



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## State Highway Patrol

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Glenn M. McNeill, Jr.  
Commander

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

**From:** Erik A. Hooks, Secretary, DPS *EAH*  
Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., Commander, State Highway Patrol *GMM*

**Subject:** VIPER Quarterly Report

**Date:** December 1, 2018

*Pursuant to Session Law 2016-94, Section 17B.1, The Department of Public Safety shall report annually no later than March 1 and quarterly thereafter to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the progress of the State's VIPER system.*

**Network Status** - 241 total sites planned for statewide coverage of which 226 sites are constructed and on-the-air representing 94% completion. One site is currently nearing completion with a target date of 31 March 2019 for all to be on-the-air with an additional six (6) sites slated for completion at the end of this state fiscal year. Eight (8) sites will still require funding after this fiscal year. 114,216 users are currently on the VIPER Network consisting of more than 176 Federal, State and County emergency responding agencies. This quarter gain represented over 4,399 additional user radios.

**SUA Status** - The Legislature provided non-recurring funding of \$5M in FY 18-19, which updates the network to the most current release through the Service Upgrade Assurance (SUA) catch up. Additionally, the Legislature provided non-recurring funding of \$1.5M for the SUA long-term contract. The SUA catch up will be completed by 31 May 2019. We hope that the Legislature will continue to fund the \$1.5M recurring appropriation in subsequent fiscal years.

**New Tower Construction Progress** - Six (6) new sites have already been identified for new construction. No additional site construction from Federal grant dollars is expected due to changes in the performance period for use of federal funding.

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### **Other Significant Projects:**

**GTR upgrade** - The end of life (EOL) has been reached for the current Quantar Base Stations. Additional funds are needed to purchase replacement GTR Base Stations prior to the cancellation of product support scheduled for 31 December 2018. The anticipated cost for replacement of the Quantar Base Stations at the 187 affected sites is \$28,500,530. This, like the SUA upgrade, represents the most critical of VIPER's current needs. Continued funding for the duration of this budget cycle is crucial to the replacement of outdated Quantar stations. By updating to the new GTR Base Stations, shutting down channels and potentially sites would be avoided as replacement parts for Quantar stations are no longer available after the EOL date in 2018. Pursuant to S.L. 2018-5, we were provided \$8.7M for the GTR base station upgrade this fiscal year. All GTR replacement equipment funded from our FY 18-19 appropriation has been ordered. The first round of replacement equipment will be completed no later than 15 June 2019. However, VIPER will require an additional \$19,800,530 to complete the upgrade of the remaining Quantar stations statewide.

**MOSCAD** - With the implementation of GTR Base Stations, VIPER will need to upgrade its current MOSCAD monitoring system. This system allows us to see real time status changes for all of the base stations across the VIPER network and to be able to enable/disable operation as needed. By the end of this fiscal year, with the additional \$1.3M provided, the MOSCAD project will be complete.

**Microwave Upgrade** - Finally, VIPER operates a statewide microwave network in conjunction with the University of North Carolina. This network utilizes T1 technology (circuit based) which has been the national standard for connectivity for over 50 years. With the transition over the Ethernet and the ability to manage bandwidth needs more efficiently, the Manufacturer (Alcatel) will no longer support our current MDR-8000 microwave radios past the end of CY 2021. Furthermore, this will require the state to seek funding to replace the current microwave radios beginning in FY 2021 and extending through FY 2024. The anticipated funding requirement for the replacement of the microwave radios is \$18,000,000 and would be split equally across the four fiscal years at \$4,500,000 per year.