



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairs of House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

From: Frank L. Perry, Secretary
Gregory K. Baker, Commissioner

SUBJECT: VIPER Legislative Update for First Quarter 2014

Date: April 16, 2014

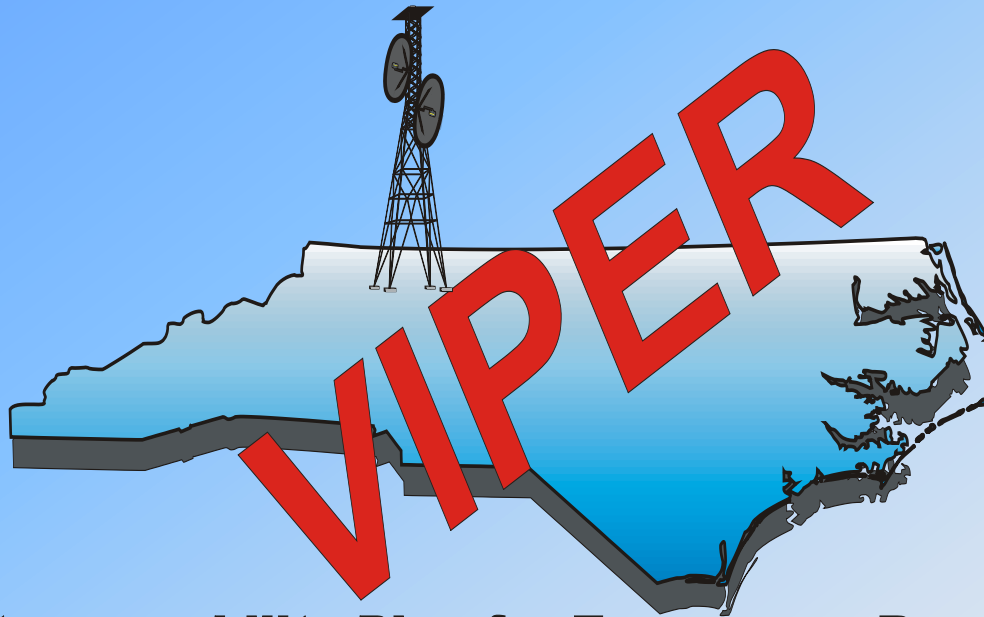
Pursuant of Section 16B.5.(b) of Session Law 2013-360, The Department of Public Safety shall report to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on a quarterly basis on the progress of the State's VIPER system.

MAILING ADDRESS:
4233 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4233

Telephone: (919) 733-4060
Fax: (919) 733-8002



OFFICE LOCATION:
430 N. Salisbury Street
Suite 2056
Raleigh, NC 27603-5926
www.ncdps.gov



Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders

VIPER Legislative Update

Q2 2014

April 16, 2014



VIPER System Overview

- Statewide 800 MHz trunked radio system available for **all emergency responders (local, State, Federal)**
- Goal: 95% in-street portable coverage based on a 3 watt portable radio
- Network infrastructure consisting of towers linked via microwave
- Implementation (build-out), Operations and Maintenance provided by NC Highway Patrol
- End-user requirement to join the network – purchase their own radios

Network Status

- 246 total sites planned for statewide coverage
- 202 sites constructed and on-the-air
- 11 sites are fully funded and under construction
- 28 sites require funding (\$7M legislative funds beginning 2014-2015)
- 5 new sites are being added by counties joining VIPER

- VIPER is 84% complete (number of sites) with 202 sites on-the-air
- 65,388 users are currently on the VIPER Network
 - 260 Emergency Responding agencies (including federal, state and local agencies) makeup the 65,388 radio users
 - 4733 end user radios waiting to join system once P25 migration is complete.

P25 Upgrade and Tower Construction Items

- Programming and Radio Reconfiguration
- Communications Center Readiness for P25
- Tower Upgrades in advance of P25 system migration
- Procurement and Funding Progress
- Project timeline and target for completion

Programming and Radio Reconfiguration for P25

- Bulk of radio reprogramming was completed by 31 December, 2013. We have five (5) counties who have yet to purchase the necessary upgrades for some of their portable and mobile radio equipment to make them P25 ready. Each of the counties have been contacted to ensure that they are aware of the upcoming migration. Federal agencies are being re-programmed in April to include the EBCI.

Communications Center Readiness for P25

- All SHP centers and the State EOC have been upgraded to be P25 ready. Orange County Communications and Cumberland County are both working on their P25 console upgrade and will be complete prior to cutover.

Tower Upgrades in Advance of P25 System Migration

- Fifty two (52) sites required modifications to the tower structure to be able to accommodate additional microwave dishes in support of the P25 migration. The additional microwave dishes are needed to support the increased network requirements for P25. All tower upgrades must be completed prior to moving to P25. Winter weather has negatively impacted the project timeline.

Procurement and Funding Progress

- The additional recurring maintenance funds in the amount of \$2,825,471 has been extremely helpful and is much appreciated as we continue to maintain the VIPER system and the current 202 operational sites. Of the thirteen (13) new positions approved this fiscal year, nine (9) have been approved by OSP, posted and are currently in the selection process.
- An additional \$7m recurring will commence 1 July, 2014 and continue until the completion of the 28 unfunded tower sites are constructed.

New Tower Construction

- We continue to construct new towers supported by Federal Grant funds. New site activations include Warrenton and Roxboro, Fox Mountain, Potato Knob and Rendezvous Mountain. We are working to provide seven (7) shovel ready tower projects in advance of 1 July, 2014 and the initial year of legislatively appropriated funds for tower construction such that we can immediately move forward when we receive our certified 2014-15 budget.

Project Timeline and Target for Completion

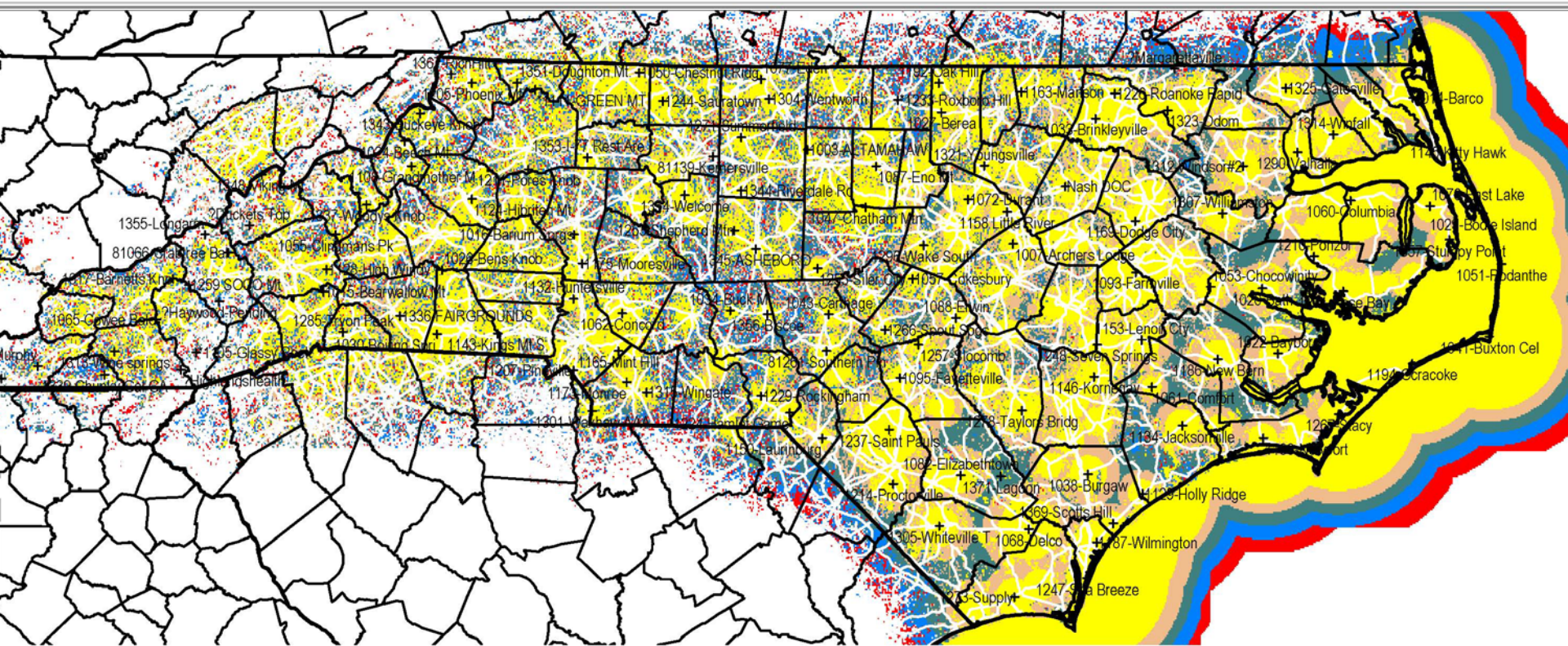
- The P25 migration is dependent on the completion of the reprogramming and reconfiguration of all of the radios on the system today, along with the upgrade of the 52 towers and the installation of the new microwave equipment. Only when those tasks are complete can the conversion of the current system to P25 commence. The system conversion is not slated to begin until Monday, 23 June at the earliest which coincides with the end of the US Open activities in Pinehurst. Once we begin, we will not stop until all of the upgrades are complete.
- New tower sites continue to be added as those sites currently funded come on line. In addition to the Legislatively appropriated sites, we are completing the remaining grant funded sites.

P25 Moving Forward

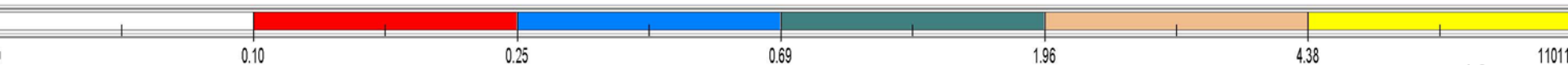
Significant and positive changes are coming with P25

- We are slated to add over 5000 new radios to the system in the first six months which is a result of both the backlog of ID's as well as new users waiting to join.
- Additional sites will be coming on line where several new counties have joined VIPER and have purchased supplemental sites to improve coverage or to replace coverage lost through changes in some of our current partnership agreements.
- Additional channels will be added to some sites to balance load and VIPER intends to look hard at locations where counties need to add channels to reduce system busies.

VIPER 800MHZ COVERAGE STUDY Rev 5/7/13



3 - WATT Portable Talk - Back Coverage Analysis



Questions?

**For all questions relating to VIPER, please
contact the North Carolina Highway Patrol:
Captain Jamie Blanks**

**Unit Commander –TSU/VIPER
919-662-4440 (office)
James. Blanks@ncdps.gov**

www.nccrimecontrol.org/citizens/VIPER

**24 Hour Network Operations Center
1-888-92-VIPER
(1-888-928-4737)**