

Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN)

PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement

Date
09/11/2020

Seattle Fire
Department



City of Seattle

Presentation Topics

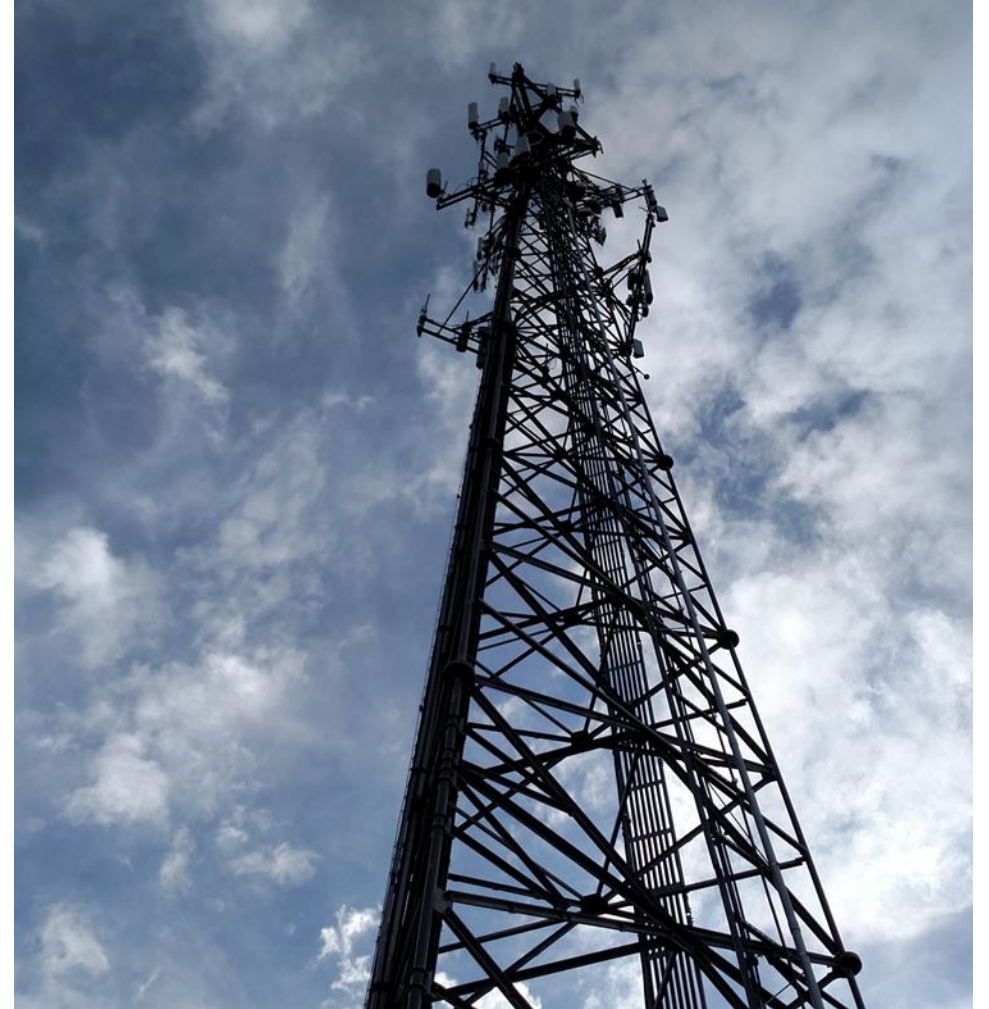
1. About PSERN

- Project
- System
- Operator

2. Project Status / Updates

3. Operator ILA

4. Questions and Discussion



What the Ordinance Does

- Authorizes the City of Seattle to enter into an interlocal agreement (ILA) with King County and 10 cities from the eastside and south county for a total of 12 parties.
- Creates a non-profit corporation to own operate and maintain a new regional radio communication system primarily used for emergency response.
- Establishes terms for governance and operations.
- Provides City of Seattle one of four voting seats on the PSERN board (filled by Fire Chief).

Timeline: All parties are working to have signed ILA's in place by the end of September 2020.

Current King County 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System



- Analog system
- Implemented in 1995
- Owned/Operated by
 - Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA)
 - City of Seattle
 - King County
 - Valley Communications Center
- In Seattle, used by emergency responders in SFD, SPD, and public works (SPU + other depts)
- Designed to provide 94% coverage at street level using a portable radio located at hip height

New Puget Sound Emergency Radio System (2023 completion)

- Digital system
- Owned/Operated by single agency – PSERN. Same cities and counties participating under new structure
- Designed to provide 97% coverage at street level operating a portable radio at hip height
- Neither system is specifically designed to provide in-building radio coverage – building owners provide in-building repeaters or “DAS” where required by code
- Funding approved by King County voters in April 2015 – additional property tax of \$0.07 per \$1,000 AV for nine years beginning 2016





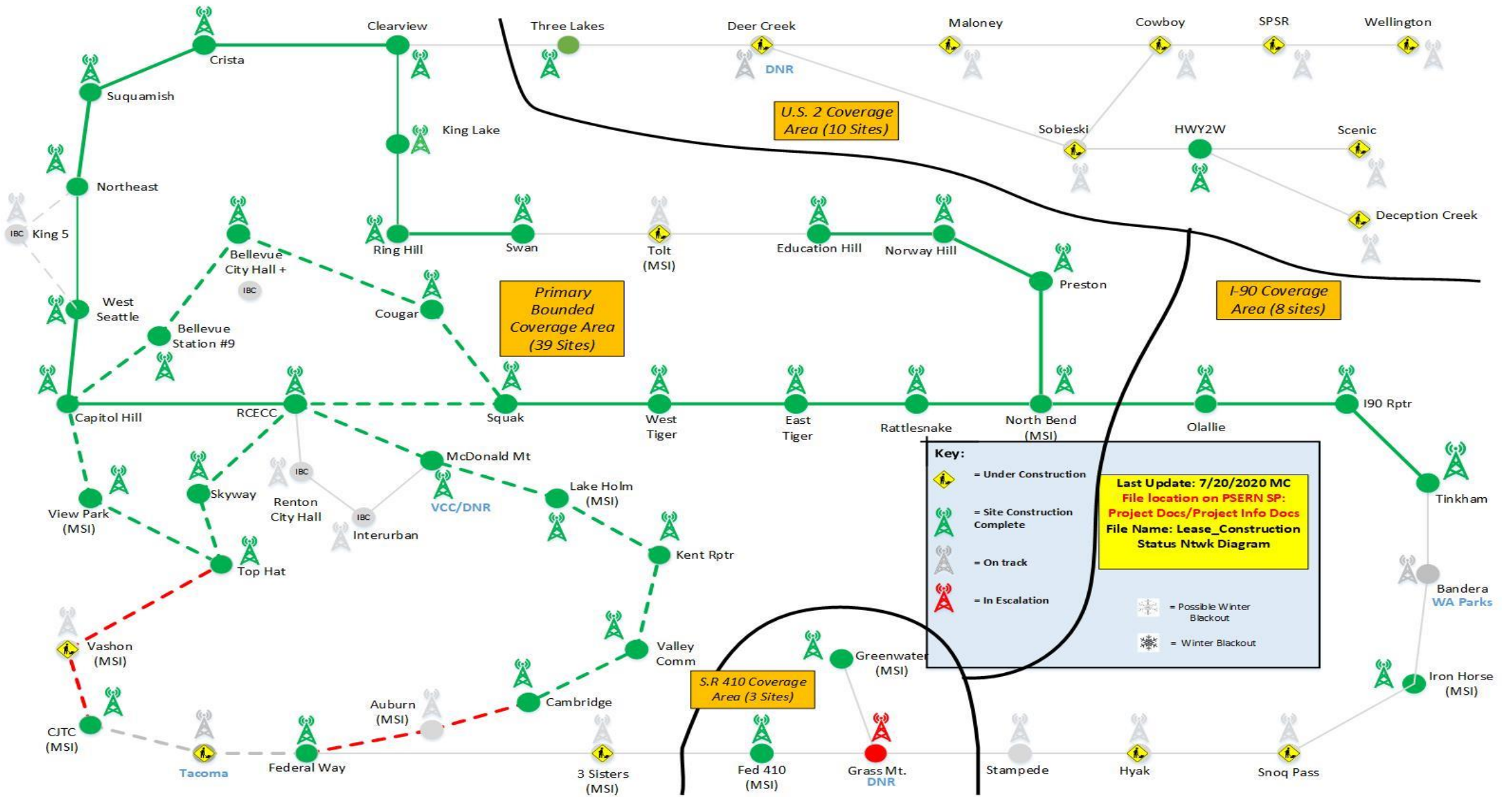
System will include:

- 57 regular radio transmitter sites (towers)
- 4 in-building-coverage radio sites (to cover 3 areas)
- 17,000+ end users (portable radios and MDTs)

Three new antennas have been added to serve the downtown cores of:

- Seattle
- Bellevue
- Renton

Project cost: \$289.6 M funded by county voters' property tax



What PSERN Will Provide

PSERN Operator

Advanced digital technology and improved capacity, capability, and connectivity.

New 20+-year contract with vendor.

Single billing agency with uniform rates, operational standards, and system performance requirements.

Improved coverage throughout the county to accommodate population growth – including highways 2 and 410, and I-90.

Updates, upgrades, and repairs of both system and dispatch consoles.

New end user radios (over 17,000).

Infrastructure support every day, 24-7.

Project Schedule

PSERN PROJECT MILESTONES	Completion Date
Project Planning	Aug/2012
Preliminary System Design	Dec/2014
Final System Design	Sep/2017
Radio System Core and Initial Dispatch Console Transition	Oct/2020
PSERN (King County) Site Construction	Nov/2020
Motorola Site Construction	Nov/2020
Form PSERN Operator	Jun/2021
Radio Site Equipment Installations (Motorola)	Aug/2021
System Optimization and Coverage Testing	Sep/2021
Deploy & Transition End User Radios	Jul/2022
<i>Project Substantially Complete/ Transfer to PSERN Operator</i>	<i>Dec/2022</i>
PSERN Project Closeout (Excluding Warrantee Period)	Dec/2023

PSERN Project - Updates on Key Work Programs

• Radio Site Leasing

- 98% of legal agreements needed for regular radio sites are done
- 4 in-building coverage sites are in lease negotiations

• Radio Site Construction

- 93% of radio sites are constructed or under construction
- 0% of In-building coverage sites under construction (in lease negotiation)

• Motorola Equipment Installation

- 58% of Motorola land mobile radio equipment installed
- 60% of Motorola microwave equipment installed

PSERN Project - Updates on Key Work Programs, Cont'd

• PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

- So far 50% of the cities/agencies have signed
- Goal: all 12 councils approve by mid-September, 2020
- Transfer of all assets and responsibilities for operations and maintenance to new agency
- Changes to Seattle IT's budget in 2023-2024 as a result of decommissioning Seattle's role in the legacy King County 800 MHz radio system

Key Elements of ILA - Governance

- **New non-profit governmental agency will take over operations of PSERN.**
- **Board of Directors will be the governance and policy-making group.**
 - 4 voting members (*representing the 12 parties to the Operator ILA*)
 - 1 vote – City of Seattle
 - 1 vote – representing 5 Eastside Public Safety Comms Agency (EPSCA) cities
 - 1 vote – King County
 - 1 vote – representing 5 Valley Communications Center (ValleyCom) cities
 - 2 non-voting members (*representing fire and police*)
- **Executive Director will run day-to-day operations and hire staff.**

Key Elements of ILA - Governance, Cont'd

ILA Implications for Seattle IT

- No longer responsible for maintaining 800 MHz radio tower infrastructure
- Will manage day-to-day business relationship with the PSERN Operator on behalf of City departments
- Will continue to install and support 800 MHz mobile and portable radios for City departments
- ILA allows option to transfer or contract up to 3 Seattle IT technical staff to PSERN Operator to maintain new radio tower infrastructure
- Future budget adjustments are required – part of 2023-2024 budget process

Questions?

Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop. - Dorothy Height

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