



**Federal Communications Commission  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau**



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## **National Broadband Plan**

APCO International  
75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition  
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Las Vegas, NV

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# Overview

- What is the National Broadband Plan (the Plan)?
- How can you contribute to the development of the Plan?
- What are the next steps in the process?

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“Recovery Act”)

- Allocated \$7.2 billion for grants and loans to expand broadband deployment
- Directed the FCC to submit to Congress “*a report containing a national broadband plan*”
  - Due date : February 17, 2010

# Contents of the Plan

- The Plan must “seek to establish that all people of the United States have access to broadband” and “establish benchmarks for meeting that goal”
  - Analyze mechanisms for ensuring access
  - Develop a strategy for achieving affordability and maximum utilization
  - Evaluate the status of broadband deployment
  - Advance important “national purposes”, such as “public safety and homeland security”



*Chairman Genachowski:* the Plan must  
be “data-driven”

# [www.broadband.gov](http://www.broadband.gov)

- Contains information about the Plan and related initiatives
  - Upcoming broadband workshops (Aug. 6–Sept. 3)
    - Schedule, contact info, instructions on how to register and how to suggest topics and questions
    - PSHS workshop: **Aug. 25**
  - News updates and information on events and proceedings related to the Plan

*Countdown to Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>: 185 days and counting!*

## *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)*

- Adopted by the FCC on April 8, 2009
- Sought comment “to inform development” of the Plan
  - Stated that the Plan “*must reflect an understanding of the problem, clear goals for the future, a route to those goals, and benchmarks along the way*”
  - Posed specific questions and invited comment more generally on issues “*relating to the adoption or implementation*” of the Plan
- Comment Date: June 8, 2009
- Reply Comment Date: July 21, 2009

# ***NOI: Public Safety and Homeland Security Issues***

- How best to promote interoperable, wireless-based communications?
  - Relationship between the Plan and the FCC's ongoing 700 MHz proceeding?
- What services are most needed?
- How to ensure physical diversity and redundancy, and improve hardening of network assets?
- How can existing spectrum allocations (*e.g.* 4.9 GHz) meet the needs of public safety?



# ***NOI: Public Safety and Homeland Security Issues (cnt'd)***

- What are the costs for public safety of obtaining broadband service, applications, or devices?
- What funding sources are available?
- Are broadband networks used for mission-critical communications?
- What models (*e.g.* statewide networks) have been successful? What are their limitations?
- What policies would best promote Next Gen 9-1-1? Cybersecurity? Pandemic preparedness?
- How can the FCC coordinate with other federal agencies? With state, local and tribal entities?

# ***NOI Comments***

- Over 8,000 pages of comments submitted
- Verdict: a weak overall record
  - Too focused on aspirational goals, not enough on ways of getting there
- What was missing?
  - Useful data
  - Analysis of trade-offs among various approaches
  - Clear presentation of ideas and “seriousness of purpose”
  - Strategies for implementing ideas

# Public Safety and Homeland Security: What is still needed?

- More and better data about both current and future broadband needs
  - Concrete plans and benchmarks on how to improve interoperability
  - Analysis of the spectrum allocations necessary to support both current and future broadband services
  - Data on the costs of deployment and other costs
  - What applications are most needed?
  - What are the requirements of public safety for their communications networks?
  - Other useful data

# Next Steps: FCC Broadband Workshops

- Designed to “promote an open dialogue between the FCC and key constituents” on matters related to the Plan
  - Opens up the *ex parte* process, so “the public can see the debate as it unfolds”
  - Compresses multiple meetings and presentations into each workshop
- Presenters include technical experts, business strategists and economic experts

# PSHS Broadband Workshop

- Date: Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.
- Location: FCC, Commission Meeting Room
- Coordinator: Jennifer Manner
- Live Video Link:  
[www.broadband.gov/workshops.html](http://www.broadband.gov/workshops.html)

# PSHS Workshop: First Panel

- Focusing on the use of broadband applications by first responders to communicate information and prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies
- Topics: interoperability, redundancy, the costs of providing broadband access to public safety



# PSHS Workshop: Second Panel

- Focusing on the impact of broadband technology on particular homeland security issues
- Topics: cybersecurity, bioterrorism, pandemics, critical infrastructure vulnerabilities; current and future public safety use of managed IP-networks



# Additional Next Steps

- *Ex parte* meetings
  - Useful for presentations that involve technical data or proprietary information
  - “Permit-but-disclose” rules apply
- Field hearings outside of Washington, D.C.
  - Likely to be held throughout the fall
  - Dates and locations TBD—check [www.broadband.gov](http://www.broadband.gov) for updates!
- Other events and proceedings—stay tuned!