



CALL TO ACTION FOR THE STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE RADIO NETWORK (SIRN)

We the associations listed below, support the critically needed Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN). Reliable radio communications are the lifeline for the first responders and the citizens they serve. Studies and surveys completed confirmed grave shortcomings in the existing communications systems including:

- Poor Coverage
- Limited Interoperability
- Over 40% of Existing Equipment is at End of Repairable Life
- Fragmented Disparate Systems

These issues place first responders and our citizens at risk.

This need has been discussed at the legislature since 2013 when the above studies were authorized and completed in 2014 -2015. In 2015, additional fees were authorized, and the Legislature directed ITD to determine the feasibility of a statewide radio interoperability network. In 2017 partial funding was appropriated, with the intent to begin constructing the SIRN system through HB 1178.

An RFP for the system was released in November of 2017 with contract awarded and signed in January of 2019. The contract provides for a single unified statewide system utilizing Project 25 technology a nationwide public safety standard that can serve all the first responders of North Dakota. Over 40 states/provinces have successfully implemented this type of system including our neighbors of South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Manitoba, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

The time to finally solve this is now. If funding is not achieved this Session it will continue to put first responders and citizens at risk. Public safety agencies across the state will continue to either patch existing, deficient systems or construct more disparate systems that will further aggravate the existing problems.

Adequate funding resides in HB1021 and HB1435 but BOTH are needed to fund this essential project. If anything less than this funding is achieved, participation from all state and local agencies will not be realized.

We ask for your support for the funding in HB1021 and HB1435 for SIRN.



- Broadband Association of North Dakota
- North Dakota 911 Association
- North Dakota Association of Counties
- North Dakota Fire Chief's Association
- North Dakota League of Cities
- North Dakota Peace Officers Association
- North Dakota Police Chiefs Association
- North Dakota Sheriffs and Deputies Association

