

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

PROGRESS ON GOALS

INFRASTRUCTURE

SITE PROGRESS CONTINUES; NEW PROCESSES ESTABLISHED

December saw the radio project's partnership obligations advance and the following construction and design milestones:

- Megler in Pacific County, Wash., reached substantial completion — tower, shelter, fence and compound — and is ready for microwave installation.
- Bids were received for Nicolai in Clatsop County and Green Mountain in Cowlitz County, Wash.
- In Lincoln County, the construction contract for Table Mountain was awarded and Euchre Mountain broke ground.
- A building permit was submitted for Golgotha Butte in Morrow County.
- Wilson River in Tillamook County had a building permit issued.
- Microwave installation was completed at Walker Point in Lane County.

Project staff mapped four tower sites in December with the tool purchased in November, compounding the savings of time and project funds.

A draft microwave deployment strategy was submitted for review and approval in December. Prioritizing completion of the more than 200 sites the project will touch will improve efficiency.

Harris completed the preliminary trunked system design and began the review process with project staff.

An improved site acceptance process was drafted this month, and the process for change management was further customized. Staff will prepare documentation for the site review committee so that decisions can be recorded and acted upon the same day, eliminating a two- to four-week waiting period.

Incorporating lessons learned, environmental evaluations are now a part of site development. Staff will verify that all clearances are in place before we break ground on a site.



Mobile radio installations began in OSP vehicles in Salem this month.

NARROWBANDING

OLD RADIOS MAY FIND NEW LIFE WITH PROJECT AND BEYOND

Radio technicians installed eight mountaintop repeaters at four sites in December: Mount Hebo and Mount Hagen in Lane County, Bald Mountain in Polk County and Tillamook Head in Tillamook County.

Wireless Section staff finalized an optimal tuning process and began training field technicians in the new process. Salem staff prepared and staged radios for an aggressive January installation schedule for lower elevation sites.

Installations of mobile radios in OSP vehicles began in December, and installations for ODOT maintenance, construction and first responder vehicles in the Salem area were completed. ODOT vehicle installations in Roseburg, White City, Eugene, McMinnville and Corvallis began as well.

As new radios are installed, we are following property decommissioning and disposal rules for the old radios, salvaging what we can and making equipment available to other agencies when possible. The programming of the old radios will be erased, but the physical equipment has three possible destinations:

- Serviceable radios that are digital-capable and can be configured to work with narrowband will be updated and used in the new state radio system.
- Radios that can be configured to work with narrowband but aren't digital will be made available to other agencies and local governments that can use them.
- Those that cannot operate on narrowband and won't work for any other purpose are disassembled and the reusable parts recycled.

CONSOLIDATION

RADIO USERS GROUP AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCE STRATEGIES

The State Radio User Group met in December to review the draft Oregon Interagency Wireless Communications Strategy and cost analysis due by February to the Legislature. The SRUG provided additional feedback on both documents and directed staff to develop a brief for the legislative work group. Each agency will send a representative to the work session when the brief is presented.

The SRUG also discussed broad concepts for system management based on the policy allowances of individual agencies.

With SRUG concurrence, the radio project's interagency Technical Advisory Committee confirmed alternative power strategies for locations without commercial power. The alternative power designs will be site-specific, based on power demands, site conditions and site accessibility. The TAC also outlined the goals of system availability for planned and unplanned outages that will be developed into a summary document that guides service-level and intergovernmental agreements.

INTEROPERABILITY

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KEY BROADBAND PLANNING ACTIVITIES

In 2011, the radio project and State Interoperability Executive Council made strides in interoperability training and assistance. Eight Technical Assistance opportunities were provided to public safety officials statewide. TAs are provided by the Office of Emergency Communications to enhance experience and knowledge of interoperable communications.

Several grant-funded opportunities enabled the state to complete tactical Interoperable Communication Plans for each communication region of the state. We also were able to complete an extensive federal effort called Goal 2 that requires each county to report on how they use their public safety communications systems in a real-world or training exercise.

The work efforts completed in 2011 will enable the radio project and SIEC to benchmark current trends and use those metrics to enhance interoperability statewide. Plans for 2012 include the development of a Communications Unit Leader Certification process and an updated state interoperability plan.

ODOT released a Request for Information/Expression of Interest that seeks a public-private partnership in the development of a public safety broadband network known as Long Term Evolution. Responses are due in February.