how do we accommodate the folks who want to spend some local money to extend that coverage within those five phases? How is that done, what's the policy of it? We think it's important to consider because we think we're going to have folks who will come out and will want to extend that coverage, which benefits FirstNet as well with the funding side of that. So how is that done? Those are some of the discussions we've had with the staff as well.

JEFF JOHNSON: If I might?

SUE SWENSON: Go ahead.

JEFF JOHNSON: Thank you.

I think, as you look at DASs or other tools, right, you know, as we shift from how do we design a network for public safety and how do we procure it, how do we seek a partner, the next phase we're going to move into is what other actions and steps can we do to help this network be more effective at the street level. So I think we have to broaden our view a little bit and look at things, such as the building code and whatnot.

I think at the business end, people are less likely to rent a building where their cellphone doesn't work. And people are less likely to shop in a mall where their cellphone doesn't work. So I think there is already starting to be a market drive for it. But I would like to glimpse into your experience at some point subsequent to today and say, what can we learn about best practices that we may be able to use our energy and resources to help advance more DASs or more—fill in the blank—but to reduce the amount of in-building coverage gaps.

Thank you, Todd; I appreciate it.

SUE SWENSON: Just a question, Shing. Well, actually a comment and then a question. I really appreciate you mentioning customer experience and customer support, because I think everybody has been maniacally, and appropriately so, focused on building the network. So I appreciate that. But I think sometimes people forget that once the network is built, we have people out there we need to support. So as we think about FirstNet, we need to think about it in its entirety, from end to end. So the experiences that you're having there, I think, will be quite useful to us. And that's something that I think about a lot, so I just wanted to highlight that for anybody who is listening, that there's more to it than just building the network.

On the interagency—or you called them inter-local, and I'm thinking of interagency agreements and it kind of is on the same theme as Chief Johnson is. And I know New Mexico is working on this with some of the federal agencies. It seems like it just takes a long, long, long time to get those agreements done. So I would just like any comments you have about is there an opportunity for us? Should we be looking at how to streamline some of those processes?

Because if we're going to, Todd, to your point, use existing infrastructure, there are a lot of different people to have those conversations with. So any insight you have on that would be helpful.

SHING LIN: I think the continued outreach and education of what the network is, will be tremendously helpful. I think we are very lucky that our local jurisdictions are very willing to step in and help, and especially once they're aware of what we are trying to accomplish, what the FirstNet network is trying to accomplish. That tends to accelerate the discussions and the partnership. So I think if there's one thing that FirstNet can help, and you guys are all doing this, including the team and the state, is that outreach.

SUE SWENSON: Just continue that effort?

SHING LIN Continue that outreach, yes, ma'am.

SUE SWENSON: Okay. Any of the Board have any other questions or comments for our folks?

Todd and Shing, thank you very, very much; and thanks to your entire team. I look forward to – Todd, we talked yesterday about maybe making another visit and riding in one of those machine gun boats, so I look forward to making that arrangement. Thank you.

JEFF JOHNSON: Heaven help us.

SUE SWENSON: It gives you a real appreciation for what public safety really is when you see the challenges that public safety has along the border. And I'm sure they'll take us to a safe zone when they take us out in that boat. But it makes you appreciate the life - that our public safety folks are just putting their life on the line every single day to protect us. So, very interesting.

Mr. Poth, I think you are up to give us a CEO update for FirstNet.

MIKE POTH: Great, thank you, Madam Chair. And thanks everyone for coming and everyone out in Web land. It's a great opportunity to speak again to the Board and to the public safety community of what FirstNet has been working on and what we're trying to accomplish. But this is just the start of a long,

celebratory hopefully, trail to where we can have some success for years to come on behalf of the public safety.

So I wanted to provide, we've spent a lot of time, certainly in the last six months, certainly in the last two years, focused on the plan, on what is the proposal, what is the need, the business, the money, the evaluation criteria, the objectives. And we all get wrapped around that focus. But I think at this point with the contemplated milestone that the Board may consider today, to maybe take a pause and kind of remember what brought us here. I think it's important.

Everyone remembers that out of the 9/11 Commission Report the need for a national public network. This was pushed and lobbied extensively by public safety for years and years to make it come to fruition. And the chorus for a nationwide network resoundingly resulted in the legislation being passed, and many of the people in this room are in this picture. Thanks to your leadership and your hard work, this actually came into reality.

And I certainly, every day that I go to work and I know the FirstNet team goes to work, that's kind of the undercurrent of everything that we're doing. That's our focus. Although we're very focused on making sure that this is an excellent public/private partnership, we're also focused on what really brought us here. To serve the end customers, the public safety. Every day all of you have seen and heard the needs for this type of network, and it's never more apparent. So we never lose sight of that mission. And it's a joy to work with the team that we have in place.

One of the things that we're focused on is the ongoing consultation. And I appreciate Harris County and everyone continuing to echo that need and that reinforcement. We're not going to stop. It doesn't stop with the issuance of an RFP, or with the initial data collection. That's just the beginning. Consultation is what has helped us bring this RFP together. We're focused on the design of the network. We hope to accomplish that today. The Board is going to contemplate that later in this session. And the consultation is key. It's informed in everything we do.

One of the keys that we understand, and as we get closer and closer to this becoming an eventuality is the states are getting anxious. We're getting anxious and we understand that. But we all have to remind ourselves; the statute does set up a process of how we're going to go about. And we're going as fast as it practically makes sense to get a proposal, select a partner, get state plans out, so that the states can make informed decisions as to what's in the best interest of their ultimate end customers, the public safety community.

So we're asking for your patience. We're coming. Just hang tight. I know everyone's getting anxious. We're starting to hear a lot of states, "We've got to get going now." And we feel that urgency, and the Board reminds me and my team, if not on an hourly basis, sometimes more frequently with Chief Johnson, that was interesting but what about now. What are we doing now?

As everyone probably knows, the RFP that we're contemplating is a result of two years of that effort: the inputs from the consultation, from the states, tribal, federal, all the data collection, the public notices that were put out. We really put out requests for the information. We got opinions; we got recommendations; even, dare I say, criticisms as to what's the best way to put this offer together, so that we can get the best solution to achieve the mission for public safety.

And then with the extensive vendor outreach, trying to make sure that the vendors that are contemplating participating in this understand that this is a public/private partnership and that FirstNet is a key component to that. And as Madam Chair just spoke, FirstNet was not born just to issue an RFP and then we're done and have the awardee go about and enable this mission. FirstNet is going to be here for the long duration, the long haul.

So with that, what I'd like to ask is if my leadership team can come up and line up behind me. They're begrudgingly coming up slowly—anyone, anyone?

As we think about 2016, the RFP is a key milestone; but it doesn't define our organization and the breadth. As I said from the start, this is public safety's network. And we are just merely the stewards of that. And it's important to industry and public safety that as stewards, we're a no-risk organization.

To that end, over the last 90 days, I've had the opportunity since being appointed as the CEO to go through over 200 candidates and applicants for all the various positions. FirstNet—and the message is, there is no more acting. I have gone through painstaking measures and interviewed a lot of people. And it is with great pleasure to announce that this is the leadership team for FirstNet going forward.

President Kennedy, which I love, we have our own President Kennedy, right? And then starting from somebody's right to left, Frank Freeman is our Chief Administrative Officer. President Kennedy, which is a tough act to follow. Our Chief Counsel is Jason Karp. Then, as Barry noted, Jeff Bratcher has willingly taken on the torch as the Chief Technology Officer. And then Kim Farington is our Chief Financial Officer. And then Jim Gwinn is our Chief Information Officer. And our latest addition, which I'm very excited to also announce, is David Dasher, who is our Chief Procurement Officer.

So this is the team that's going to work with the FirstNet Board, with the FirstNet community, and with the partners to make this a reality. So I'm very excited that we have them. Our FirstNet team, our employees, and our contractors that this team leads, I would challenge any organization or any agency to a tug of war because I think my team can beat anyone. And this is the reason, because of the leadership of these people. So if I may indulge a round of applause for this team.

[Applause]

I said I'm going to make them just stand up there awkwardly. They're going to be here for the next hour, not moving.

Thank you, guys.

One of the keys is that FirstNet and our partnership with the Department of Commerce, NTIA and the Department of the Interior, who is assisting us in the acquisition; our team works with them on a daily basis to make sure that the offering that's being contemplated is the best possible solution that's going to meet all of the needs. So we're very excited. This is a busy year ahead, and here are just some of the milestones. So I ask the Board's indulgence, I'll walk you through each of these for the next two hours, or to just let you know that this is a lot of activities that are going on to continue to make the FirstNet and this network a reality and, hopefully, in the very near future. So I thank you all for your time.

Madam Chair, I'll turn it back over to you.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Mike. It's a delight to have you as our CEO and to have the actual leadership team in place. I mean, these folks have been around for a while, but it's nice to have them be in their normal, regular positions. And we have the team intact to do what we need to go forward.

I think it's important to note that that milestone map that we showed you, while there's a lot of activity on that, that milestone map was developed, gosh, now a year and-a-half ago. And we have been on plan, on budget, on target, throughout that strategic roadmap. And today is no different. What we'd like to do is we'd like to go into Closed Session. We expect that to take no more than an hour. We may be faster than that. We had a very good session yesterday in our Closed Session. So we'll come back and actually read out the report from our Closed Session.

With that, I'd like to entertain a motion to close the session.

NEIL COX: So moved.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Neil. Is there a second?

TERI TAKAI: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Teri, there's a second. Any further discussion?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON All those in favor, please signify by saying, "Aye."

ALL: Aye. (Multiple voices)

SUE SWENSON Opposed, same sign?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON Any objections, abstentions?

[No response]

SUE SWENSON: We are in Closed Session for the next hour at most. Thank you.

(The Board leaves the room for a closed session)

SUE SWENSON: Okay, we are ready to get started again. And what we're going to start this part of the session with is a report from our President, TJ Kennedy on the RFP update. TJ?

TJ KENNEDY: Thank you, Sue. One of the things we want to talk about today coming out of this exciting couple of days of meetings is really how we've gotten to this point on the RFP. And up on the screen here right now you can see over the past couple of years what we've done and the amount of input that has occurred both through industry and through public safety, working with all the states and territories to receive input. And the amount of ongoing feedback related to RFIs, related to the statement of objectives, to really get us to this point. And it's really been through consultation and those discussions that have really funneled our thinking, the input across the country into this final RFP.

As part of that, you heard a bit yesterday, for those who were here from Rich Reed, and what has occurred in the consultation, data collection that has come through the states. And I just wanted to highlight a little bit today, for those who were not involved, and we heard from Harlin McEwen earlier today about all of the PSAC involvement when it comes to the RFP itself, when it comes through the key, you know, advice and recommendations that have come through the PSAC. And a great example was the State of Texas and having Todd Early up here earlier and the amount of work that every state has done to go out and make sure that they've engaged public safety agencies across their state, receive from them what kinds of 9-1-1 calls do they have, where are their responses, what kinds of key coverage is needed and capacity that's needed to make them successful in their roles. That's what's come into FirstNet. That's what's going to be a part of the reading room related to this final RFP. And we'll be sharing that with potential offerors, so that they have the best data possible to provide a great response to FirstNet and really have as much information at their fingertips to be able to make the right decisions and the right teaming arrangements and really provide the best solution for public safety at the end of the day.

So this tremendous input from all of the data collection, 54 out of 56 states responding to that, and being a part of it. One of the things that the team has done, and we went through this in great detail yesterday, so I'm just going to hit it at a very high level, is we've taken all of the aggregated data that FirstNet has created and provided to the states. And the feedback that the states have provided to FirstNet really unfiltered into that reading library. So, as you can see, different states went about this differently. Some

very much added on to the baseline dataset that we put out. Some did much more than that. Some did a little bit less. But, at the end of the day, we're providing both the state input and the FirstNet input to all potential offerors. And so you have all of the data possible from across the country to really come up with the best solution for public safety. And I think that by bringing this together and having as much data to go forward in the reading room, that, really, potential offerors shall have the best opportunity to provide a great solution for public safety going forward.

As most know up to this point, and I'm very glad to say that for the final RFP we've stuck with the same 16 objectives. These objectives have been very steady. Since September of 2014, we've had only minor changes. Nothing new in the last few months overall to the objectives. They are exactly the same. And so this has been, I think, a really steady perspective for FirstNet to stick with the statement of objectives, stick with making sure that we're not telling offerors to tell us how we want them to do it. We want them to come forward and tell us how they're going to do it. And so we've described the objectives that they should meet. And I think this will really provide for the best solution at the end of the day for public safety.

As part of this, we've talked at the last Board meeting about the evaluation criteria. And the evaluation criteria are very much steady with where we've been for the past few months. We've briefed this to the Board. And I think it's also very important as we look at evaluation criteria, everybody wants to understand what the order of importance is and what are the key ways that we're going to incorporate these evaluation criteria. As you can see on the screen right now, past performance is obviously a key element. We want to make sure that those coming to the table to respond to this for public safety have the key backgrounds, capabilities, technology expertise to really provide a robust system. Also, we're going to be looking at the things that are quite logical, coverage and capacity, looking at the key products, device ecosystems, the architecture that they bring to the table, and we know that each one of those might be slightly different. But, at the end of the day, really providing their best solution to FirstNet.

And then business management. We've talked all along over the past few years that we need to have a sustainable solution; that we need to have a solution that public safety can afford. And so looking at coverage and capacity, the business management, the products and architecture, all of this together is going to be critically important to that final evaluation. And so, as we come forward with a final RFP, when that's released there will be even more specific details that will be a part of that final RFP release. But I think it's important for everybody preparing over the next month that this has very much been steady and that our evaluation criteria is going to look at important factors like we talked about in October, leveraging rural infrastructure, all those key elements that have been a part of what will make the best solution for all parts of America as we go forward.

The RFP, now that we've completed the key tasks that need to be done to draft this, I think it's important to kind of share the big perspective, the breakout is the standard RFP that will have all the key sections, from section A all the way down through section M. Each of these, as you can see, you know, the typical kinds of pricing criteria, the key elements related to the contract clauses, and the page count. As you can see, we're about 508 pages, which may sound like a lot, but for something of this size, that's actually quite concise. And I really want to give the team that worked on this the credit. They have gone through and really made sure that there's not a lot of superfluous information. It's really geared towards giving the data to offerors that they need to bring forward a solution.

A lot of this is the list of attachments. You can see there will be 26 different attachments. One of those, as an example, is the FCC TAB Report, the Interoperability Report. And everybody has access to that already. That's been out for the past two-and-a-half years. Everybody has access to a lot of this detail. And the draft RFP documents that we put out last year were the majority of these documents that are on

this screen. So, many of you have seen the early draft. We've taken the input from states, public safety, and industry, and that's what will be coming out in the final RFP.

I think it's also important when you look at, you know, key elements. Take, like, pricing, you know, end of the day that's a seven-page document, very concise, asking for industry to come forward and provide a solution. Not really drawn out. We're really trying to make sure that we were as straight forward as possible. So I think, at the end of the day, even though this is a big document, I think it's very manageable. And we'll also be looking at page count for the response so that we have very manageable responses coming back. And, as you know, Sue, with anybody, if they can get their point across, they'll be able to get that concise and bring that forward. And so we believe industry is ready to do that.

I'm going to talk a little bit about schedule going forward in 2016. After we release the RFP, we expect we'll have about three weeks to have everybody read and digest that RFP. We'll have a good release to the public, answer any kind of key questions, get those questions in. Just like we did back in June with the draft RFP documents, we'll have about a 30-day turnaround to be able to respond to those questions. And then we'll be looking for capability statements. We're sticking very closely to dates we've talked about before and having proposals due in the May timeframe. We think this is really important. And our goal is to try to work through this entire evaluation process in the next calendar year. Aggressive schedule, but at the same point we think very doable and very important to keep that urgency for public safety to make this happen, and to get it done in a reasonable amount of time.

With that, that's the overview of what we brought forward to the Board. And I think the team—I couldn't be more proud of the amount of work that they put into this, how they've worked together across the entire organization, and, most importantly, how they've taken that input from states and incorporated that into the final documents, leveraging the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the great work that the PSAC has done. And I think at the end of the day we couldn't be happier with where we are right now.

SUE SWENSON: Great. Thank you, TJ. I'd like to just give the Board an opportunity to ask any questions about TJ's recap that he just provided to you. I have one question for you. You used a word, and I think you talked, it's a standard package, and I would just like to comment that you said it's kind of a standard approach because of the content, but I think it's a very non-standard approach to the RFP. So could you just comment on that just a little bit?

TJ KENNEDY: Sure. I mean, because we're looking at the public-private partnership model and because we've gone with a statement of objectives, we have not been overly prescriptive. A lot of other RFPs that you might see of this size would have, you know, over 10,000 requirements and some very detailed ways to respond to each and every item. We very much have stayed with where we've been all along with a statement of objectives. We're not telling industry how to go ahead and respond to it. We're telling them the outcomes that we're looking for. And so that's very non-standard. And we've been able to layer it into the typical standard different sections, but the actual RFP that people will read I think will be very refreshing and different than what they've probably done before.

SUE SWENSON: And just comment, because we talked yesterday about a lot of the vendor interaction we've had, you know, you and Mike have talked about that, and I know we've had a lot of that. What is their reaction, because it is kind of a very unique approach from what is typical I think for this kind of RFP? I mean, what's been their feedback?

TJ KENNEDY: I think it's been refreshing to many of them that we've been very open to different ways of addressing the problem, understanding that each of them comes with a different set of assets or synergy that they may have to respond to this solution. I think that we've been very open to suggestions and very

transparent in the way that we've gone out to industry with our industry days, as well as the ability for them to come and meet with the FirstNet team. And we're very glad that we've been able to take that input in, and try to make this as friendly as possible to come up with a partnership that's going to be successful for public safety at the end of the day.

SUE SWENSON: Mike, anything you'd add to that, because I know you've had a lot of interaction since you've been onboard?

MIKE POTH: No, I think the, you know, what we've done over the last six months especially is reacted to make this as user friendly as possible, yet, you know, get the offerors to come forward with those solutions that we really can evaluate to make the best informed decision on behalf of public safety. I think industry will react very favorably to this, as TJ pointed out. This is going to be, you know, we have purposefully limited the amount of pages so that it's not a 4,000-page thing that the offerors are trying to shred and discern what we really meant by "and," you know, and those types of things. It sometimes typically happens, unfortunately. We think we've done a very good job and we hope that once industry does get a chance to review this that it will be readily apparent that we have been sticking to what we've been saying all along.

SUE SWENSON: Neil, I know you want to say something about timing.

NEIL COX: [Inaudible].

SUE SWENSON: You want to turn your --

NEIL COX: Yeah, I'd like to just, on the timing, I think it's been a great job to get it out on time. And so, pretty aggressive. and I would like, on the proposed evaluation, if there's any way we can shorten that timeframe, if possible.

TJ KENNEDY: No, I appreciate that. And just so folks know when they're looking at this timeline that's up on the screen now, we believe this is a most likely timeline, certainly where we are able to gain time and do things quicker. We're certainly going to be working very hard to do that.

SUE SWENSON: Right, I think we, you know, as we open the meeting, as the events of the world are evolving, I think this become ever more urgent. So, obviously, I think the team obviously needs to do whatever is possible to move the process along, and I know you understand that, TJ, but, Neil, I just wanted to make sure you had the opportunity to voice that, because I know you feel pretty strongly about it.

NEIL COX: But, like you say, with the events of the world, anything we can do to move this up and get this technology and this network in the hands of first responders, the better it's going to be for everyone.

MIKE POTH: We will certainly make the commitment to try to accelerate the evaluation period, but we will not accelerate the due date on when that does come out, so that industry isn't all of a sudden has a pop up where we've accelerated it 30 days on them or something like that.

SUE SWENSON: Go ahead.

KEVIN MCGINNIS: I guess also with the timing and just a feature here that, I think, adds to the user friendliness of this and I think it is a great idea, and that's the capability statements phase in this. And it's voluntary, but the ability to have offerors submit, have a review, and then have some midcourse

corrections, maybe reteaming or whatever, is only going to make, you know, better offers for us and get at what we want in the end. And so I think that's a great idea.

SUE SWENSON: Great. Any other comments from anybody before we proceed? I'm going to turn the meeting over to Jason and explain procedurally what we need to go through next to move into the official process of the Board meeting.

JASON KARP: Great. Thank you, Madame Chair. So I just want to walk everybody through the logistics. It will be a little bit different now to make sure that we're acting in accordance with our governance documents and bylaws. As many of you know, we convened the Board committees yesterday who have also considered the issues relating to the RFP, and according to the governance documents we do need to have a formal recommendation from two of the committees, the Technology Committee and the Finance Committee, prior to the full Board considering the RFP.

So how this will work is I will turn it over to Eli, the Board Secretary, who will actually reconvene the two committees, as we closed those committees yesterday so that they are open. And then we'll turn it over to each of the committee chairs to do a very brief readout and to call for their votes in terms of what their recommendations might be to the full Board. Once they've completed that process we'll turn it back to you, Madame Chair, and then you can proceed with moving forward with a full Board consideration of the proposed resolutions.

ELI VEENENDAAL: So, calling roll, beginning with the Finance Committee. James Douglas?

JAMES DOUGLAS: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Ed Reynolds? Sue Swenson?

SUE SWENSON: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Dave Mader? Ed Horowitz?

ED HOROWITZ: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Moving to the Technology Committee. Barry Boniface?

BARRY BONIFACE: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Ed Reynolds? Kevin McGinnis?

KEVIN MCGINNIS: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Suzanne Spaulding?

SUZANNE SPAULDING: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Chris Burbank?

CHRIS BURBANK: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Neil Cox?

NEIL COX: Here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: We have a quorum of both committees. I'll turn it over to the chairs.

SUE SWENSON: Did I miss Ed and Dave?

ED REYNOLDS: We're here.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Dave.

DAVE MADER: Yeah, we're here.

SUE SWENSON: Okay. Okay. I didn't hear them. Okay, I just wanted to make sure they were there. Great. Thanks, you guys.

BARRY BONIFACE: So, with that, I guess it's back to the Technology Committee. We had a very robust discussion yesterday amongst the Board about a lot of the key tenets of this RFP. And I think it was an important moment for the Board to kind of get off their chest any issues or concerns or considerations that they had with respect to this RFP. It also covered some of the key technical interpretations and areas with respect to the RFP. After that robust discussion I think we all felt good about where things stood. And I think as a committee we are now prepared to move forward with a vote on our recommendation.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Thank you. I'll read the operative language of the resolution.

BARRY BONIFACE: Perfect.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Now be it resolved that the Technology Committee recommends the Board approve the material terms of the proposed RFP and direct management to take all actions necessary to release the RFP in accordance with the principles as presented to the Board.

BARRY BONIFACE: So, can I get a motion with respect to that approval?

NEIL COX: So moved.

KEVNMCGINNIS: Second.

BARRY BONIFACE: All in favor, say "Aye."

ALL: Aye.

BARRY BONIFACE: Any opposed? Motion passes.

SUE SWENSON: I think we're going to move on to Governor Douglas.

JAMES DOUGLAS: Similarly, the Finance Committee has had a number of opportunities to deliberate on the financial implications of the RFP and the other documents that have been presented for public consideration over the last couple of years. We, too, had a good discussion yesterday about the steps we're considering now, and the document that is nearly ready for public consumption and response. So I think we're prepared to make a recommendation to the full Board and I'd entertain a motion to that effect.

ED HOROWITZ: I would move to approve

SUE SWENSON: I would second it, Governor.

JAMES DOUGLAS: Moved and seconded to recommend the resolution whose resolve clause Eli will now read.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Now therefore be it resolved that the Finance Committee recommends the Board approve the material terms of the proposed RFP and direct management to take all actions necessary to release the RFP in accordance with the principles as presented to the Board.

JAMES DOUGLAS: Any discussion on the resolution among the members of the Finance Committee? If not, are you ready for the question? So, all in favor, signify by saying "Aye."

ALL: Aye.

JAMES DOUGLAS: Opposed, "No." The "Ayes" have it, and we recommend approval.

SUE SWENSON: Great. So we're at the final point here of the meeting relative to the RFP, and I will just comment that in addition to the very robust discussion we had yesterday, I think it's important for people to know that the Board has been very engaged in this effort and this focus for several months. We've had multiple briefings, a lot of dialogue. I think the management team has done an extraordinary job framing these issues because this is a complex RFP. This is not your run-of-the-mill RFP. And it's taken us months to really absorb the information, to ask questions, ask for clarification, make recommendations on modifications. It's been a very, very intense process. And I think we're at the point where we all feel very good about where we are.

And, as Barry said, and Governor Douglas, we had good discussion yesterday just to fine tune some points and make sure that we're all on the same page. And I feel very comfortable telling all of you that I believe we're all on the same page to move forward with this. So, with that, I would ask Eli to read the operative portion of the resolution. And then I will ask for the Board's motion and approval of the resolution.

ELI VEENENDAAL: Thank you, Madame Chair. Now therefore be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the material terms of the proposed RFP and directs management to take all actions necessary to release the RFP in accordance with the principles as presented to the Board.

SUE SWENSON: Do I have a motion to approve this resolution? Suzanne, thank you. Is there a second? Ed, thank you. All those in favor, please signify by saying --

JEFF JOHNSON: [Inaudible]

SUE SWENSON: Oh, thank you. You can have discussion. I'm so anxious to get this done. I'm really sorry. Mr. Vice Chair, please comment. Is there any discussion?

JEFF JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair. I've been waiting seven years. So I think as I think about, you know, what brought us here, it's important not to forget, you know, how much time and effort went into making this happen. So I look around the room at people who've made substantial contributions. I'm not going to say "tirelessly" because we were tired. But, you know, Harlin probably goes back further than any of us on this topic. I think when he first raised broadband we were switching out the horses to motorized fire apparatus.

I think Dick Mirgon and Chuck Dowd and Andy Seybold, and many people that are missing, had a vision that we bring mission-critical public safety broadband to the responders at the street level. And it's good to be at a place where we can do that. And from our, from the inception of the discussions about what it was going to take to do this, we knew it took a few things. We knew it would take the pairing of both money and spectrum, and Congress graciously provided that. We knew it would take an independent authority to manage this network for public safety with a board blended of public safety professionals and

industry professionals that have done this on the kind of scale that we're contemplating, and the legislation provided that.

We also knew that it was going to eventually take an industry partner, and that industry partner was going to understand that they could leverage the spectrum for their own uses when public safety wasn't using it, as long as public safety had access to the spectrum instantaneously and entirely when they needed it. And now we have before us an RFP, and that RFP outlines a portrait. And I'm anxious to see how industry chooses their palette of colors to paint this picture, because I think when we receive these proposals back, it is going to paint a picture of how what will be the first in the world nationwide public safety network will look, and how it will operate.

And I think to close out my remark, I think I'm proud of the work this Board has done. It hasn't been absent a bump or two, but it's great work. And we ended up with an outstanding product. And now we're at a place where industry has long been saying, maybe since February 12th of 2012, industry has said, "Could you please signal when it's time for us to build our team? You know, we don't want to build it too soon and we don't want to be too late". So, without being presumptuous, it's time

SUE SWENSON: Finally. Okay, now that the Vice Chair has caused me to appropriately pause, I'd like to give the rest of the Board opportunities for any observations, reflections on, you know, a lot of you have been on this Board for a while. Neil, you're new to the Board, but you've been, I think, interested in this project for quite some time.

NEIL COX: Yes, thank you, Sue. So I would just like to comment, early in my telecommunications career I learned that communications was the lifeblood of everything we did in society. And I think with this network you're going to add a completely new meaning to that. This is going to be an outstanding opportunity between the public and private, but when I got on the Board and I learned what the team had done, I was so impressed with what I saw. And coming from a new person to the table; that really impressed me.

And then it really sunk in yesterday evening when we were with Harris County, because when you look at one of the statements of objectives and you see the ecosystem, we saw that last night. So once we have the first responders on this dedicated spectrum, dedicated network, with controls, it's going to be unbelievable the amount of product and services that are going to flow to that. So my hat is off to everyone on the Board. And I'm new to the Board, but to the whole team, this was an outstanding job, unbelievable. And it really does bring a new meaning to the lifeblood of everything we do in society, communications.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Neil. Suzanne?

SUZANNE SPAULDING: Thank you, Chair. And as the designee for the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the particular responsibility to support public safety, I have to say it was really gratifying in the demonstrations yesterday. Harris County public safety and in the presentations this morning, to see DHS funds being used in such an impressive way. And to see that the great technical assistance offered by our Office of Emergency Communications is really making a difference in their ability to use that technology and to be responsive and meet the, and be full partners with FirstNet.

But, most importantly, it was really exciting to see the ways in which those folks on the ground are coming up with ways to revolutionize the way in which they do their jobs through the power of broad net, of broadband. And that was really, really gratifying, and heightened our sense of urgency, which I have always sensed with this Board and with this staff, to make sure that we are moving aggressively to meet their needs and to develop a public safety broadband network that really does help them to save lives.

I remember, you know, particularly as we're making this very important move, standing in the parking lot at the Pentagon a few days after 9/11, the building is still smoldering, and talking to the Arlington Sheriff, who was the incident commander, who talked about the frustration, particularly with regard to the ability to share data. And so thank you to all those people, Chief Johnson, that you acknowledged and all of those who have been working so hard on this for so long. This is a great step forward. Thank you.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Suzanne. Barry.

BARRY BONIFACE: Sue, I guess the comment I would like to add, I think we all, everybody that's on this Board joined this Board because they believed in the mission. And I think we saw evidence of the possibilities of the mission last night. And to Neil and Suzanne's comments, I think it was certainly encouraging because there was a real, from the user base that's actually using this network, you could feel the real desire to have more and more of it, and certainly in more areas and more places and all the rest.

So when I think about that, you know, when I joined this Board a little over two years ago, and we came to the first meeting, and the Board was doing a lot of the activities of the management team, and then you look at sort of where we sit today, and Mike presents a full slate of players, you look at the technical team that's built, you look at the outreach activities that have been conducted, you look at the relationship with PSAC and how that's evolved over time, it really is incredible in two years. And the fact that we've set a strategic roadmap and are staying on that roadmap, which I think a lot of people out there question, so I look at the progress of where we are today, and where I can feel this thing going, and I have more confidence in this than certainly I did two years ago. So I applaud everybody in this room. I think that it's come with a lot of effort from every single person in this room. So I appreciate that and look forward to getting this RFP out there.

SUE SWENSON: Great. Thank you. Neil -- I mean, Ed. Sorry.

ED HOROWITZ: That's the other new guy.

SUE SWENSON: I know, that's the other new guy. Sorry. I was looking at you, thinking Ed, and I said "Neil." Sorry about that.

ED HOROWITZ: First of all, I'd like to add actually to Neil's comment, as we are relatively new to the Board. It's really been an amazing experience. I had the privilege, last week, of being in New Jersey where I observed also first responders and the police and fire and emergency services, and how they had integrated the Band 14 network into their operational plans. And the similarity between Harris County and New Jersey is striking. The scale is different, but the similarity and the empowerment of the individual that is at the peripheral end of the network is really tremendous to see.

So I guess in observation, I think we're at the beginning of the next phase of our strategic roadmap. There's been a tremendous amount of effort that's gone into the preparation of the RFP. I think anybody who reads it upon its being published will acknowledge that. And I have an expectation that we will get a similar level of effort back from the respondent that has gone in, that will reflect the professionalism that is incorporated into the RFP, and that really we should be very proud of the team, which Mike has taken the 'acting' out of their roles and now made them permanent in their jobs. And I expect that as a Board that we'll continue to maintain our level of diligence and efforts as we continue to make this network a reality. So, thank you.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Ed. Appreciate it. Go ahead, Ron.

RON DAVIS: So I'm the designee for the Attorney General of the United States. In the Department of Justice, one of our top priorities, especially for this Attorney General, is to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement. As the director of the COPS Office, that is my primary mission. I work with local law enforcement every day to try to support them. As a 30-year veteran of law enforcement, let me just say, one, let me thank the Board and the work of the groups. I've only been on the Board for about two years, but their work started well before that, even before the fight for D Block to begin with. This has been a long battle and many people at the table have fought this battle. And today we're getting one step closer to where we know we need to be.

And so, as I think about my mandate to support local law enforcement, today's vote for me on behalf of my experience, my position, and that on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States, is really in keeping strongly with our mission. And I would just say it really also solidifies something that's evolving for us in this country, and that is although policing is primarily local, we cannot ignore, we should not ignore, we have the obligation absolutely not to ignore the national implications that local law enforcement officers play every day, whether they're the frontline for our democracy, for our defense. And to be able to equip them with the technology and the support necessary to do their job is not just going to advance 16,000 individual agencies or 20,000 or 30,000 individual fire departments, but us as a nation.

And so, as you sit on the Board, you can get lost in the day-to-day activities, the meetings, the calls, but there's a moment like this that reminds us why we're here. A day like today, a vote like today reminds us what we have, as my colleague just said, is the next phase. So there's still a lot of work to be done, but we should pause a moment. And I just really want to give the staff a pat on the back for a tremendous job to get up and running so fast as a new Board, as a new company, if you will, and to create the activity and the outcomes that they've done has been truly amazing. So, I will take the privilege, on behalf of local, state, and tribal law enforcement, as a 30-year veteran, thank you. Thank the Board very much for this commitment.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you very much. Over here. Governor?

JAMES DOUGLAS: Madame Chairman, I happen to serve on a group with Governor Kean, and I saw him as recently as last week. He, of course, chaired the 9/11 Commission, and I've had the opportunity to mention to him the progress of the FirstNet Board, one of the last recommendations that's not been fully addressed. And I can report that he's pleased to hear of the work that we're doing and the fact that this is moving forward. To those of us not accustomed to the pace of federal decision-making, it seems to be a long and perhaps frustrating schedule. But we've seen, over the course of the last day-and-a-half, the urgency that our leadership team has brought to this task, and the importance that they've identified. And I think we're in a good place. We're in a good pace. And I look forward to seeing this a reality very soon.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Governor. Anybody else want to comment before I make a comment before I take the vote? Let me tell you, for me, first of all, I told you before; it's an honor to be part of this. As Barry said, we joined as industry folks because we believed in the mission very strongly. And I can tell you that that's only strengthened over the time that I've been involved in the Board. And I think all of you know that, you know, I was very involved in the development, along with TJ and the team, on the strategic roadmap. And I'd like to reiterate, too, that I'm very proud of the fact that we laid that roadmap out, we kept to the milestones and made the commitments. And I think that that's been very important to establish credibility that we mean business here. I mean, when we say we're going to do something, we commit to it, and we do it.

You probably all also recall my Senate testimony. I'd just like to hearken back to that because I'd all like for all of us to remember what I said, when asked by one of the senators whether or not this network, and

I'll just tell you what was going through my mind as I'm sitting there, because it was towards the end of the hearing. A senator said, "So do you think this network will be deployed by 2022?" And I'm thinking to myself, this is 2015, 2022, that's seven years. I mean, honestly, that went through my mind in a nanosecond. And, of course, I think I responded politely to begin with and then I sat back and said, "You know, Senator, if this isn't deployed by 2022, we should all be shot." And I meant all of us.

I mean, Ron, to your point, this is about the country. This is about, this isn't about FirstNet. This isn't about Congress, independently. It's not about DHS, DOJ, OMB, you know, all these independent groups. It's about all of us in this room, all of us who are watching. We all have a responsibility to make this happen. So let me say it again. If this network is not deployed by 2022, we should all be shot. On that note, I'd like to ask for a motion.

MALE SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

SUE SWENSON: What's that, Ed?

ED HOROWITZ: By the weapon of our choice.

SUE SWENSON: Yes, right, weapon of your choice. And Ron can help you.

MALE SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

SUE SWENSON: Oh, okay. I have the motion. See, I'm just so excited about this. I have the motion. Let's just call for the vote. All those in favor of the resolution, please signify by saying "Aye."

ALL: Aye

SUE SWENSON: Aye. All those opposed, same sign. Any abstentions or objections? We have passed the resolution. And I'm very excited. Congratulations. [Applause] I mean, this is a landmark Board meeting. And we've had a lot of Board meetings where we've done a lot of things, but, I mean, this is a significant event that I think we'll all remember. As we said, we have more work to do, but this is a big, big step forward to the nationwide broadband network. Just to give an opportunity for the Board to make any other comments, I think Terry, you might want to have a comment or two.

TERI TAKAI: We're struggling with the mic here. Sue, thank you. I know that everybody's made a lot of comments, but I just wanted to make sure that I acknowledge, first of all, Mike, it was very impressive to have you and TJ stand the management team up. I know that might have been somewhat uncomfortable for all of you, but for those of us that have worked this for quite a while, it was really impressive. And it was really important to have that management team stand there. It's an outstanding group of people. I know that in some cases it's been tough to get that team assembled. But I think having that team gives us all a lot of confidence in what we've just done.

And it's not just that team that was standing behind Mike. It's those individuals that are the next layer, but I'd also like to acknowledge it's really the close-working relationship with Larry Strickling and his team at NTIA, his support across the Department of Commerce, and then clearly the relationship with DOI. That is really going to make all this happen. So I just, I think, want to acknowledge, certainly from the Board, that we understand all the work that's gone on. We appreciate all the pain in the somewhat sometimes forced march on the strategic roadmap. But we have a lot of confidence in the team and we're really excited about going forward.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Teri. Any other closing comments? With that, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

TERI TAKAI: [Inaudible].

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Teri.

MALE SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

SUE SWENSON: Oh, I'm sorry. Do you want to say something, Mike? Gosh, I'm just so anxious to get going on this RFP. Mike, a few comments.

MIKE POTH: There is absolutely nothing more I want to add. Management appreciates the vote. We'll take the directives over the next two weeks we'll be incorporating the Board's final directives into the proposal and be releasing early January and probably the next couple weeks we'll specifically come out with a date and time that we'll have a webinar, and that will be the launch of a great effort. So thank you all very much. No more.

SUE SWENSON: Sorry, Mike. You always say you're burning daylight, you know, so I always feel like we're burning daylight and we need to get going, right? So, with that, do I have a motion, Vice Chair, or do not?

JEFF JOHNSON: You do.

SUE SWENSON: I do. Do we -- and I need a second.

BARRY BONIFACE: Second.

SUE SWENSON: Thank you, Barry. All those in favor, please signify by saying "Aye."

ALL: Aye.

SUE SWENSON: All those opposed? Abstain, objections? I think we're adjourned. Thank you very much everybody.