



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

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State Awards Homeland Security Funds to Improve Radio Communication in South Jersey -South Jersey Transportation Authority to Purchase Equipment to Benefit Six Counties-

HAMMONTON — The South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) has been awarded \$682,520 in state homeland security funds to enhance radio interoperability communications in six South Jersey counties, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas announced today.

Cañas said the funds will be used to purchase radio communications equipment that will upgrade the SJTA communications system. The equipment will establish interoperability communications between emergency personnel at key SJTA assets, such as the Atlantic City Airport and Atlantic City Expressway and multiple agencies serving the region, including the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Department of Transportation, Garden State Parkway, Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management and Atlantic City. The equipment being purchased is consistent with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan developed by OHSP in coordination with the New Jersey Office of Information Technology.

"Ensuring that emergency personnel and first responders are able to communicate during any type of emergency event is a critical component of New Jersey's homeland security strategy." "Establishing interoperable communications in South Jersey enhances the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of this important region and the entire state," Cañas said.

"Upgrading communications equipment for first responders enhances our ability to protect our residents and our infrastructure before, during and after an emergency," said New Jersey State Police Superintendent, Colonel Joseph R. "Rick" Fuentes, who also serves as the Director of the State's Office of Emergency Management.

"This Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness grant demonstrates the strong interagency support and cooperation among New Jersey agencies that are united in the goal of improving safety and emergency preparedness," said SJTA Board Chairman and New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri. "This effort will help SJTA to operate a fleet of vehicles that will play a major role in any large-scale emergency affecting this region, including coastal evacuations."



“We’re grateful to the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for awarding these funds,” said SJTA Executive Director Bart Mueller. “These upgrades improve upon the overall response to any type of emergency in our area and enable SJTA personnel to communicate with first responders from multiple agencies in the region.”

Cañas said the grant funds will be used to purchase the following equipment:

- Mobile radio units for SJTA operated vehicles
- Portable radios
- Console dispatch systems and related modules
- Related software and hardware equipment

The South Jersey Transportation Authority was established to provide the traveling public with safe and efficient transportation through the operation and maintenance of transportation projects and services in Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties in South Jersey. The SJTA operates public highways and transportation facilities, including the Atlantic City Expressway and the Atlantic City International Airport.

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