

TELEVATE

April 22, 2021

CVPSA
Executive Board

CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS
ASSESSMENT
PROJECT STATUS MEETING

Presentation Agenda

- Overview of tasks completed to date
- Stakeholder requirements
- Fire service areas
- Central Vermont public safety radio network overview
- Preliminary observations
- Project schedule
- Next steps

Overview of Project Tasks Conducted

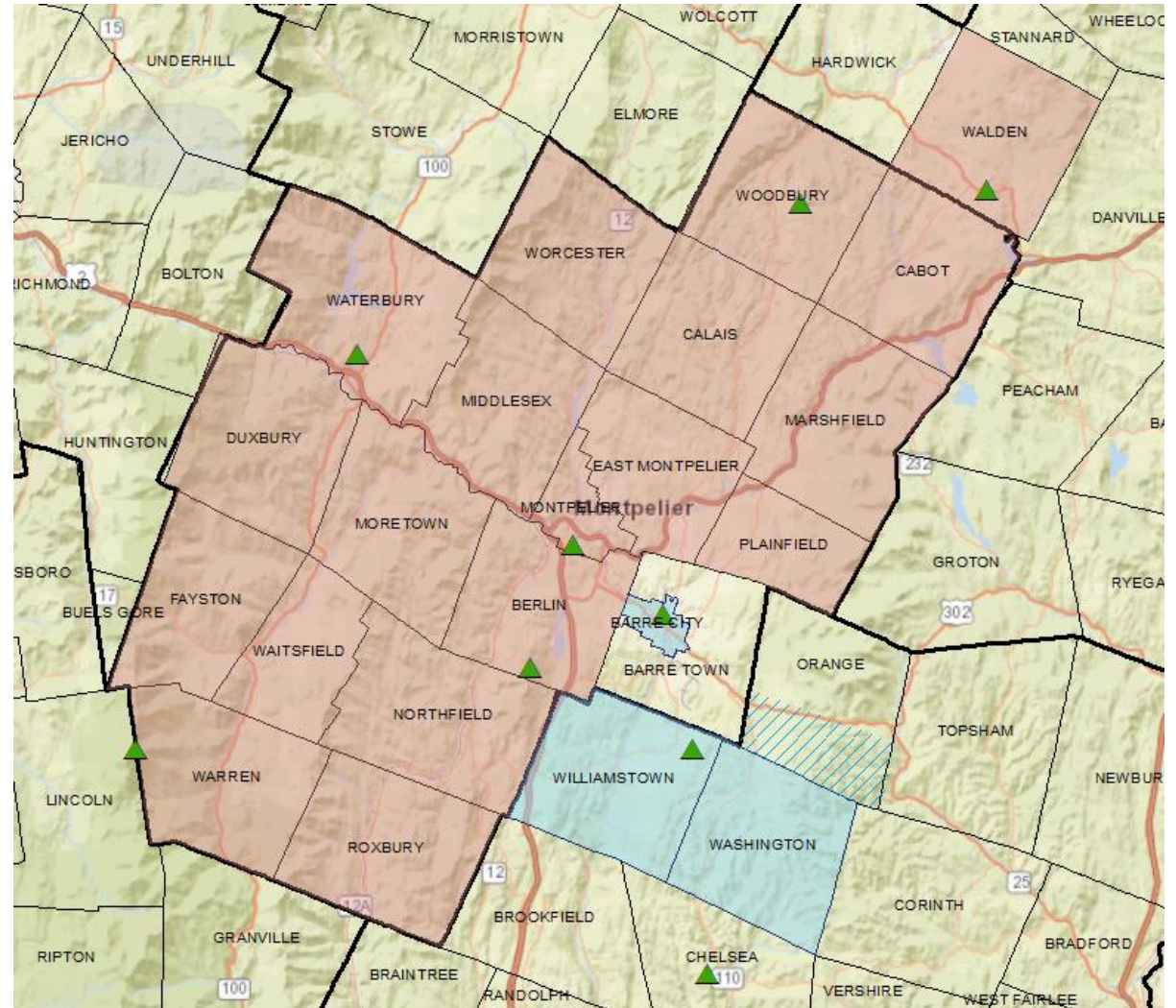
- Radio system information gathering, assessment and analysis
- Capital Fire Mutual Aid System (CFMAS) coverage modeling
- Stakeholder requirements
 - Multiple stakeholder interviews
 - Develop and issue an online survey
- Radio interference analysis
- Evaluation of CVFiber opportunity
- Commercial broadband integration into the public safety communications toolbox

Stakeholder Requirements Gathering

Interviewee	Position	Meeting Overview
Joe Aldsworth	Deputy Fire Chief – Barre City	Overview of regional radio communications and the ongoing strategy to enhance public safety radio communications
Brian Brent and Joe Aldsworth	Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief – Barre City	Overview of Barre City and Montpelier radio upgrade plan
Paul Cerutti Joe Aldsworth	Fire Chief of Woodbury, Dispatch Committee Chairman of the Capital Fire Mutual Aid Systems (CFMAS)	CFMAS overview and radio communications gaps, strengths and approach to implement they simulcast analog radio network
Todd Goad	Burlington Communications	CFMAS conventional simulcast network plan and current system overview
Brian Peete	Police Chief – City of Montpelier	Police communications capabilities and gaps and future vision
Scott Bagg	Capital West Dispatcher	CFMAS radio communications gaps, strengths, and approach to implement they simulcast analog radio network
Ken Jones	CVFiber	Overview of CVFiber and potential for supporting CVPSA
Frank Frievault and Bob Rooks Brian Peete, Brian Brent, Joe Aldsworth, Kim Cheney	Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief - Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District	Integration of FirstNet broadband mission critical push-to-talk (MCPTT) into the public safety radio communications toolbox
Steve Whitaker	Citizen	Program overview
Matthew Romei	Chief of Police - Capital Police	Capital radio communications capabilities and gaps, including regional interoperability
Fred Cummings	Director, Capital West Dispatch	Overview of Capital West dispatching approach; review of public safety radio communications gaps, strengths and requirements
Karl Rinker Brian Brent and Joe Aldsworth	Rinker Communications (retired)	Review of potential radio towers to support regional public safety communications
Dona Bate and Doug Hoyt	CVPSA Board members	Project overview and next steps
Federal Communications Commission	FCC technical staff	Inquiry into process to report and resolve public safety radio interference

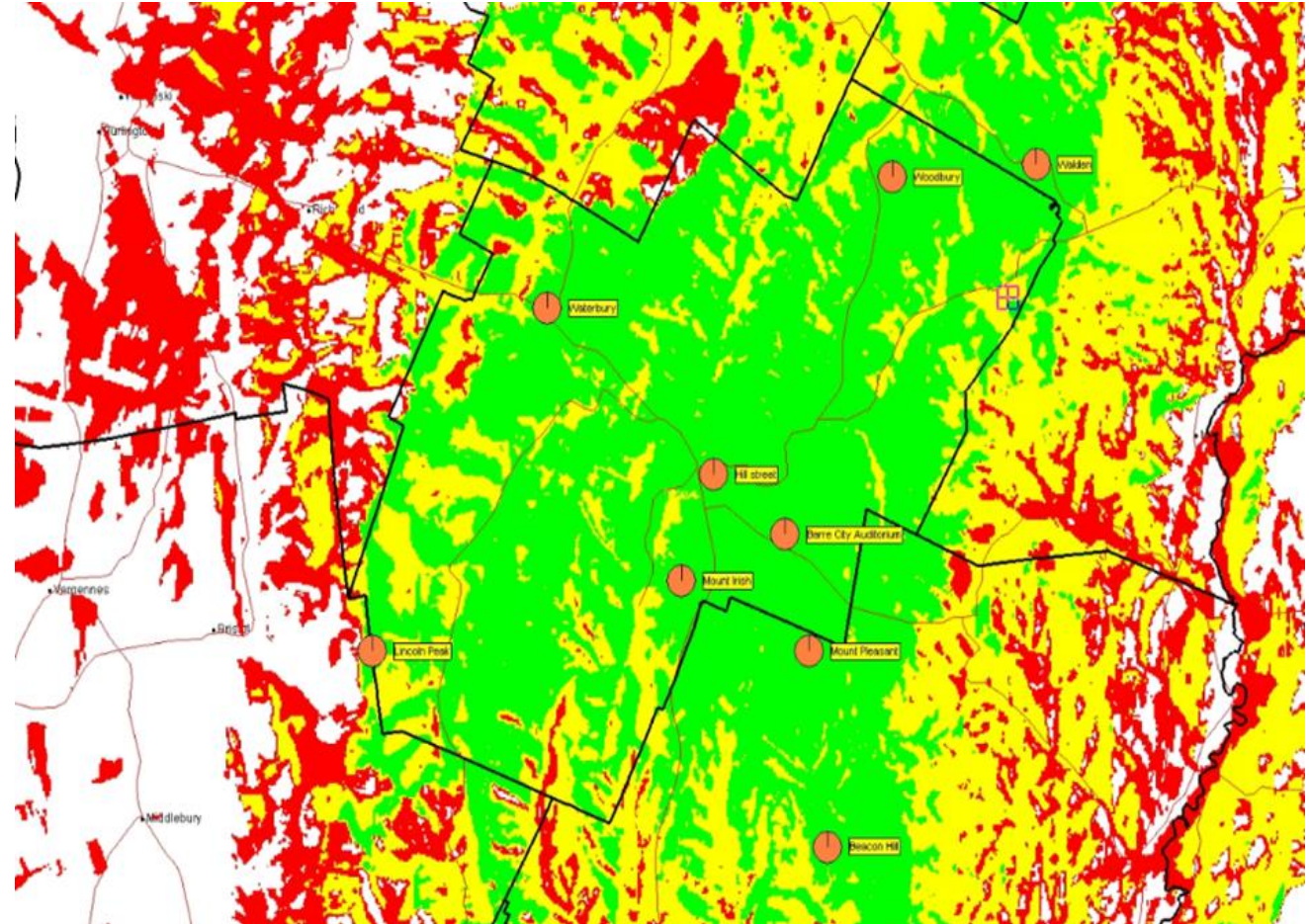
Central Vermont Fire Department Service Areas

- CFMAS, Capital West and Barre City dispatch service areas
- Fire and emergency medical radio communications are failing to meet fundamental requirements
- Dispatch center revenues are essential to maintain dispatch service
 - Dispatching contracting with local Towns is very competitive
 - Reliable radio communications are believed to improve the ability of Central Vermont dispatch centers to attract new customers



Central Vermont Fire Radio Network Overview

- **Radio network overview**
 - Capital Fire Mutual Aid Systems (CFMAS) proposed Analog Simulcast radio network
 - 8-site system
 - 1-VHF common channel pair per site
 - FCC licensed for the proposed 8-sites
 - Barre City
 - Existing network
 - 1-transmit site
 - 1-remote receive site
 - Future network
 - 2-sites
 - Montpelier
 - Existing network
 - 1-site
 - Future network
 - 2-sites
- **Radio network evolution considerations**
 - CFMAS sites are still in flux
 - Walden site being contested
 - Additional sites being evaluated
 - Montpelier and Barre City seeking to enhance in-building coverage and upgrade radio consoles
 - Objective to integrate the 3-projects into a single solicitation



Preliminary Observations

- **Fire department land mobile radio (LMR) communications are seriously flawed**
 - Affects reliable fire dispatch and repeater-based radio communications
 - Primary focus on upgrading fire radio communications
 - Regional police radio communications are good, but select improvements are required
- **Key areas for fire radio communications improvement**
 - Repeated radio operations would reduce congestion and improve dispatch communications
 - A simulcast radio network will improve coverage and eliminate the need for multiple dispatches from different sites
 - Alternate/additional frequencies/channels would eliminate interference and also enhance operations
- **Common commitment and dedication**
 - First responders, city executives and CVPSA board members share a common commitment to improve mission critical public safety communications
 - Remarkably dedicated professionals – good intentions
 - Essential for all parties to find common ground

Preliminary Observations (cont.)

- **Governance**
 - CVPSA and CFMAS collaboration
 - Address key issues affecting progress
- **Financial stability**
 - Funding these essential public safety communications programs is complicated
 - Strategies to fund public safety communications systems and solutions need to be defined and supported through the Central Vermont region
- **Regional and state relationships**
 - CVFiber collaboration may be limited and requires further analysis
 - Opportunities for State participation – FirstNet, commercial broadband, public safety communications funding, other “protecting the capital” initiatives”
- **Public safety broadband communications**
 - Limited potential to improve fire radio communications
 - Opportunities to enhance public safety data communications

Preliminary Project Schedule

Contract Schedule Awarded on February 19, 2021	Due Date	Proposed Due Date
Task 1: Preliminary Planning (stakeholder requirements, fire radio network assessment and coverage gap analysis)	45 days = April 23, 2021	May 31, 2021
Task 2: Proposed Solutions for Radio Dead Zones	60 days = May 14, 2021	June 21, 2021
Task 3: Preliminary Plan and Cost Estimate for a Regional System Concept	90 days = June 25, 2021	July 9, 2021

Next Steps

- Site visit planned for early May
- Finalize interviews
- Gather and assess online survey responses
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cvpsa-needs-assessment>
- Complete and clarify information
- Finalize data research
- Develop draft findings and recommendations report

Thank You!

QUESTIONS?

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