

# Federal Grant Application Request

## Department of Transportation

### Public Safety Broadband Network

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**Analyst:** Linda Gilbert

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the US Department of Commerce National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) in an amount up to \$3 million for planning, consulting, and development activities.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 authorized \$135 million in awards to fund state, local and tribal planning activities in support of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

A nationwide broadband network, when fully operational, will provide mission critical data to first responders. Examples include live video feed from monitoring cameras inside a school, streaming video of patient and vital health stats from the ambulance enroute to the emergency room, a fallen firefighter's helmet camera transmitting real-time video of his location.

Amounts from the \$135 million are allocated to states based on population and geographic area. Though the grants are non-competitive, recipients must design an acceptable project, provide information NTIA requires, and agree to conditions NTIA places upon the award. Applications are due March 19, 2013. Awards are expected in early July 2013. The grant period is 3 years. NTIA requires a 20% match, which the agency will cover in-kind using existing Major Projects Branch staff.

Activities funded by the grant include:

- Establishing a governance structure to consult with FirstNet,
- Ensuring local and tribal representation with FirstNet,
- Education and outreach for relevant stakeholders,
- Identifying potential public safety users,
- Developing appropriate facilitation for the possible sharing of infrastructure,
- Developing future staffing plans.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

## Department of Transportation

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February 7, 2013

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons,

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) requests permission to apply for up to \$3 million in Department of Commerce National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Grant monies for the State Radio Project.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 included support for a critical national infrastructure need, the creation of a single, nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network (PSBN) that will allow police officers, fire fighters, transportation officials, emergency medical services professionals, and other public safety officials to communicate effectively with each other across agencies and jurisdictions.

This act creates FirstNet, as well as a grant program that will assist state, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions to identify, plan and implement the most efficient and effective means to use and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide PSBN to provide the wireless broadband and data services needs of their jurisdictions.

The deadline to submit this grant application is March 19, 2013, with grants awarded by June 1, 2013. The grant will have in-kind match requirements, which the State Radio Project existing efforts will cover.

There are no additional FTE required by the grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Garrett  
Director