# Transforming Public Safety

*"Firefighters, law enforcement and emergency medical personnel are often required to quickly make potentially life-saving decisions in the field, despite the challenges of rugged terrain and natural and man-made disasters. Public safety personnel need the ability to quickly communicate with each other, access online resources (via a PC or mobile device), connect to networks, and quickly transfer important video and data files during emergencies. Broadband can help make that happen by enabling informed decisions for first responders and allowing communication between public safety personnel at all times without delay. This could greatly reduce loss of life and property."*



**MoBroadbandNow Initiative**

http://transform.mo.gov.broadband/

Email:
Transform.broadbandinterest@mo.gov

Twitter:
@MoBroadbandNow

Damon Porter
MOBroadbandNow Director
Office of Administration


## Transforming Public Safety

High-speed connectivity, or broadband, has the potential to transform public safety in Missouri, including:

- enabling first-responders and emergency personnel to arrive on scene with up-to-date maps, building plans and utility information, even across jurisdictions;
- enabling treatment of the sick and injured to be more effective in the field through sharing of critical medical information between first-responders and the hospital as the patient is en route;
- enabling law enforcement to have information instantly in their hands -- such as photos and fingerprints of suspects;
- allowing police and suspects in high-risk situations to be monitored effectively;
- providing more timely assistance to law enforcement from citizens through text, photos or video sent from mobile devices to enhance Missourians pertinent public safety;
- facilitating faster, more beneficial searches across multiple large databases often accessed by law enforcement; getting essential information to those who need it;
- enabling broadband to be used as a means of communication when usual means of communication like cell phones and radios aren't possible

## Federal Communications Commission (FCC) National Broadband Plan

The FCC's National Broadband Plan includes goals for our public safety services and networks. These goals serve as a starting point for regional discussions about the best way to deliver and use broadband technology to transform public safety in Missouri. The Plan's recommendations include:

***Create a Nationwide Interoperable Public Safety Wireless Broadband Communications Network***

A national public safety wireless broadband network, allowing all first-responders and emergency personnel to communicate with one another at a moments' notice will be a critical component to ensuring the safety of Missouri residents and all citizens of the United States. Three key pillars are essential to the development and sustainability of such a network:

• administrative -- ensuring that critical capacity and service are there and functioning

• operational -- provision of an interoperability center to make sure emergency personnel can communicate with one another

• monetary -- a grant program to back the building, running and continuing development of the network

***Improve Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Survivability***

As more of the day-to-day business of living is conducted online and over broadband networks, upgrades in safety measures may be required to protect commercial communications infrastructure from cyber-attack. Broadband stakeholders should create a cybersecurity roadmap, extend data collection efforts to broadband service providers and establish voluntary incentives to improve cybersecurity.

***Leveraging Broadband Technologies to Enhance Emergency Communications to and from the Public***

Emergency 911 call systems are essential in making sure that people can reach emergency personnel and get critical emergency information. Roll-out of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) and Next Generation Emergency Alerting technologies in the near future is key to maintaining and enhancing that line of comunication. Securing adequate funding to support deployment of NG911 and removing regulatory barriers to its deployment should ensure that NG911 is made available across the country.

***How can Broadband Transform Public Safety in my area?***

Several other factors need to be considered along with implementing broadband technology. Are the right tools in place for emergency personnel to leverage broadband? Do current processes and procedures allow enough room for use of broadband? Is everyone properly trained to use the technology effectively?

*MoBroadbandNow*, a five-year initiative launched by Gov. Nixon in 2009, coordinates efforts to obtain funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Commerce specifically set aside for broadband expansion. *MoBroadbandNow* seeks to expand broadband accessibility to 95 percent of the total population, a significant increase from current projected accessibility of 79.7 percent.

*MoBroadbandNow* can provide education, awareness, and facilitate communication of funding opportunities for publc safety.

But, we also need to more fully understand how the public safety sector would like to use broadband, and what are the barriers and challenges to integration?

Please share your stories with us at: http://transform.mo.gov/broadband/

Follow us on Twitter -- @MoBroadbandNow -- to stay up to speed on broadband news, program activities and funding opportunities.

## How Will Broadband Impact the Day-to-Day Lives of Missourians

*Capacity, choice and speed are some of the obvious benefits of expanded broadband. What may not be as obvious is the potential that comes about when technology opens that door to opportunity. It is safe to say the availability of a robust broadband network would touch some, if not many aspects of our citizens' lives.*

## Questions to Consider about Public Safety and Broadband

1. Are the right tools in place for the public safety sector to leverage broadband? If yes, what tools are in place? If not, what hardware, software and other equipment do you need? Can you provide examples of how it would improve today's public safety sector?

2. Do current processes and procedures encourage the use of broadband? What could you do differently with broadband that would promote its use in the public safety sector?

3. Is everyone properly trained to use broadband technology effectively? How can we better prepare the public safety workforce to utilize broadband to its maximum benefit?

4. Does broadband access and availability meet minimum standards for critical public safety applications? If yes, how? If not, what are the locations that need broadband enhancements and the challenges in getting it there?

5. Is broadband technology cost prohibitive? If so, what are some cost-saving measures that could be implemented to increase use?