

# SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## *Emergency Services*

**TO:** Sarasota County Commission  
**THROUGH:** Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator  
**FROM:** Richard Collins, Director of Emergency Services  
Jerry Wheeler, Manager, Public Safety Communications  
**DATE:** October 6, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** **800 MHz Radio System Project Update**

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION(S) OR ACTION(S):**

Consider a Presentation on the 800 MHz Public Safety Communications System.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Sarasota County and Manatee County public safety radio systems have reached the end of their dependable life. Changes in industry standards, identified through the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' (APCO) Project 25 Standard (P-25), require migration to a digital-interoperable 800 MHz radio system. The P-25 Standard significantly enhances seamless joint communication between multiple agencies operating on different systems, improves usability of equipment, and provides opportunity for increased user capacity over time. In 2012, the Board authorized a consultant to assist with the engineering of a joint public safety radio system to replace both counties' systems.

RCC Consultants, Inc., was selected through a competitive RFP process to assist with the design of a regional radio network serving both counties at a cost not-to-exceed \$100,000, such costs to be shared equally between the counties.

### **RELEVANT PRIOR BOARD ACTION:**

1. September 12, 2012 – The Board voted to authorize hiring a consultant to assist with the design of the radio network (3-2 vote)
2. April 10, 2013 – The Board voted to authorize staff to proceed with radio system replacement contingent on working with Manatee County, subject to funding availability (3-2 vote)
3. May 7, 2014 – The Board approved the Interlocal Agreement with Manatee County for regional radio system procurement and on-going operation (5-0 vote)
4. September 9, 2014 – The Board voted to amend the contract for RCC Consultants to include Phase V – contract negotiations (5-0 vote)

### **ANALYSIS:**

Staff from Sarasota and Manatee counties has been working with the consultant, RCC Consultants, Inc., on the required radio coverage for a joint system to serve 32 agencies with 4,800 radios in Sarasota County and 35 agencies with 3,300 radios in Manatee County. They have served more than 1,500 clients

around the world and are recognized as a leader in radio system design, procurement, implementation, testing, and migration to the new system. Their P25 radio system experience includes system design for Pinellas (operational by June '14), St. Johns, and Seminole counties in Florida, as well as Baltimore County, MD, and Houston, TX.

RCC began this project in January 2014, and was contracted to complete a project implementation plan report, detailed design report, technical specifications and statement of work, and a technical evaluation report to support the procurement evaluation committee. The vendor-neutral scope of work for the radio system was completed by April 28, 2014, and submitted to Sarasota County Procurement for review. The formal request for proposal (RFP) was advertised on June 24, 2014.

The vendor-neutral scope of work developed emphasized a regional approach to the design and implementation of a radio network that will:

- (1) Enhance the quality of law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other governmental communications at a more reasonable cost to the general public than procuring two separate radio systems.
- (2) Provide comprehensive user interoperability for improved public safety.
- (3) Significantly improve radio coverage through the University Parkway corridor.

Two companies submitted qualifying bids to Sarasota County Procurement. The initial evaluation meeting was held on September 23, 2014. Vendor presentations are scheduled for October 1 and 2, and the final evaluation and selection is to occur on October 3, 2014. Implementation of the new system is anticipated to take approximately 21 months after approval of a contract with the selected vendor.

Contract negotiations will then begin with the goal of presenting a final contract to both Manatee and Sarasota Boards for approval in early December. Both proposed vendors have offered interim solutions for consideration to provide the capability to operate the existing radio system from the new EOC in the spring of 2015.

Project implementation, following contract approval, will involve multiple phases to define project timeline, plan, design, build, install, train, and test the system. It is estimated that the new regional system will be in place and operational by mid-2016, with final cutover and acceptance by October 1, 2016.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

This project is currently in the FY2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program as CIP project #84355, Upgrade & Update 800 MHz Emergency Communications System, in the amount of \$18,500,000.00 as follows:

Infrastructure Surtax III – General Government \$600,000.00

Revenue Note Series 2015/Gen Gov't Surtax III \$17,900,000.00

# Suncoast Regional Communications Network

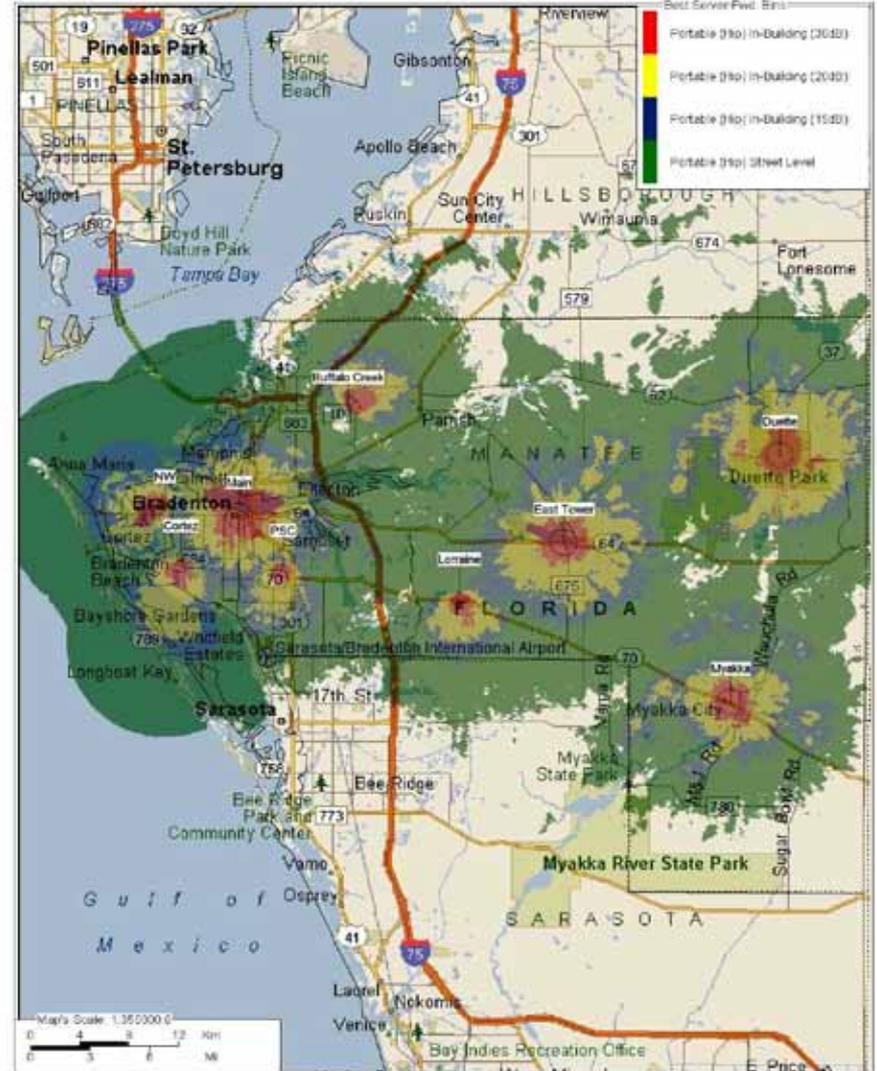
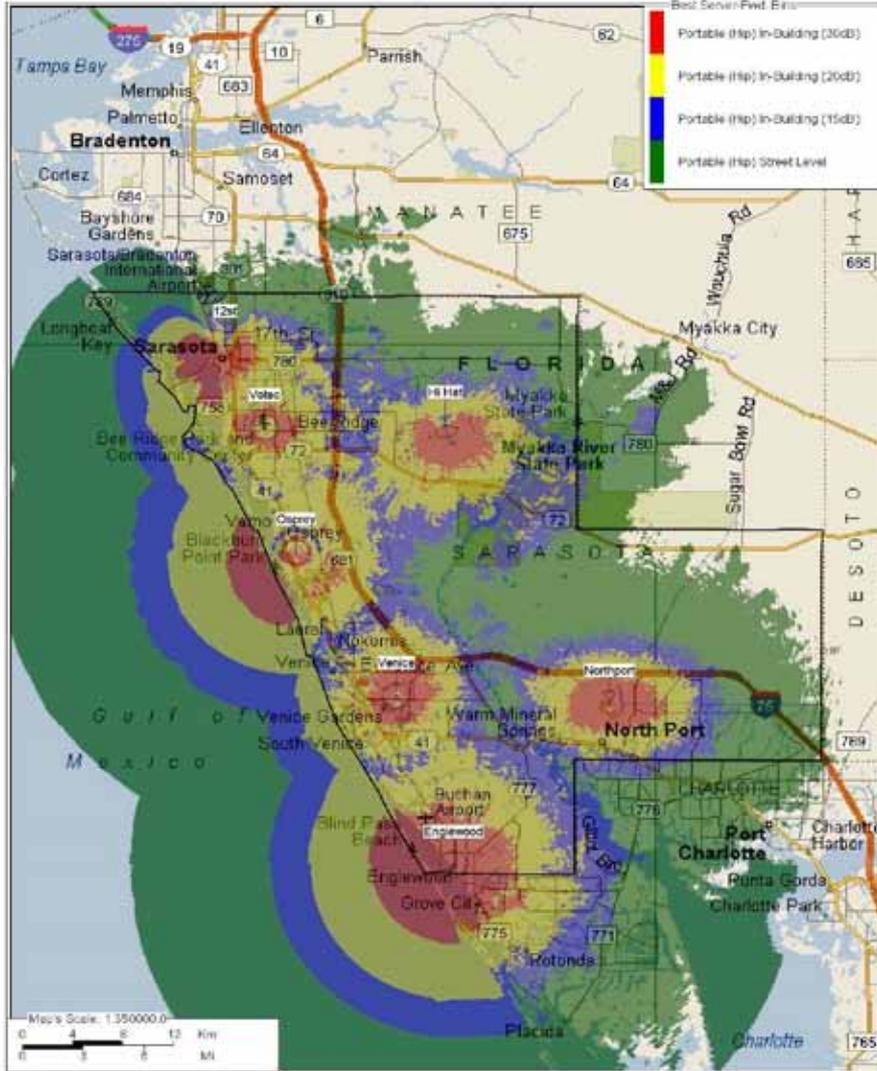
**Sarasota County**  
**Emergency Services**  
*in partnership with*  
**Manatee County**  
**Public Safety Radio Division**

# Presentation Summary

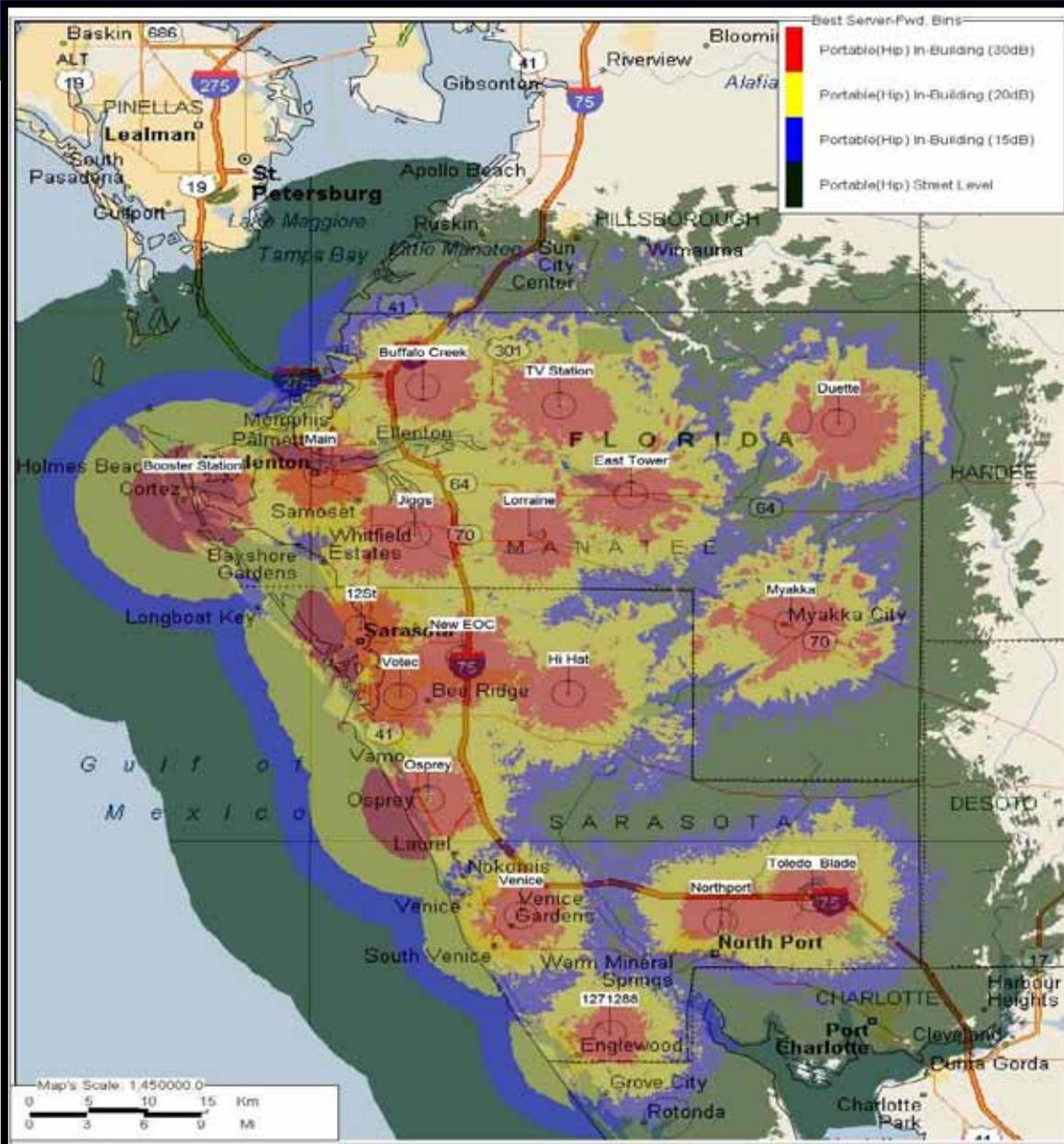
- 1. Sarasota-Manatee Partnership**
- 2. Radio Coverage Objectives/Maps**
- 3. Current Status of Request for Proposal**
- 4. Next Steps - Timeline**

- **Interlocal Agreement between Manatee County & Sarasota County**
  - Efficiently Enhance Quality of Communications
  - Comprehensive User Interoperability
  - Significantly Improve Coverage

# Existing County Coverage



# Proposed 2-County Coverage



# Status: Request for Proposal

- 01/01/14 – Contracted with RCC Consultants
- 05/01/14 – Project Scope to Procurement
- 06/24/14 – RFP issued
- 08/15/14 – Deadline for submittals
- **09/23/14 – Review proposals**
- **10/1 & 10/2/14 – Presentations**
- **10/03/14 – Final Evaluation/Selection meeting**

# Project Timeline

- **10/04/14 - Begin contract negotiations**
- **12/09/14 – BCC contract approval**
- **12/10/14 – Project Implementation:**
  - **Phase One: Project Mobilization/Kick-off**
  - **Phase Two: Planning & Design**
  - **Phase Three: Site Development/Work**
  - **Phase Four: Factory Staging**
  - **Phase Five: Site Construction/Installation**
  - **Phase Six: Training**
  - **Phase Seven: Verification Testing**
- **10/01/16 – System operational**

# Suncoast Regional Communications Network

**Questions**