



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2025
COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held a public Combined Board and Committees meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in person and via MS Teams at 8:30 AM EST in Raleigh, North Carolina. A video recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: [FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov).

Acting Board Chair Michael Adkinson welcomed everyone and thanked Chief Terry Sult of the Cary Police Department for hosting a tour earlier in the week for FirstNet Authority Board members. During this meeting, the Governance and Risk Committee proposed a Board resolution to extend the term of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair. The resolution passed, and the PSAC, Advocacy, Finance and Investment, and Programs and Future Planning committees provided highlights and updates.

Roll Call

Michael Adkinson (“Acting Chair”), Billy Bob Brown Jr., Damon Darsey, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Erik Gaull, Sean McDevitt, Warren Mickens, Jocelyn Moore, Jeffrey Norman, Rasheid Scarlett, and Trisha Wolford. A quorum was present for the Combined Board and Board Committees meeting. Board Designee Mark Calabria did not participate in the meeting.

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Board Committees meeting, Board Secretary Jennifer Watts sent Board members the meeting agenda and Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting that they did not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of the meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Acting Chair Adkinson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2025, Combined Board and Board Committees meeting. Alexandra Fernández Navarro motioned to approve the minutes, Damon Darsey seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes and to make them available to the public at the end of the meeting.

Acting Governance and Risk Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore noted that per the PSAC charter, an individual appointed to serve as PSAC Chair beyond three years or terms must be approved

by the FirstNet Authority Board. The Board voted to approve Resolution 121 Extension of Chief Chris Lombard's Appointment as PSAC Chair.

- After Acting Chair Adkinson called for a vote, Jocelyn Moore made the motion to approve, Jeffrey Norman seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve Board Resolution 121 Extension of Chief Chris Lombard's Appointment as PSAC Chair.

PSAC Update

PSAC Chair Chris Lombard thanked the FirstNet Authority Board for their continued confidence in his role as PSAC Chair and noted the committee will continue to advise on issues of concern for public safety and then proceeded to provide updates:

- The PSAC membership recommendation appointment process for new terms will begin January 1, 2026.
- The PSAC's working group reported on recommended best practices for engaging public safety information technology offices and developing updated materials to facilitate productive engagement on site permitting.
- The PSAC and FirstNet Authority discussed new and informative briefings regarding the development and introduction of the FirstNet Fusion product.
- The Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) has continued its monthly meetings focused on collaboration and outreach, including support for tribal-specific coverage enhancement workshops with the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians and Washington State and the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage. The next TAG in-person meeting will be February 2026.
- The PSAC will hold a biannual in-person meeting in Dallas, Texas, at the end of January that will include planning for 2026 technology briefings and demonstrations from AT&T FirstNet.

Advocacy Committee Update

Committee Chair Trisha Wolford highlighted that during fiscal year 2025, the team conducted approximately 1,100 engagements and collaborations reaching more than 47,000 stakeholders in 56 States and territories, including tribal and federal agencies. Additionally, there were over 150 visitors and 31 public safety tours held at the FirstNet Authority lab in Boulder, Colorado.

Committee Chair Wolford stressed the importance of collecting feedback from the public safety community and noted over 1,000 items have been collected since the last Board meeting. Topics include operational needs, capability gaps, expanding and enhancing the network, macro networks, deployables, and coverage. Macro-coverage needs are discussed at all engagements and highlighted during Coverage Enhancement Workshops (CEW). Another common feedback topic is network reliability, especially during disasters and major events where FirstNet network usage is higher. Feedback fuels investments, application solutions, push-to-talk, and other public safety needs.

Chief Wolford noted that some of the best opportunities to connect with public safety leaders are at engagements. FirstNet Authority staff and Board members attended such events as the 2025 annual conferences for Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) and the International

Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) this past fall. The FirstNet Authority participated in briefings and discussions at multiple events for IACP, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), Major City Chiefs Association (MCCA), and the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, to name a few. Committee Chair Wolford attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs Technology Summit International (TSI), which is dedicated to the implementation of technology in the fire service. Events such as these are important as FirstNet Authority works to capitalize on technology efficiencies and interoperability. Chief Jeffery Norman stated that during his recent in-person engagements with organizations such as IACP, Major City Chiefs, NOBLE, and at the PERF townhall, participants shared how they appreciated the opportunity to interact with the FirstNet Authority, receive updates, provide feedback, and connect on what is important to them. Erik Gaull attended the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) 73rd Annual Conference where he and the staff received feedback regarding enrollment issues and were able to assist on site.

Committee Chair Wolford reported that the FirstNet Authority has successfully held 43 Coverage Enhancement Workshops (CEW) and how informative these engagements are for stakeholders. Damon Darsey plans to attend the Mississippi CEW where staff will continue to encourage public safety figures to communicate Areas of Interest (AOIs) and to drive improvement with their feedback. Committee Chair Wolford also encouraged stakeholders to contact the FirstNet Authority if they wanted information on future planned engagements. Echoing remarks from several Board members, Acting Chair Adkinson stated that the FirstNet Authority wants to hear when there are opportunities for areas of improvement as well as when things go well.

Finance and Investment Committee Update

Committee Chair Sean McDevitt briefed that during the first two months of fiscal year (FY) 2026, the FirstNet Authority obligated a cumulative total of \$8 million. The FY2026 operations budget, which was approved at the August Board meeting, represents a 13 percent decrease from the FY2025 budget. The FirstNet Authority continues to realize efficiencies and savings while meeting the mission needs of public safety and continues to work to maximize reinvestments into the FirstNet network to enhance coverage and evolve the technology throughout the network.

Programs and Future Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Rasheid Scarlett shared that the network has surpassed 7.8 million connections as public safety's adoption and use of the network steadily grows, with a robust adoption of FirstNet devices across the spectrum that include smartphones, tablets, wearables, ruggedized equipment, drones, in-vehicle routers and high-power user equipment. As previously discussed, feedback from events like the CEWs are critical as the FirstNet Authority determines coverage investments for new site builds, as well as for in-building coverage enhancements and emerging technologies. Committee Chair Scarlett cited an example of this that occurred at the District of Columbia CEW, which both he and Mr. Gaull attended and had the opportunity to discuss detailed AOIs with public safety and AT&T FirstNet.

Over the past year, AT&T FirstNet completed 1,000 new site builds that support FirstNet, and the FirstNet Authority is moving forward to bolster network coverage, specifically in rural and

border areas. The in-building coverage program has funded over 13,000 solutions at no cost to public safety.

As FirstNet continues to evaluate and incorporate emerging satellite-based technologies, the deployable fleet is being upgraded to 5G and adding Low Earth Orbit (LEO) backhaul to deployable assets. The FirstNet Authority's investment to enable the FirstNet network to support satellite-to-device technologies is moving forward with AT&T FirstNet and its partner, AST Mobile, conducting trials of the FirstNet service from space. Public safety observed trials and provided feedback. Committee Chair Scarlett remarked on the upcoming launch of the new 5G standalone core, keeping the FirstNet network at the forefront of modern technology - but only after proper vetting and testing of the technology. The team is also focused on ongoing mission-critical product developments.

Mr. Scarlett reiterated AT&T FirstNet's announcement of FirstNet Fusion, a new mission-critical platform that's expected to be available in the coming year with the potential to bring mission-critical push-to-talk on FirstNet and other features, such as 911 dispatch. Fusion has the potential to be a major upgrade to mission-critical push-to-talk for FirstNet users because it is designed to work with other carriers and could deliver more innovation, choice and interoperability for public safety. FirstNet Authority technical and subject matter experts are actively trialing and testing the solution in advance of a broader market rollout.

The FirstNet Authority is always searching for better ways to meet the communications needs of public safety. The team is evaluating several potential investment opportunities stemming from recent maritime and air-to-ground trials, both of which provided valuable data for extending coverage and improving operational resilience for first responders. The FirstNet Authority will launch new trials that explore how artificial intelligence can be leveraged for various public safety use cases and is looking for ways to continue to innovate.

Closing Remarks

FirstNet Authority Executive Director and CEO Mike Cannon remarked on his first year with the FirstNet Authority, thanked the Board and staff for their dedication, resiliency, professionalism, expertise, and collaboration over the past year, and stressed that the FirstNet Authority remains fully committed to serving public safety. Mr. Cannon emphasized that public safety feedback on operational needs and real-world experiences with the FirstNet network help the FirstNet Authority with improvements, and expressed how the honest dialogue and trust placed in the FirstNet network is taken seriously.

Board Adjourned

Acting Chair Adkinson requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Warren Mickens motioned to adjourn. Billy Bob Brown Jr. seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.