



Bay Area Wireless Enhanced Broadband (BayWEB)

What is BayWEB?

BayWEB is a regional data communications network that will allow first responders throughout the Bay Area to communicate seamlessly during a disaster and for day-to-day public safety needs. BayWEB incorporates cutting-edge 4G LTE technology to deliver data over wireless spectrum reserved for public safety broadband use. The network will enable first responders to share text, pictures, real-time video and other mobile “apps” designed specifically for public safety. The project was launched in 2007 by the mayors of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose, and is consistent with a key public safety priorities of the 9/11 Commission Report and the Obama Administration to improve interoperable communications for first responders.

How is BayWEB governed?

BayWEB is governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), called the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority (BayRICS), which was formally established in August 2011. BayRICS oversees funding, policy, and negotiating contracts with vendors to construct BayWEB. Members of the BayRICS Authority include State of California, City and County of San Francisco, City of Oakland, City of San Jose, Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and “hub” cities in the East Bay and South Bay. Each member jurisdiction has appointed a representative to the BayRICS Board of Directors.

How is BayWEB Funded?

In 2010, the region received a \$50.6 million federal stimulus grant called the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) to fund the wireless broadband portion of the project. The BTOP grant is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal agency in the Department of Commerce. The grant was awarded to Motorola, the vendor selected to partner with BayRICS to build, own, operate and maintain the network. Portions of this BTOP grant have been temporarily placed in suspension pending FirstNet Board review of the project (see below). BayRICS Member agencies contribute space on radio sites, fiber optic and microwave infrastructure and staff resources to the project.

What Will Be the Benefits to the Region?

- Interoperable – One network allows faster, coordinated response among Bay Area first responders
- Private – Network is exclusively for public safety users, not shared with commercial traffic
- Controlled – Ability to prioritize data transmissions by user, application or event
- Secure – Reliability of a hardened network dedicated to public safety use
- Low Cost – No site construction costs or minimum service commitments for BayRICS members

What Will Be the Project Costs to the Region?

- Use of some leased radio sites may result in monthly lease fees for members
- One-time permitting fees for improvements to radio sites
- BayRICS member jurisdictions will contribute sites, fiber and personnel.
- Monthly service fees for users (proposed \$43 per month per user, unlimited data usage).
- Hand-held, tablet and in-vehicle devices (data enabled) for Police, Fire, etc.

What is the BOOM Agreement?

In January 2012, BayRICS approved a Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) Agreement with Motorola that describes the specific parameters and costs of the system, including:

- Project deployment schedule, system design and capabilities
- Fee structure for basic service and enhanced options
- Open standards requirements, allowing competitive procurement of end user devices
- Rules for use of 700 MHz spectrum
- Timetable for transfer of system ownership to the JPA in 10 years.

What are the Site Access and Use Agreements?

Cities and counties around the Bay Area have approved Site Access and Use Agreements with the project vendor, Motorola, which will allow Motorola to access to sites and facilities in order to install communications equipment (like antennas) for the project. There will be approximately 130 project sites throughout the Bay Area.

What is FirstNet?

On February 22, 2012 President Obama signed H.R. 3630, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Title VI of this legislation, often referred to as the "Spectrum Act", established spectrum allocations, governance structure and funding for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), a nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety. Public safety groups have pressed for this legislation for several years in response to the 9-11 tragedy and subsequent reports that have identified the critical need for a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for first responders.

FirstNet will become a nationwide counterpart to the BayWEB network and will eventually interconnect with BayWEB, providing interoperability on regional, state and national levels. However, in April 2012, the BTOP grant funding the BayWEB project was partially suspended to allow the FirstNet Board the opportunity to review the project to ensure that it will be fully compatible with the nationwide public safety broadband network. BayRICS anticipates a decision from FirstNet in February 2013.

Although many details are still being developed, FirstNet represents a great opportunity for public safety in the Bay Area and a potential source of additional funding, enhancement and expansion for BayWEB.

What Are the Key Project Deadlines?

Project deadlines are in flux due to the temporary funding suspension and delays caused by FirstNet Board review of the project.