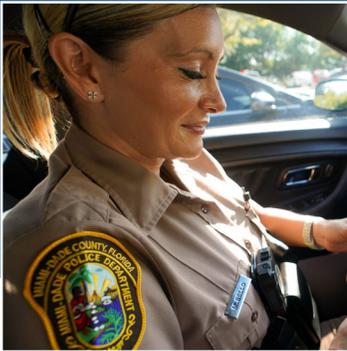
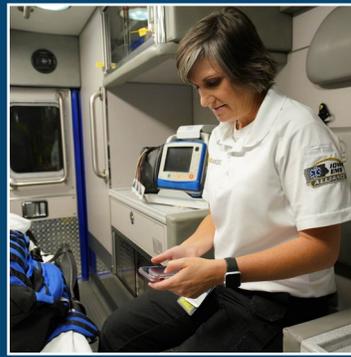
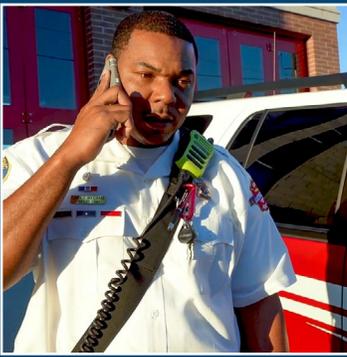




# FirstNet Authority Roadmap Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) Roadmap (Roadmap)?

The Roadmap serves as the FirstNet Authority's strategic plan for the continuous development and improvement of FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network. The FirstNet Authority developed the Roadmap through collaboration with the public safety community to advance and evolve FirstNet beyond the current contractual commitments and to create opportunities for public safety to shape the future of their network. Further, the Roadmap is designed to help the FirstNet Authority, other agencies, and industry learn more about what public safety needs the most for mobile broadband communications, so they can prioritize resources and investments accordingly. Download the Roadmap at [FirstNet.gov/Roadmap](https://www.firstnet.gov/Roadmap).

## How did the FirstNet Authority develop this update?

Since the Roadmap was first released, the FirstNet Authority has participated in nearly 1,300 engagements with first responders and hundreds of discussions with industry, as well as executed substantive engagement-driven polling and data collection to update the document. These efforts included a rigorous technology prioritization survey of first responders, a series of interviews with academic and industry-leading technologists focused on long-term technology trends, and an analysis of applicable research publications and trade press.

## What does the Roadmap update include and how does it differ from the version released in 2019?

The 2020 update builds on the original Roadmap to reflect the evolving interests and priorities of present and prospective users of the network. The Roadmap updates reflect many of the same priorities given the five-year time horizon identified in the original Roadmap. From our engagement and analysis efforts, we concluded that the Roadmap's foundation—the six technology domains—should remain the same for this update. Public safety reaffirmed the six domains are critical to the success of the network, and we believe that the FirstNet Authority can make the most impact on public safety communications by focusing our programs, activities, and investment dollars around them. This update does include new priorities reflective of the short- and long-term perspectives of first responders, as well as technologists from industry and academia.

It also includes revised domain summaries and a new addendum that outlines the data-driven approach that we used to update the Roadmap. This approach includes three research pillars (i.e., a survey of first responders, technologist interviews, and a publication review and analysis) and our ongoing data collection and public safety engagements.

## What is the value of this Roadmap to public safety and FirstNet?

The Roadmap is central to the delivery of a dedicated and differentiated broadband communications experience for public safety. The FirstNet Authority will continue to use the Roadmap to prioritize programs, activities, and investments to ensure first responders have the communications tools they need to save lives and protect communities.



## How does the FirstNet Authority use the Roadmap?

The Roadmap provides a common framework for the FirstNet Authority to engage with the broader stakeholder community—including public safety, industry, academia, and government agencies—to identify technologies and programs to advance FirstNet. The FirstNet Authority focuses its activities and invests in network improvements around the Roadmap priorities, as demonstrated by the first set of investments announced in June 2020. These investments were a direct result of Roadmap priorities in the Core and Coverage domains. The FirstNet Authority will also continue to work with all stakeholders on important priorities for the future of the network, as outlined in the Roadmap.

## What are the Roadmap “domains”?

The Roadmap is structured around six “domains” that reflect public safety’s input regarding the most important communications capabilities for their mission. The domains represent critical network capabilities that are vital to public safety operations now and in the future, including:

 <b>THE CORE</b> Central switching and connectivity system that enables 4G, 5G, etc.	 <b>COVERAGE</b> Radio frequency signal transmission to devices via towers, deployables, in-building systems, etc.
 <b>SITUATIONAL AWARENESS</b> Tools and capabilities that provide public safety with real-time information to support operations	 <b>VOICE COMMUNICATIONS</b> All aspects of NPSBN-based voice and mission critical communications, including mission critical voice, data, and video
 <b>SECURE INFORMATION EXCHANGE</b> Addresses the management, access, analysis, and security of public safety data	 <b>USER EXPERIENCE</b> How first responders touch and interact with the FirstNet network

## Will the FirstNet Authority fund all Roadmap activities?

The FirstNet Authority must be a good steward of its funds. The Roadmap guides our investments and activities according to the priorities and activities that best support public safety’s needs over time. The legislation that created FirstNet mandates that the reinvestment of funds may only be used for constructing, maintaining, operating, or improving the network. Consistent with this mandate, the FirstNet Authority Board approved the first set of investments in June 2020 to **upgrade the FirstNet Core** to be 5G ready and expand the dedicated fleet of deployable assets.

While the Roadmap helps the FirstNet Authority focus and prioritize its programs, activities, and investments, it does not serve as a commitment to fund all activities identified within the Roadmap. In some cases, the key technologies identified in the Roadmap may not warrant additional investment in order to fulfill the stated priorities. Simply understanding how technologies can impact first responder effectiveness can drive the underlying network enablers that are critical in meeting the identified public safety needs.

## How will the FirstNet Authority ensure the Roadmap stays current and evolves with technologies and public safety needs?

As we have done in 2020, the FirstNet Authority will continue to update the Roadmap on a regular basis. Between updates, the FirstNet Authority will continue to conduct rigorous research and engage with the public safety community to understand their operational needs. In addition to public safety, the FirstNet Authority will engage with industry, government agencies, academia, and AT&T to understand and leverage emerging technologies and trends to enhance public safety communications.

## Does an updated Roadmap imply that the FirstNet Authority completed everything in the Roadmap that was published in August 2019?

No, the FirstNet Authority has not fulfilled all the priorities identified in the 2019 Roadmap. However, we have made advances on several initiatives, including the approval of the first set of network investments, which were a direct result of Roadmap priorities in the Core and Coverage domains.