**FirstNet State Plan Review Process**   
DRAFT for consideration by the SIEC at 18 August 2016 Meeting

## Timeline

This table shows the timeline for FirstNet decisions as of July, 2016:

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| --- | --- |
| May 31, 2016 | Vendors submitted proposals to FirstNet. We know AT&T, Rivada and pdvWireless (at least) submitted RFP responses. |
| November-December, 2016 | FirstNet chooses a vendor partner  FirstNet signs contract with vendor partner |
| Starting November, 2016 | FirstNet and Partner develop State Plans |
| Late Spring (April-May?), 2017 | FirstNet delivers a “preview State Plan” to stakeholders in each State, then revises those Plans based on feedback from stakeholders |
| Late Summer (August-September?), 2017 | FirstNet delivers final State Plan to Governor for decision |
| 90 days after State Plan delivery | Governors’ Decisions |

## Issue

What process should the State of Washington follow in reviewing the FirstNet State Plan and recommending a opt-in/out decision to the Governor? After FirstNet chooses a private partner (vendor) to build its network in Washington, FirstNet and the vendor must incorporate that vendor's proposal into a "State Plan" for FirstNet. The State Plan will incorporate many elements: coverage, sites, management, customer service, costs, devices, capacity, service levels and much more. Each state will receive a “preview” State Plan for review. The review period will be short – two months or so. FirstNet will take comments from that review and deliver a “final” State Plan to the Governor for an “opt-in or “opt-out” decision. If the Governor does not make a decision within 90 days, FirstNet will consider Washington has opted-in and will proceed to build.

## Recommendation

The State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) is central to the decision-making process as it represents all key public safety stakeholders in Washington. Here is a potential path for the SIEC and Washington to follow:

1. FirstNet selects a private partner to build the network in Washington. Ideally this private partner will have, as partners or subcontractors, telecommunications and other companies headquartered in or already serving Washington's public safety community.
2. FirstNet staff and the Vendor Partner build the State Plan in an online portal/website.
3. At the same time, Washington OneNet explores options other than “opting-in” to the FirstNet State Plan.
   1. “Opt-out” means the State of Washington will need to build a radio access network (RAN) of cell sites, fiber and data centers, plus would need to provide devices and customer service to any public safety agency in the state.
   2. Washington cannot use any federal grant funds to explore other options, so such a review will need to be done with in-house staff such as the SIEC Advisory Workgroup (SAW).
   3. The primary option will be for the State to issue an RFP to build the RAN and to seek a private partner to construct the network here.
   4. Any option other than opting-in to FirstNet’s state plan must pass a number of tests. The FCC will review the “opt out” plan for technical feasibility and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will review it for economic sustainability.
   5. While some federal grant funds might be available to fund an “opt out”, they will not cover the whole cost. The cost of building a RAN in Washington is likely to be $140 million or more, and the State would probably need to fund $30 million or more of that cost.
4. FirstNet releases a preview state plan to all 56 states and territories on the same day, probably late spring/early summer 2017. FirstNet asks for a quick review of the plan – possibly just 90 days or two months.
5. Washington will proceed to review the Preview State Plan. Here is how that review might proceed.
   1. OneNet staff and our consultants will review the State Plan to identify issues.
   2. OneNet will convene the SIEC for an in-depth review – probably two-to-three hours. This review might indicate which particular agencies or stakeholders need to be further approached for discussions.
   3. Washington OneNet proceeds to use its stakeholder, technical and operational committees in this review.
   4. OneNet might hold a series of open meetings around the state for stakeholders to provide ideas and input.
   5. OneNet will compile the input, bring it back to the SIEC with a set of recommended feedback to FirstNet.
   6. After SIEC review and agreement, the feedback is communicated to FirstNet.
6. FirstNet takes the feedback from all states and works with its vendor to produce a final State Plan for each state. That State Plan is communicated to the Governor.
   1. The operational, stakeholder and technical committees will each make recommendations to the SIEC about the resulting State Plan, including important comments and considerations for the SIEC.
   2. The SIEC could involve other groups or associations to assist in this review. These could include the Emergency Management Council, Emergency Communications Committee[[1]](#footnote-1), the 911 Advisory Board, the Boards of WASPC, WFC, APCO, WSEMA and perhaps others.
   3. The SIEC will consider the proposed FirstNet State Plan. This consideration will probably include a one-day, perhaps longer, workshop, to review the plan. Ideally this workshop will include the Governor's public safety advisors.
   4. The SIEC will take a formal vote on a recommendation to the Governor about accepting the plan and allowing FirstNet to proceed or recommending some other action.
7. The Governor will make a decision.

An important unknown in this process is the role of the Legislature and other statewide elected officials. If the State Plan does not require commitment of funds or in-kind resources at below market cost (e.g. radio sites, backhaul) or similar financial commitments, the Governor probably will not need consent of the legislature to make a decision. Nevertheless, the SIEC and Washington OneNet will probably want to brief and engage legislative leaders on public safety, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Public Lands and perhaps the State Treasurer as the FirstNet work proceeds and in particular about the details of the State Plan. The Governor will need to give the SIEC and OneNet direction on such engagement. Washington has a gubernatorial election in November, 2016.

1. <http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/committeescommissions> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)