

**Public Safety Communications Task Force  
Stakeholder Update – September 2023**

As many of you are aware, in June of 2023, the Vermont General Assembly passed [Act 78](#), which, among many other things, created the Public Safety Communications Task Force (see sections c.114-c.115 of the Act). The Task Force was directed to oversee and manage the transition to a "statewide reliable, secure and interoperable public safety communications system, comprising integrated 911 call-taking and regional dispatch systems, and to ensure that system is equitably and sustainably financed and universally accessible by all persons throughout the state".

By this message, the Task Force wishes to introduce our membership, open the lines of communication with all stakeholders and provide an update on the current work of the Task Force.

**Membership**

*Please note: While the Task Force is co-chaired by leadership from the Department of Public Safety and the Enhanced 911 Board, the work of the group is independent of both those entities. The Task Force will receive administrative support from the Department of Public Safety as specified in Act 78.*

<b>Task Force Member Name</b>	<b>Title/Affiliation</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Jennifer Morrison, Co-Chair	Commissioner, Dept. of Public Safety	Act 78	<a href="mailto:jennifer.morrison@vermont.gov">jennifer.morrison@vermont.gov</a>
Barbara Neal, Co-Chair	Executive Director, Enhanced 911 Board	Act 78	<a href="mailto:barbara.neal@vermont.gov">barbara.neal@vermont.gov</a>
Paul White, Vice-Chair	Chair, Barre Town Selectboard and Chair of Regional Dispatch Working Group (2022)	Act 78  (Elected to Vice- Chair position by Task Force membership)	<a href="mailto:paul.white@vermont.gov">paul.white@vermont.gov</a>
Mike Doenges	Mayor, City of Rutland	Vermont League of Cities and Towns	<a href="mailto:mike.doenges@partner.vermont.gov">mike.doenges@partner.vermont.gov</a>
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### **Current Work**

The Task Force officially formed with the passage of Act 78 on June 20, 2023. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on June 28, 2023. The Task Force has been meeting regularly throughout the summer and will continue to meet weekly or bi-weekly for the foreseeable future. We invite all interested parties to join the Task Force meetings. Details about past and upcoming meetings is located [here](#).

Act 78 laid out numerous requirements for the initial work of the Task Force. The Task Force set an immediate priority to develop and release two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to acquire project management and subject matter expertise to assist the Task Force in meeting the requirements of the Act. Those RFPs were released on August 22, 2023 and are available [here](#).

Bidder responses for the Project Management/Support RFP are due on September 26, 2023.

Bidder responses for the System Planning RFP are due on October 13, 2023.

### **Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan**

The successful bidder for the System Planning RFP will be tasked with developing an effective mechanism for soliciting and cataloging stakeholder input for the Task Force. In the meantime, we invite all stakeholders to attend the Task Force meetings and/or reach out to the Task Force membership with any questions, concerns, or input. The Task Force will issue periodic updates throughout the project which will be distributed by e-mail and posted to the Task Force [webpage](#).

We look forward to working with all of you as the important work of public safety communications planning moves ahead. Please check the webpage often for updates!

Thank you.

**Jennifer Morrison/Barbara Neal, Co-Chairs**

**on behalf of the  
Public Safety Communications Task Force**