



PUGET SOUND EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK (PSERN) PROJECT

Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee
12/11/2014

Existing 800 MHz Radio System

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- Countywide system used by first responders (police, fire and emergency medical services) and other government personnel for emergency and routine communications
- Supports approximately 16,000 mobile and portable radios and 12 public safety dispatch centers
- Jointly owned by City of Seattle, King County, Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency and Valley Communications Center. An interlocal agreement defines governance and operation
- System is approaching obsolescence:
 - ▣ Equipment is almost 20 years old and increasingly difficult to support and repair
 - ▣ Manufacturer is withdrawing support at the end of 2018
- Other issues:
 - ▣ Gaps in coverage
 - ▣ Insufficient capacity in parts of the system

PSERN Project – Planning Phase

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- With King County as the lead agency, the four co-owners have been working together since 2012 to plan a project to replace the existing system.
- Solidifying a budget and a project plan:
 - ▣ Completing RFP process to select a vendor for the new system
 - ▣ Estimated budget \$237M
 - ▣ Project team intends to ask King County Council to put a levy lid lift on the April 2015 ballot to fund the project
 - ▣ The project will start when funded and run for 5 years
- Formalizing governance for implementation of the project:
 - ▣ Each co-owner of the existing system has an equal vote on the governing board
 - ▣ Decisions require 4/4 votes (approving budget, contracts, system design, etc.)
 - ▣ Board includes non-voting representatives from police and fire/EMS
- Establishing principles for long-term operations and maintenance (under negotiation)

Radio System Comparison

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	Existing radio system	New PSERN system
Towers (radio sites)	28	46-50
Coverage reliability	94% for portables (public safety standard when the system was built)	97% for portables (current public safety standard)
Capacity (simultaneous conversations)	17-27 in urban/suburban areas	30 in urban/suburban areas
Geographic redundancy	No	Yes
Mobile and portable radios	Approximately 16,000	Same
Dispatch consoles	117 consoles total at public safety and utility/transit dispatch centers	Same

Upcoming PSERN Legislation #1

Implementation Interlocal Agreement

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□ Highlights:

- Drafting and legal reviews are complete
- Formalizes project governance
- Defines King County and partner responsibilities
- Reimburses partners for project-related activities
- Defines the initial rate model for user fees
- Transfers ownership to a new non-profit corporation upon completion of the project

□ Timeline:

- Legislation to authorize the City to enter into the ILA was transmitted to Council Dec 9
- Will be formally presented in committee for vote on Jan 7
- If approved, will go to full Council vote on Jan 12

Upcoming PSERN Legislation #2

Interim Agreement with Key Principles

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- Because the ILA for long-term operations is not complete, south county cities asked to execute an interim agreement committing parties to three principles:
 - ▣ The new system will be owned, operated, maintained and managed by a new non-profit corporation
 - ▣ Governance for the new system will be the same model used in the implementation period (4/4 votes with 2 non-voting representatives)
 - ▣ Initial radio fees will follow the model defined in the Implementation ILA
- Interim Agreement Timeline:
 - ▣ Verbage and format are being finalized by attorneys
 - ▣ If partners reach consensus by Dec 12, we plan to transmit the principles document to Council for committee review and action on Jan 7

Upcoming PSERN Legislation #3

Long-term Operations Interlocal Agreement

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- Highlights:
 - ▣ Creates a non-profit corporation to own, operate, maintain, upgrade and manage the PSERN system
 - ▣ While consensus has been reached on high level principles, much detail remains to be developed in areas such as:
 - Service level & reporting requirements
 - Transfer of City assets & potentially staff
 - Insurance, liability, etc.
- Next steps for the Long-term Operations ILA:
 - ▣ Continue working with partners to develop necessary detail
 - ▣ Timeline TBD

PSERN Project – Next Steps

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- Finalize negotiations and sign vendor contract
- Submit King County funding legislation:
 - ▣ Partners need to authorize Implementation ILA by Jan 16, 2015
 - ▣ King County Council needs to enact legislation to put an initiative on ballot by Feb 16
 - ▣ Legislation must be sent to King County Elections by March 16
 - ▣ Measure to fund the project on ballot April 28
- If ballot measure passes, implementation will begin in May
- Finalize Long-Term Operations ILA and get it signed