November 16, 2010

Adam Horst, Director
State Budget Agency
212 State House
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Horst:

The Integrated Public Safety Commission is pleased to provide you with the following summary of our agency mission, goals, and finances for next biennium.

1. Agency Programs and Functions

> *"The Integrated Public Safety Commission's primary mission is to facilitate statewide public safety communications. IPSC provides an interoperable and reliable public safety communications system to all Hoosier first responders and public safety professionals for use during routine, emergency and task force situations. Our goal is to strengthen community safety and security by minimizing the financial and technological barriers to interoperable communications through interagency cooperation." --IPSC Mission Statement*

The Integrated Public Safety Commission, established in 1999, is charged with promoting the efficient use of public safety agency resources through improved coordination and cooperation in order to enhance the safety of Indiana residents. As a first step, the IPSC coordinated meetings between local first responders and elected officials, which produced a plan to build and implement an all-inclusive, technologically feasible system for interoperable public safety communications.   This effort provided the roadmap to what may be the only true statewide interoperable communications system in the country today – Project Hoosier SAFE-T. Each day, thousands of Hoosier first responders use SAFE-T as their primary communications system as they work to protect Indiana citizens. The system also provides emergency interoperable communications capabilities for hundreds of additional public safety agencies across the state still operating on legacy systems.

Project Hoosier SAFE-T, completed in the summer of 2007, is an 800 MHz trunked voice and data communications system which provides both day-to-day and mission critical interoperability for Indiana local, state, and federal first responders and public safety officials. SAFE-T supports both analog and digital radios, providing 95% mobile and portable radio coverage statewide using 140+ communications sites. Coverage tests confirm this contractually-guaranteed standard being met or exceeded.

The State of Indiana funded build-out of the system backbone and subsequent maintenance and operations costs through 2019. Participating agencies provide their own user equipment, including dispatch consoles, radios and mobile radio modems and computers, which they can buy through the
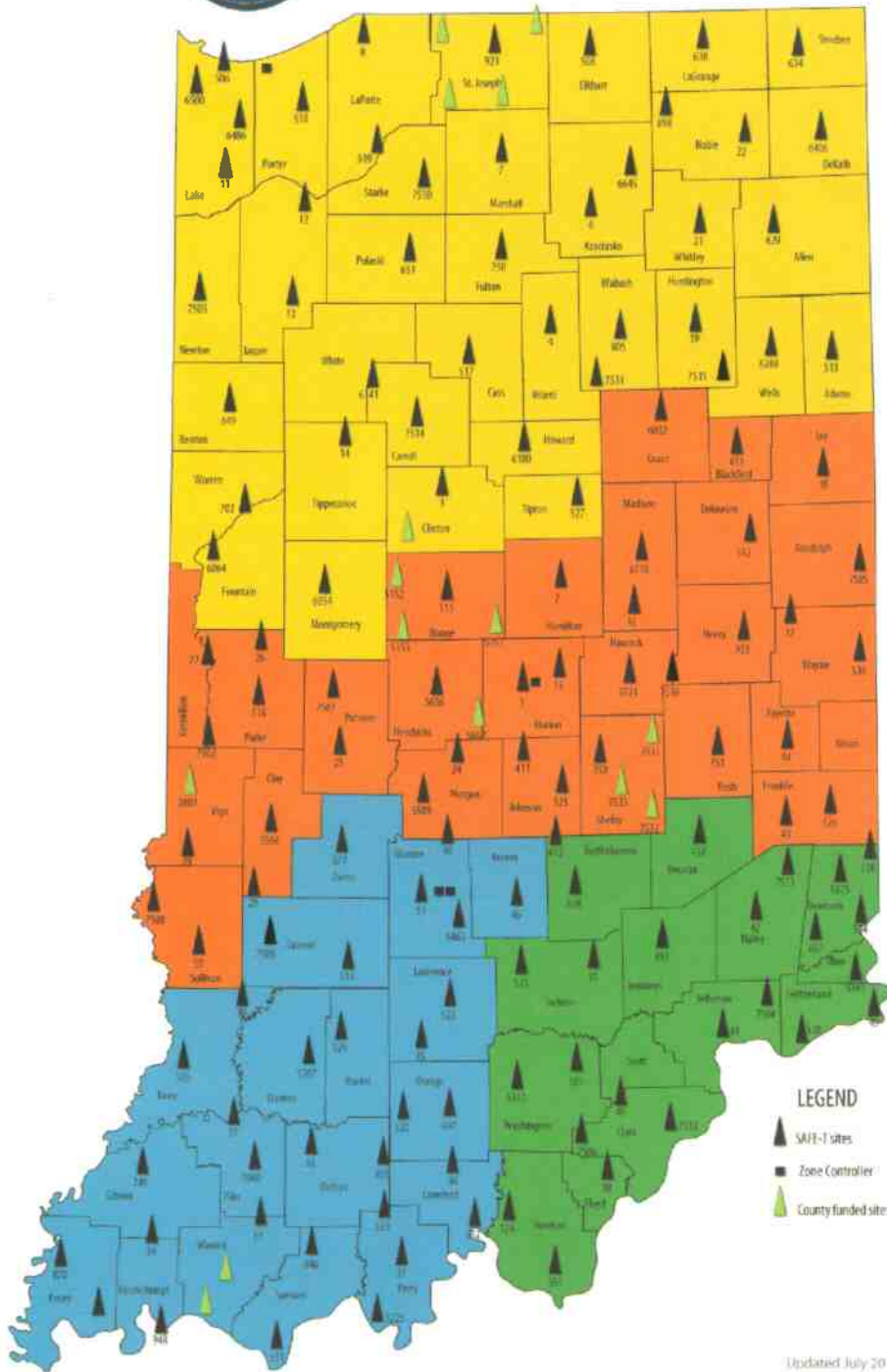
state quantity purchase agreement. Participation in Project Hoosier SAFE-T is voluntary and agencies pay no access or monthly user fees.

Integrated Public Safety Commission
Project Hoosier SAFE-T

LEGEND

▲ SAFE-T sites

■ Zone Controller

▲ County funded sites

Updated July 2010

With its first mission accomplished, IPSC is now focused upon next generation public safety communications: integrated public safety data sharing. Indiana is using American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA) grant funds to invest in a multi-agency multi-jurisdiction interoperable Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System (CAD/RMS). The plans for implementing the system are based upon the highly successful build-out of the statewide interoperable voice communications system. After initial deployment, testing and acceptance at the Indiana State Police Regional Dispatch Center in Bloomington, the CAD and RMS systems will be made available to local, county and state agencies who wish to participate.

Agency Core Functions

Many of the agency functions relate to engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of the statewide public safety radio system; the statewide microwave backbone network, which is owned by the state police; and the fleet of mobile and portable radios in use by the state police. Technical support for mobile and portable radios operating on the SAFE-T 800MHz system is provided to other state agencies as requested. Other agency functions include providing:

1. Extensive training for state police communications and city/county dispatch personnel;
2. Project management and oversight of vendors under contract for site maintenance;
3. Routine visits to radio sites with high level preventative maintenance on air conditioners, generators, grounding systems and overall compound conditions.

Agency supported equipment includes state owned towers, antenna systems, shelters, backup power generators, transmitters and receivers. With the exception of other state agencies, the current business model does not envision support of end "user agency" mobile or portable radios, dispatch consoles or other "user equipment."

Day to day operations include technical and management staff visits to Project Hoosier SAFE-T communications sites and microwave installations for communications building, site compound and fuel tank inspections and minor repair/adjustments. The agency holds third party maintenance and repair contracts, through the Department of Public Works, for tower inspections and emergency repair of generators and air conditioning equipment.

2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CHALLENGES

SAFE-T has achieved remarkable success. More than 700 police and fire agencies have joined SAFE-T to include: 64 county sheriff's department, 290 local law enforcement agencies, 52 local EMS providers, 399 fire departments, 68 hospitals, and 50 school districts, colleges and universities.

Many of these agencies have as few as one or two radios, while others have several radios intended for interoperable communications; a much larger number of agencies use the system for their day-to-day communications needs, some having as many as several hundred radios. The chart below shows the rate of growth for the SAFE-T system.

Current Number of Radio ID's

December 31, 2009
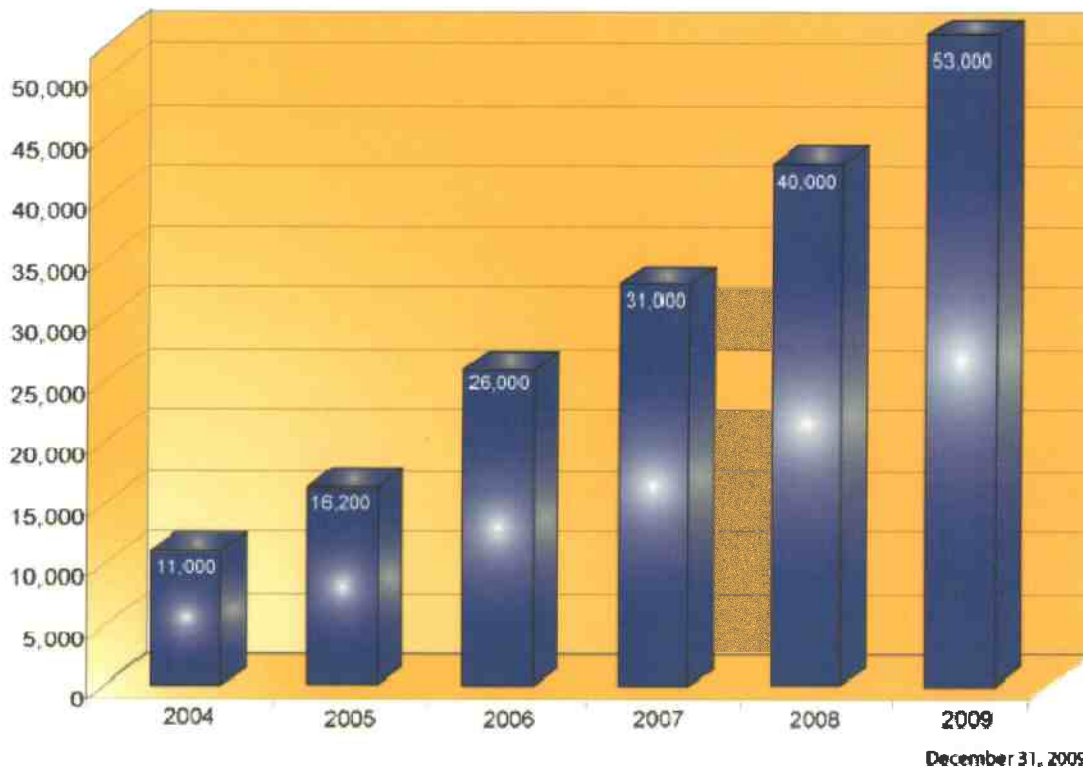
Currently, there are more than 55,000 radio ID's configured in the SAFE-T system. This list includes representatives of the public safety first responder community from all 92 counties, 17 state agencies (including 2,300 state Department of Transportation workers; 1,600 Corrections Officers; and 3,500 State Police), and four federal agencies. A complete list of agencies using the SAFE-T system is available on the IPSC website: http://www.in.gov/ipsc/files/users.pdf

SAFE-T is widely regarded as a national "best practice" model for state interoperable communications systems, balancing the need for technological advancement with fiscal reality. Among other honors, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) named SAFE-T as the recipient of its coveted 2006 Excellence in Law Enforcement Communications and Interoperability Award. The blue-ribbon Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform recommended that all new, local emergency communications systems be compatible with Project Hoosier SAFE-T. The recommendation is one of 27 in the report which aims to make local government in Indiana more efficient, effective and accountable. More recently (October of 2010) Project Hoosier SAFE-T was nominated into the American Council of Engineering Companies of Indiana's Engineering Excellence Awards.

Challenges
IPSC faces several challenges to its mission, one of shrinking federal grant dollars, the other a nationwide 800MHz frequency "rebanding" project that impacts subscribers (radios) and system infrastructure. By far, however, IPSC's largest challenge lies in addressing more immediate system capacity limitations and future growth opportunities.

Ironically, IPSC's success is a major contributing factor to its' biggest challenge. SAFE-T, when purchased more than ten (10) years ago, was designed using the latest network architecture and server technology. The system was strategically designed to support both analog and digital voice technology, capable of operating with older 800MHz systems, as well as newer digital radio systems. Today, SAFE-T supports a significant mix of both technologies, each with its' own capacity and life cycle. The current system supports a maximum of 64,000 radio id's. More than 55,000 ID's are configured in the SAFE-T database today including a reserve of 1,000 for emergency distribution; hundreds more are "reserved" for local agencies that have used recent federal grants to purchase radios.

Compounding the problem is the fact that public safety communications technology is evolving at a rapid pace. Unlike radio systems of the past, some of which have lasted more than forty years, today's radio system technology orchestrates a complex mix of radio frequency (RF) equipment, computer servers and routers combined with wide area network switching equipment designed to pass radio traffic throughout the system. The argument that radio systems equipment vendors have been guilty of "planned obsolescence" is strong; the recent evolution of open architecture standards (P25) for the manufacture of public safety communications equipment are a partial response to these historical business practices.

This life cycle, paired with the extraordinary success of the SAFE-T network, has brought Indiana to a communications crossroads. During their March 25, 2010 meeting, the Integrated Public Safety Commission stated...

> *"...Recognizing the growth limits and life cycle/road map of the Hoosier SAFE-T system, and recognizing the direction of public safety communications systems toward open architecture Project 25, it seems an appropriate long term objective to migrate to the next generation technology contained in the P25 national standards."*

Planning new technology implementation during an environment of serious financial difficulty and diminishing revenues is difficult, at best. That, when coupled with the many challenges we face prolonging the life of SAFE-T, pale in comparison to the effort and total costs associated with an upgrade and migration to the next generation technology.

3. OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

- Provide access to an interoperable communications network to all public safety agencies statewide that wish to participate by migrating to P25 technology.
- Provide access to an interoperable data sharing system in the form of a statewide computer aided dispatch and records management system.
- Provide a common understanding of communications interoperability throughout the state of Indiana
- Provide on-demand training for interoperable communications
- Coordinate local, state, and federal public safety resources; tear down agency and geographical boundaries; and foster cooperation between police, fire, EMS, and other Hoosier first responder and public safety agencies.
- Continue to shrink the "system of systems" by encouraging migration to the state SAFE-T interoperable communications network.

- Mirror the successful locally driven strategy to create a vision for next generation integrated data communications.

4. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of radio ID's in use.
- Operational cost per radio ID.
- System performance measurements for Channel Availability by system and site, Grade of Service by system and site.
- Communications-specific tabletop exercises are conducted with multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency operations, technical, and dispatch participants.
- Number of redundant and diverse interoperable communication systems available.
- All counties have a Technical Interoperable Communications Plan.
- Population of CASM database with statewide public safety agency information, types of systems, equipment, and future interoperable communication needs.
- Percentage of disciplines and agencies that are using common language protocol increases each year.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Today, 37 IPSC staff carries out the mission, goals and objectives of the agency. Until 2009, the IPSC staff consisted of ten (10) operational and technical professionals, each with targeted expertise in public safety radio systems, project management, financial modeling, public information and planning. In 2009, in keeping with the initiative to streamline government services and save taxpayer dollars, the Integrated Public Safety Commission transitioned the Indiana State Police communications radio shop and microwave system technical staff into the agency. In agreement with the State Budget Agency, funding for the additional staff is derived from existing IPSC base revenues. The additional F.C.C. licensed radio technicians, coupled with IPSC's licensed staff expanded agency core technology competency benefiting not only IPSC, but other agencies requiring radio system and equipment support. (See Organizational Chart on the following page)

Integrated Public Safety Commission
Voice & Data System Management
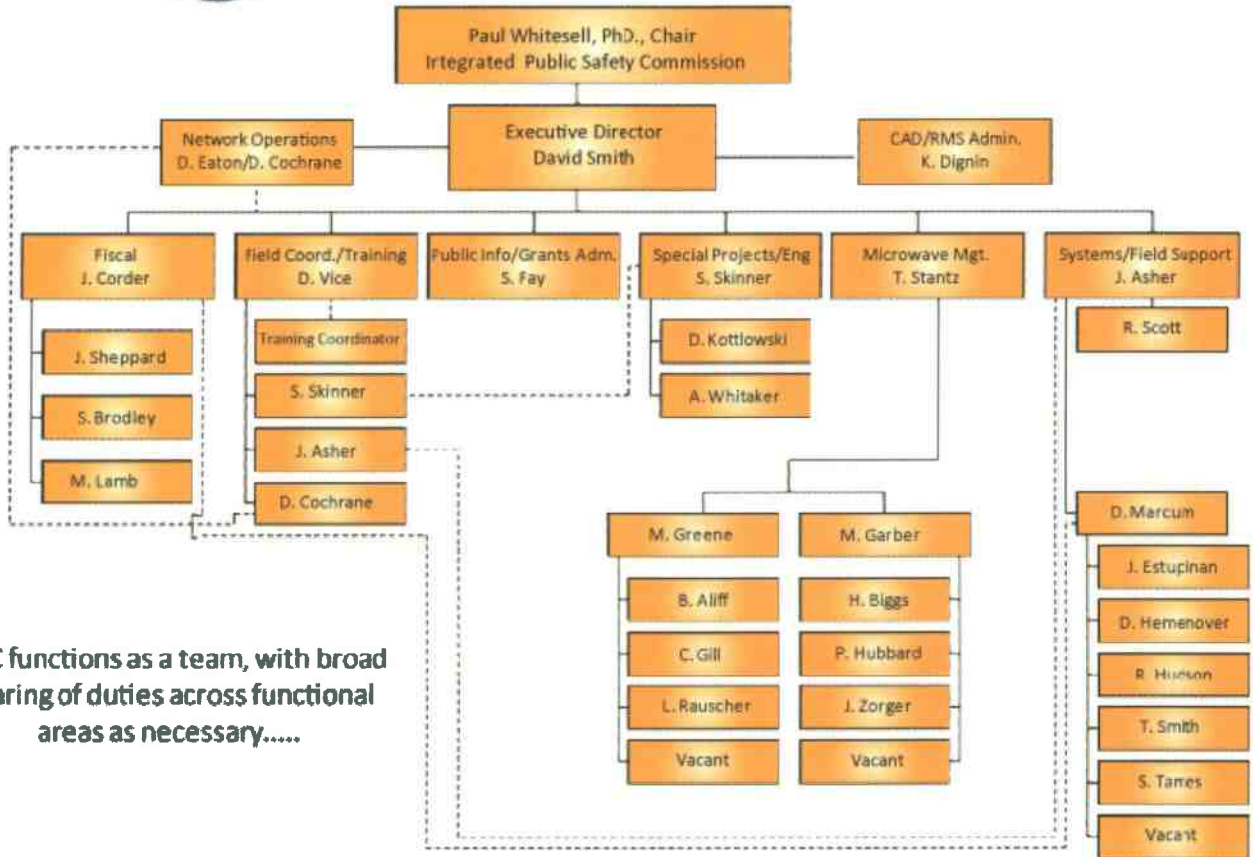
May 2010

I appreciate the opportunity to present our Agency Overview to the State Budget Agency. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David C. Smith
Executive Director
Integrated Public Safety Commission