MD FIRST System Managers Committee
Quarterly Public Meeting

- **Members in Attendance**
  - Adam Karsin (USHHS)
  - Andrew Cummins (NRP)
  - Anthony Maiese (DPSCS)
  - Austin Pencinger (Amtrak Police)
  - Brad Russum (Kent County)
  - Charlie Guddemi (DC SWIC)
  - Christine Hamrick (Queen Anne's County)
  - Capt. Daniel Bowser (MDTA)
  - Dave Christner (NRP)
  - Dave Green (Carroll County)
  - David Krass (Amtrak Police)
  - Doug Lindsey (MAA)
  - Earl Erickson (FBI)
  - Gary Zamerski (MSP)
  - Harold Taylor (Howard County)
  - Irvin Church (DHS)
  - Jack Markey (MDEM)
  - James Brown (Worcester County)
  - James Hambright (US BLM)
  - James Hamilton (Worcester County)
  - Jeffrey Clements (Charles County)
  - Jeremy Magorka (Anne Arundel County)
  - John Butts (NRP)
  - Joseph Dauksys (HHS)
  - Josh Miller (Charles County)
  - Justin Orendorf (Garrett County)
  - Kelly Brauning (JHPD)
  - Kim Vogts (MDH)
  - Matthew Meekins (Dorchester County)
  - Mike Himmer (MDTA)

- Mike Keiser (Ocean City)

- Murray Hunt (NRP)

- Nate Ratnofsky (MoCo)

- Patrick Weber (JHPD)

- Phil Via (Allegany County)

- Randy Cunningham (Harford County)

- Rich Berg (MIEMSS)

- Rick Esenwine (Adams County)

- Robert Hornsacher (MDE)

- Robert Larimer (Dorchester County)

- Tim Perry (Wicomico County)

- Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

- Wayne Anderson (WSSC)

- William Petry (MD National Guard)

- Yann Tamdem (Howard Cty)

- **Board Support Staff**
  - Brandon Renehan (DoIT/Chairman)
  - Norm Farley (DoIT)
  - Cindy Cole (DoIT)
  - Pat King (DoIT)
  - Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
  - Curt Andrich (DoIT)
  - Ebun Oni (DoIT)

Call to Order – 10:00 am

Review Minutes from 6/5/2025– Brandon Renehan
Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the June 5, 2025, meeting.

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Limited-Primary User

Harford County, MD, represented by Randy Cunningham/Division Chief – Harford County Emergency Services

Harford County is requesting 8-10 dedicated backup talkgroups as part of their PACE plan, for use should Harford County P25 public safety radio system become inoperable, and for training. Use would occur on the rare occasion public safety users need to operate outside of the Harford County system coverage footprint.

Harford County Public Safety includes the following agencies: Harford County Emergency Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office, City of Aberdeen Police, Town of Bel Air Police, City of Havre de Grace Police, and Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association.

They currently have ~3500 radios activated on MD FiRST. All radios accessing these resources would be TDMA capable. They Intend to integrate into the County's dispatch consoles via consolettes/CCGWs/base stations, which is similar to the current use with MD CALL / MD EVENT / MD AV / MD PSAP resources.

Expected Capacity Impact: Minimal during day-to-day, acceptable impact when needed as emergency backup
*2 Channel expansion project for Harford County already in the works

The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve Harford County, MD's application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Moved – Nate Ratnofsky (MoCo)

Second – Tony Maiese (DPSCS)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Limited-Primary User

Charles County, MD, represented by Jeffrey Clements/Chief 9-1-1 Communications

Charles County is requesting 8 dedicated backup talkgroups for use in the event of a catastrophic failure of their current aging 4.1 radio system. The current system is 20+ years old, and the county has issues with availability of replacement parts. The new system is under construction and is projected to cutover in Jan '27. Charles County will keep these talkgroups available with the new system for backup.

Charles County currently has ~2000 radios that could potentially use these talkgroups. All radios accessing MD FIRST would be TDMA capable. They intend to integrate into the County's dispatch consoles via consolettes/CCGWs/base stations.

Expected Capacity Impact: Minimal during day-to-day, and acceptable impact when needed as emergency backup.
Charles County cell current usage is relatively low (~10% utilization during busy hour).

The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve Charles County, MD's application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Moved – Murray Hunt (NRP)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Project Status Update – Curt Andrich

Curt presented an update on coverage improvements. T1 to Ethernet conversion is almost complete; acceptance testing will continue through the second week of September. Some of the improvements and major impacts to the system are as follows: new equipment is more redundant, uses less space/power, and allows easier channel expansion. Increased channel capacity in Harford, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties is underway with Motorola.

Operations and Maintenance Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on the operations and maintenance of the system. The A2024 upgrade status is more than halfway complete. Zones 1 and 3 are complete. Zone 5 upgrades will start 9/15/25. Other upgrades in process: Core Server, RF Site Software, Console Sites, and Ancillary Systems (Nice/Genesis/etc.).

Before/After testing has been done, and antenna adjustments have been performed on the Fairview antenna. Brandon noted an average signal strength improvement of over 4dBm and 1.2% improvement in Bit Error Rate. More testing will continue in areas of Washington and Frederick Counties. MD FiRST Team reminded user community to provide as much information as possible when sending in reports of poor coverage. Users are requested to use the MD FiRST coverage report by using this link

Austin Pencinger (Amtrak PD) reported that RF coverage may be affected on new commuter Amtrak trains which have single-pane metallic glaze on the windows.

New Features – Brandon Renehan

- MD FiRST and Network MD are working together to bring MD FiRST Radio Management Wi-Fi programming to State buildings that are connected via SwGi.

- The Genesis Provisioning Manager Interface Enhancement is expected Q4.

- The MD FiRST Help Desk is planned to go live to Users 12/2025.

Proposed Motion: The System Users Committee approves the minutes from the June 5, 2025, meeting.
Moved – Andrew Cummins (NRP)

Second – Tony Maiese (DPSCS)

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

System Users Committee
The System Users Committee meetings will be wrapped into the System Managers meetings since the same material is covered in both. This is the opportunity for users and managers to provide input, make requests, ask questions.

System Users Committee held the annual election for Chairman and Vice Chair.

A nomination for Pat King as Chairman for the System Users Group was made

Yea – All
Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

A nomination for Corporal Andrew Cummins (NRP) as Vice-Chairman for the System Users Group was made.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Open Discussion/Good of the Order

Montgomery County presented to the group that it has gone fully encrypted on Law Enforcement talkgroups.

DC SWIC –
- Brandon and Charlie Guddemi presented PACE in action at the National Homeland Security conference, hosted in DC. Other states were very complimentary about the transparency and drive to increase and improve interoperability by MD FiRST.
- NJ, NC expansion
- MD FiRST interoperability was a key component regarding the January 29 plane crash on the Potomac river.

Future State funding will most likely be limited. It is important to contact the MD FiRST team with requests regarding requests for improvement to coverage and/or equipment.

Closing/Adjournment

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on December 4, 2025

Moved – Phil Via (Allegany County)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

17/12/2025

Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)   *Brandon Renshan*

(Acting) Director of Board APPROVAL: 12/17/25
(Signature & Date)   *Jennifer Zambito*