

# **Vermont Act 78 Public Safety Communications Plan Task Force Program Status Presentation**

**September 18, 2025**

# Agenda

Act 78 Program Overview and Schedule

Program Budgetary Appropriation Review

Program Status and Next Steps

What Does Success Look Like

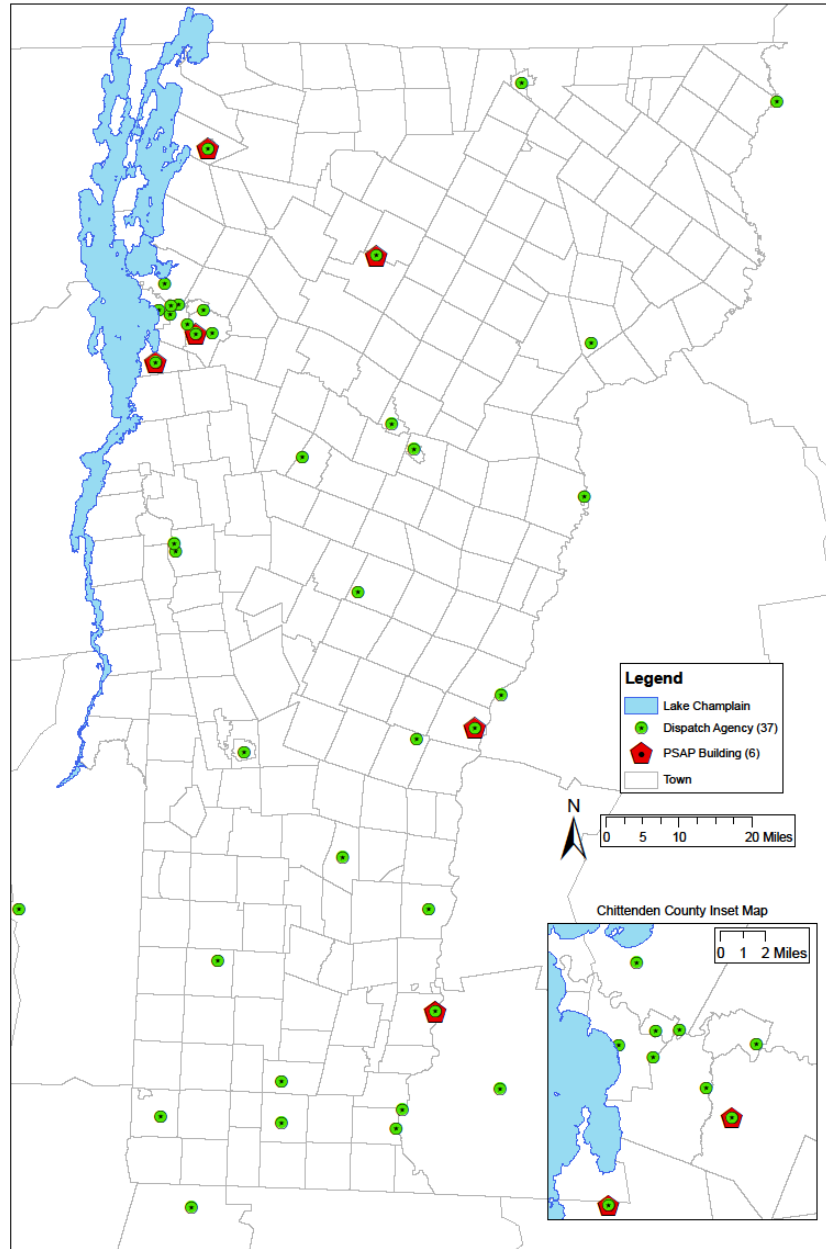
# PSCTF History and Update



Created in 2023 by Act 78

Tasked with the planning and implementation of a reliable, secure, and interoperable statewide public safety communications system

- Equitably and sustainably financed and universally accessible by all people throughout the state, and
- Enhances, strengthens, and builds upon previous efforts and initiatives.



### Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP)

Hartford Police Department  
 Lamoille County Sheriff's Office  
 Shelburne Police Department  
 St Albans Police Department  
 Vermont State Police – Westminster  
 Vermont State Police – Williston

### Dispatch Centers

Barre City Police Department  
 Bennington Police Department  
 Brattleboro Police Department  
 Burlington Police Department  
 Colchester Police Department  
 Dover Police Department  
 Essex Police Department  
 Ludlow Police Department  
 Manchester Police Department  
 Middlebury Police Department  
 Middlebury Regional EMS  
 Montpelier Police Department  
 Newport Police Department  
 Mad River Valley Ambulance Service

### Out of State Dispatch Centers

Colebrook Police Department, NH  
 Grafton County Sheriff's Office, NH  
 Hanover Police Department, NH  
 North Adams Police Department, MA  
 Southwest Fire Mutual Aide, NH  
 Washington County Department of Public Safety, NY

Randolph Police Department  
 Rutland City Police Department  
 South Burlington Police Department  
 Springfield Police Department  
 St Johnsbury Police Department  
 St Michaels Rescue  
 University of Vermont Police Department  
 Wilmington Police Department  
 Windham County Sheriff's Office  
 Winooski Police Department  
 Woodstock Police Department



# Task Force Members



**Task Force Co-Chair:** Barbara Neal, Executive Director, Vermont Enhanced 911 Board

**Task Force Co-Chair:** Jennifer Morrison, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Safety

**Chair of the Regional Dispatch Working Group:** Paul White, Selectboard, Barre Town / Chair, Vermont Regional Dispatch Working Group



**Public safety answering point (PSAP) overseen by a municipal police department:** Jim Mack, PSAP Administrator, Shelburne Police Department



**Municipal official appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns:** Mike Doenges, Mayor, City of Rutland



**Firefighter** Vermont State Firefighters' Association: Ron Kumetz, Chief, Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department



**Emergency medical technician (EMT) or paramedic** Vermont State Ambulance Association: Michael J. Wright, Chief Executive Officer, CALEX Ambulance Service

# Working Group Meeting Scheduling

		May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
TF Meetings		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b><u>System Planning Recommendations Review</u></b>	<b><u>TF Participants</u></b>								
Revised document delivery									
Document review process and assignments and schedule	All								
3.1 Organic and Inorganic Approaches to Regionalization	MW, DPS, RK								
3.5 Governance	MD, BN, PW								
3.3 Technology and Shared Systems-based Regionalization (Tier 2)	RK, MW, JM								
3.2 Policy and Operations-based Regionalization (Tier 3)	BN, JM, RK								
3.4 Physical (Facilities-based) Regionalization (Tier 1)	PW, BN, MW								
3.6 Funding and Cost-Sharing	DPS, PW, MD								
3.7 Timeline	JM, MD, DPS								

Note: Some items run in parallel – each item ends on a week with a TF meeting  
Schedule has been adjusted due to delay in scheduling meetings

# Act 78 Sec. C.114 Public Safety Communications Plan

## Program Overview

- The General Assembly finds that protecting public safety and welfare is an essential function of State government and it is in the public interest to establish a statewide reliable, secure, and interoperable public safety communications system
  - The Public Safety communications system must be comprised of integrated 911 call-taking and regional dispatch systems, and must be equitably and sustainably financed and universally accessible by all persons throughout the State
  - The intent of the General Assembly is not to establish a public safety communications system that disrupts or in any way jeopardizes the exceptional dispatch services currently in place or the existing 911 system, but rather to support, enhance, strengthen, and build upon those efforts and initiatives
  - The transition to a public safety communications system shall be overseen and managed by the temporary Public Safety Communications Task Force
  - The Public Safety Communications Task Force was established to oversee and manage all phases of the development, design, and implementation of a statewide public safety communications system
  - The establishment of a statewide public safety communications system shall occur in essentially three phases: 1) data collection and analysis, 2) design, and 3) implementation

# Act 78 Sec. C.114 Public Safety Communications Plan

## Program Budgetary Appropriations

- The General Assembly appropriated \$11,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for the regional dispatch study funding
  - Up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for the retention of technical experts to assist the Task Force with the analysis and planning required by Sec. C.112
  - If the Task Force determines that additional funding is necessary to achieve its purposes, it may submit a request to the Joint Fiscal Committee who are authorized to approve up to an additional \$1,000,000
  - Up to \$4,500,000 shall be available to provide funding for pilot projects pursuant to Sec. C.112(f) of this act
- The \$11,000,000 Appropriations spend to date:
  - System Inventory and Assessment and System Planning Report: \$832,263 – Mission Critical Partners  
Program Management: \$500,000 – Televate
  - Balance to date: \$11,000,000 - \$1,332,263 = \$9,667,737
- Separately from Act 78, Vermont was awarded a \$9,000,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) federal grant appropriation
  - The COPS grant is being managed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and is primarily being dedicated to enhancing the Vermont State Police (VSP) land mobile radio (LMR)
  - The COPS grant has specific limitations and cannot directly support Act 78 initiatives
  - The DPS proposal to incorporate a procurement option for VHF communications (in addition to VSP's UHF system) was in support of a statewide fire and emergency medical services LMR network presented to the Task Force



# Act 78 Public Safety Communications System, Dispatch, Inventory: Design Introduction to Program Status and Next Steps

- Links to the Inventory and Assessment and System Planning Reports
  - [Vermont Public Safety Communications System Inventory and Assessment: Final Report | Department of Public Safety](#)
  - [Public Safety Communications System Options & Plan Recommendations Final Report | Department of Public Safety](#)
- The Task Force created 7-Working Groups (see Slide 6) consisting of 3-members each of the Task Force
- The following Program Status and Next Steps slides is based on the following status categories:
  - **Completed**: The associated Act 78 requirement has been completed
  - **In Progress**: The associated Act 78 requirement has been completed and the Options provided by the Consultant in their report – the status is either:
    - Currently under review by a 3-member Task Force Working Group who will present their recommendations to the full Task Force
    - A future 3-member Task Force Working Group will conduct a future review and present their recommendations to the full Task Force
  - **Under Review**: The associated Act 78 requirement has been completed and the Options provided by the Consultant in their report - the status is either:
    - Being reviewed by a Working Group and their respective recommendations have been presented to the full Task Force
    - Is being considered independently by the Working Group

## Act 78 Public Safety Communications System, Dispatch, Inventory: Design (1 of 4)

Section	Act 78 Objective	Relevant Report/Section/Position	Status
<b>(1) Data collection and analysis section</b>			
<b>Page 144 (8)(e)(1)</b>	A) an inventory of all existing dispatch infrastructure and equipment	Inventory and Assessment Report	Completed
<b>Page 144 (8)(e)(1)</b>	B) the number of full-time and part-time personnel currently performing dispatch service	System Inventory and Assessment Report <i>Section 3.2.3 Workforce - Vermont Public Safety Communications System: Options &amp; Plan Recommendations</i>	Completed
<b>Page 144 (8)(e)(1)</b>	(C) the current total spending on dispatch service in Vermont State, and municipal appropriations and fees, every contract for dispatch or first responder service, and projected budgets	System Inventory and Assessment Report <i>Section 3.6 Funding and Cost-sharing - Vermont Public Safety Communications System: Options &amp; Plan Recommendations</i>	Completed
<b>Page 145 (8)(e)(1)</b>	(D) identification of the communications dead zones, meaning those areas that lack the infrastructure to support public safety land mobile-radio communications or cellular voice and data service, or both	System Inventory and Assessment Report – <i>Wireless Communications Companion Document – Section 1.2.</i>	Completed
<b>Page 145 (8)(e)(1)</b>	(E) with the assistance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a needs assessment to determine where and to what extent there are gaps in dispatch service or significant challenges to the delivery of dispatch service	Initial input from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns captured during various stakeholder workshops – additional inquiry now in process	In Progress Current Working Group
<b>Page 145 (8)(e)(1)</b>	(F) Assessment of the service provided by each dispatch center and identification of particular challenges or vulnerabilities	System Inventory and Assessment Report <i>Section 3 Trends and Insights</i>	Completed
<b>Page 145 (8)(e)(1)</b>	(G) collection and assessment of any other information the Task Force deems relevant	1) Funding considerations, 2) Vermont broadband options for public safety, 3) Satellite connectivity, 4) State COPS grant coordination	Under Review Full Task Force

## Act 78 Public Safety Communications System, Dispatch, Inventory: Design (2 of 4)

(2) Design Section			
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(A) technical and operational standards and protocols that ensure an interoperable and resilient system that incorporates computer-aided dispatch systems and land mobile radios	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Section 3.2 Policy and Operations-based Regionalization (Tier 3)</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	Under Review Presented to Task Force
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(B) technology life-cycle standards to ensure system and database upgrades are timely, sufficiently financed, and properly managed	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Sections 3.3.4 Public Safety Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Communications and 3.5 Governance</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	In Progress Current Working Group
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(C) system and database security and cybersecurity standards	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Section 3.3.5 Cybersecurity</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	Under Review Presented to Task Force
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(D) continuity of operations standards and best practices that encompass failover procedures and other system redundancies to ensure the continuous performance of mission-critical operations	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Sections 3.3 Technology and Shared Systems-based Regionalization (Tier 2) and 4 System Design Plan Summary</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	Under Review Presented to Task Force
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(E) workforce training standards and other staffing best practices that support the retention and well-being of dispatch personnel	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Sections 1 Executive Summary and 3.2 Policy and Operations-based Regionalization (Tier 3)</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	Under Review Presented to Task Force
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(F) a resource allocation plan that ensures dispatch service is available in all regions of the State, including the establishment of new dispatch centers or expanded capacity and capability of existing dispatch centers	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Section 3.4 Physical (Facilities-based) Regionalization (Tier 1)</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	In Progress Current Working Group
Page 146 (8)(e)(2)	(G) a process for annually reviewing the budgets of dispatch centers	Task Force to provide final recommendations to the Vermont legislature	In Progress Current Working Group

## (2) Design Section

Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(H) a recommended governance model to ensure effective State and regional oversight, management, and continuous improvement of the system, including identification of staffing or operational needs to support such oversight and management of the system	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>3.5 Governance</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	Section	In Progress Current Working Group
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(I) cost estimates for implementing the system in Vermont, including operational and capital costs	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report Task Force to provide final recommendations		In Progress Funding/Cost Sharing Working Group
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) options for sustainably and equitably structuring the financing of the public safety communications system, taking into consideration:	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>3.6.1 Funding and Cost-Sharing Considerations</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations	Section	In Progress Funding/Cost Sharing Working Group
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) (i) existing budgets for regional and local dispatch	Inventory and Assessment Report <i>Sections 4: Vermont Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and Section 5: Dispatch Centers</i>		Completed
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) (ii) the population, grand list, and call volume of each municipality	Inventory and Assessment Inventory Report <i>Sections 4: Vermont Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and Section 5: Dispatch Centers</i>	Sections	Completed
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) (iii) existing and potential State funding streams	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Section 3.6.1.2 Funding Sources</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations		In Progress Funding/Cost Sharing Working Group
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) (iv) available federal funding opportunities for public safety agencies and emergency communications systems, including equipment, network infrastructure, and services	Consultant's options in the System Planning Report <i>Section 3.6.1.2 Funding Sources</i> Task Force to provide final recommendations		In Progress Funding/Cost Sharing Working Group
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) (v) financing models adopted in other jurisdictions for public safety communications systems	Task Force to provide final recommendations		In Progress Funding/Cost Sharing Working Group
Page 147 (8)(e)(2)	(J) (vi) any other standards or procedures deemed necessary or appropriate by the Task Force	Task Force to provide final recommendations		Under Review Full Task Force

## Act 78 Public Safety Communications System, Dispatch, Inventory: Design (4 of 4)

Pilot Projects		
Page 147/8 (8)(e)(2)	(f)(1) If the Task Force determines that sufficient minimum technical and operational standards have been developed to warrant the funding of one or more pilot projects, the Task Force may submit for approval a pilot project plan to the Joint Fiscal Committee in calendar year 2023.	Task Force to provide final recommendations to the Vermont legislature
		Future Effort Full Task Force