

February 21, 2008

Subject: **Public Safety Telecommunication Survey (PST)**
Del Norte County Teletransportation/Telecommunication Study - Phase III

Dear Public Safety Telecommunication/Communications Planner:

Your knowledge will help us understand and contribute to Del Norte's telecommunication future. The attached survey contains 20 questions on PST technology and interoperability. Opportunity for your additional comments also is included. I recognize fully that many more questions could be asked. You may recognize many of these survey questions as a subset of the National Interoperability Baseline Survey.¹

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and consists of checking boxes. All responses will be reported in the aggregate and **none** will be reported individually. Your contribution consists of completing and returning the survey by March 15, 2008 (use the self-addressed stamped envelope).

In the face of changing technology and relative scarce funding, the potential for integrating PST factors into the overall telecommunication planning efforts is worth understanding. It only takes a moment to reflect on how telecommunications impacts public safety capabilities. Exploration of increased leveraging of funds for capital improvements by appropriate and thoughtful sharing of infrastructure, where appropriate, starts with a high-level inventory of a few baseline factors.

The report on this study topic will be derived from several sources and will be integrated into a much larger planning study:

- Mapping of infrastructure and spectrum utilization using the publicly available data provided by the FCC
- High-level Survey of Del Norte PST operability and interoperability status
- Comments from survey participants and others
- Comparison to results from the National Interoperability Baseline Survey

On the other side of this page is a very brief background to help put this request in context.

This study is authorized and funded under the auspices of the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact John Irwin at (541) 664-2456 or email to jirwin@mind.net.

Thanks in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

John Irwin

Enclosure: **DEL NORTE PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SURVEY**
Note: You can download this survey at www.callineb.com/documents.htm

¹ National Interoperability Baseline Survey, Safecom, December 2006, <http://tinyurl.com/yf58de>

Del Norte Local Transportation Commission Purpose Statement² and Planning Phases

“Recognizing the physical isolation and existing broadband limitations of Del Norte County, strive to develop teletransportation as a competitive and alternative mode to conventional transportation, consistent with state and federal transportation planning requirements and conforming to guidelines established by the California Transportation Commission, and to use teletransportation to directly and indirectly promote mobility, goods movement, and overall economic vitality for the betterment of Del Norte County.”

Phase I (June, 2006) provided a broad assessment of the Del Norte County region’s telecommunications assets and proposed a “plan for the plan” for Phase II.

Phase II (completed in June 2007) resulted in advances in broadband infrastructure as well as a strategic plan with three broad goals recommended.

Note: You can view the work completed to date by going to www.callineb.com and clicking to the DOCUMENTS page.

Phase III planning efforts (current phase) will build on the adopted Del Norte Teletransportation / Telecommunications Strategic Plan. Phase III will address the following:

1. Planning for southern Del Norte County initial broadband service
2. Planning for countywide route redundancy of telecommunications services (voice and broadband)
3. High-level study of public safety related telecommunications status and opportunities

Item 3

Public Safety Telecommunication (PST) is a critical part of the telecommunications infrastructure that supports Del Norte County residents. These public safety capabilities are an important consideration for protection of lives as well as for economic development. Telecommunication networks (wireless and wired) help save lives by allowing public safety personnel within an organization and from different organizations or jurisdictions to communicate on demand, in real time, and as authorized.

With the advent of Internet Protocol (IP) based technologies emerging in use in public safety AND the looming Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement³ to narrow band⁴ radios by January 1, 2013 opportunities may exist for some level of shared telecommunication infrastructure. IP-based radios and other emerging devices create a whole new era of opportunities for increasing public safety interventions and for the protection of the lives of those in the field. The high-level study is a first step in understanding whether or not such opportunities might exist.

² Work Element N, Teletransportation/Telecommunications Study, Phase III, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission, 2007-08 Overall Work Program, Page 22

³ THIRD MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER, THIRD FURTHER NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING AND ORDER, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-292A1.pdf, Adopted: December 20, 2004

⁴ For radios narrow banding should not be confused with broadband. For radios this means sending a signal with a significantly reduced wave height and results in squeezing more signal into the same frequency space.