

Statewide Public Safety Communications System Planning Project Stakeholder Update



June 2024

Happening Now: Data Collection and Analysis

The project is now entering the critical portion of the Data Collection phase which will develop a complete inventory and assessment of all aspects of dispatch service currently provided in Vermont. The system planning vendor, MCP, in collaboration with the Task Force and their Project Manager, Televate, has developed a detailed data collection questionnaire which has been distributed to all dispatch centers within the State. The questionnaire will be completed by dispatch center leaders and representatives to accurately document the equipment, processes, and facilities in place currently used to provide dispatch service. MCP will be working closely with all dispatch centers to review the questionnaire, answer questions, and help them complete the information gathering and data entry as easily and quickly as possible. The plan is to receive all of the completed questionnaires by June 28th, so that the analysis can proceed on time. MCP will also be scheduling their visits to all dispatch centers to gather additional information and to witness the dispatch operations firsthand.

Project Status

- Following reviews by the Task Force, MCP and Televate, the data collection questionnaire was approved and distributed to Vermont agencies. Questionnaire responses are due back by the end of June.
- MCP met with the Vermont Crime Information Center staff to discuss obtaining information for the data collection process.
- Televate reviewed findings related to the COPS grant programs with the Task Force chairs and provided their assessment and recommendations to the Task Force.
- Planning is ongoing to schedule questionnaire follow-up discussions and to schedule onsite meetings with each of Vermont's PSAPs and 911 dispatch centers. Onsite meetings will be conducted throughout the summer months.
- Televate published an updated schedule which reflects the current status of the project and maintains key report delivery dates for the inventory and assessment in October and the final report at the end of January, 2025.

Did You Know?



In addition to 14 County Sheriff's Offices, Vermont has 57 municipal police departments, representing various Vermont cities, towns, and the University of Vermont. Additional law enforcement agencies include 13 special investigations departments/agencies, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Corrections, Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Liquor Control, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Unit, Capitol Police Department, State Attorneys' & Sheriffs' Office, Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation, Board of Medical Practice, and the Vermont State Police. The Vermont State Police provides primary law enforcement services to approximately 200 towns, 90 percent of the land mass, and 50 percent of the population in Vermont (see [website](#)).



As reported by the Vermont Department of Public Safety, there were 1,087 law enforcement officers working in the state in 2022 ([2022 LE Officers Statewide | Vermont Crime Information Center](#)). Vermont's law enforcement officers provide critical safety and protective services to the communities they represent, and they deserve reliable communications tools and systems to support their day-to-day and emergency response requirements. Their participation in the statewide public safety communications program is essential to the success of the Task Force lead initiative.

Meet the Public Safety Task Force Team

Each Stakeholder Update will introduce different members of the team.



Mike Doenges, a proud Rutland resident for over 26 years, graduated from Rutland High School in 1998. A devoted family man, Mike lives on Laverne Drive with his wife, Sara, their children Grant and JJ, and their energetic dog, Logan.

Mike's career in technology transitioned seamlessly into public service when he was elected Rutland City Mayor in March 2023. Driven by a passion for positive change and a desire to address root causes, Mike has a proven track record of accomplishment. He was instrumental in the design and implementation of the technology installed at The Hub, a coworking space facilitated by CEDRR, fostering technological growth and innovation within the Rutland community. His service on the boards of CEDRR, The Mint Makerspace, and The Rutland City Board of Aldermen further demonstrates his commitment to making a positive impact.

Recognizing the need to move Rutland forward, Mike is a strong advocate for progress. He believes in fostering collaboration and inclusivity to overcome resistance and create a shared vision for the city's future. As a first-term Mayor, Mike is dedicated to leveraging his skills and dedication to make Rutland the best place to Live, Work, and Play.



Michael Wright grew up in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, graduating from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1994. He began volunteering for his local ambulance service, Caledonia-Essex Area Ambulance Inc, CALEX, in the summer of 1993 and completed his first EMT course in the fall of 1994. Michael was hired part-time after completing his EMT course and 6 months later was hired full-time. In 1996 Michael completed the EMT-Intermediate course and worked as an advanced provider until 1998 when he was accepted into the Advanced Life Support Institute and obtained his National Paramedic certification in 2000. Michael became one of the first paramedics to provide paramedicine to the surrounding communities in District 5. Michael went on to complete the Vermont Critical Care Program and was instrumental in establishing the service to provide inter-facility transports of critically ill patients. Throughout his career Michael held various positions including Training Officer and the Assistant Director of the organization. In 2012 Michael became the EMS Chief / CEO where he currently holds this position as well as remaining clinically active as a Paramedic. Michael also serves as the VT EMS District 5 EMS Board Chair.

Michael has now worked for the organization he started his career with for 30 years. Michael has instructed many EMT courses throughout District 5 as well as instructed numerous ACLS & PALS courses for local hospitals and providers. Michael also serves as a Vermont Assistant Medical Examiner and is an American Board Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator covering Caledonia-Essex Counties for the past 16 years. He has been recognized as Vermont Paramedic of the Year in 2002, William Parker Award for outstanding service above and beyond the call of duty in 2013, and American Ambulance Association Star of Life recipient 2014 for outstanding commitment and dedication in the line of service.

Michael lives here in St. Johnsbury with his wife Sarah and their two children Colby and Lily.



Ron Kumetz is Chief of the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department. He became an EMT in 1986 and began his fire service journey in 2000 with the Cornwall Volunteer Fire department before moving to Alburgh in 2007. Ron has over 45 years of experience in the land mobile radio industry and as a design engineer for companies manufacturing equipment for radio and television broadcast stations. Ron is a practicing master falconer and archery coach who enjoys spending time with his wife and trusty sidekick Wally the French Brittany.

We want to know what topics you'd like to learn more about!

For direct inquiries to the Task Force regarding the project, please contact DPS.PSCTaskForce@vermont.gov

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