Federal Communications Commission
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

The Road to
Next Generation 911

911 Goes to Washington
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David L. Furth
Deputy Chief
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Emergency Communications Ecosystem
Next Generation 911

- NG911 will provide existing and new 911 services over IP rather than over the legacy TDM telephone network.
- Comparing NG911 to Legacy 911:
  - IP network architecture more flexible and resilient than TDM.
  - Improved accessibility, particularly for people with disabilities.
  - Enhanced capabilities can enhance speed and effectiveness of emergency response.
- Over time, NG911 will fully replace the legacy 911 system, but the transition will take time and will not be uniform.
NG911 Architecture
NG911 evolution is work in progress, with many technical, operational, financial, and governance challenges still to be addressed.

The communications networks that support the public’s access to 911 are already transitioning to IP; major communications providers ultimately intend to decommission their legacy TDM networks.

Some state and local 911 authorities have taken initial NG911 transition steps, but most PSAPs remain heavily reliant on legacy network elements.
What Is Needed to Complete the NG911 Transition?

- Enhanced consumer and PSAP capabilities to support delivery and use of multimedia information (voice, text, data, photos, and videos)
- Effective location accuracy determination for all NG911 applications
- Comprehensive and consistent technical standards to ensure functionality, interoperability, and security of all system elements
- Adequate and sustainable funding
- Workable framework for NG911 governance
Recent FCC Activity to Further the NG911 Transition

- Enhanced Capabilities: Text-to-911 rulemaking, voluntary deployments, and consumer outreach
- Location Accuracy: E911/NG911 location accuracy rulemaking proposals
- Standards: CSRIC working group activity on emerging technical issues (e.g., indoor location testing, text-to-911 location determination)
- Funding: Annual 911 fee report (new spotlight on NG911 funding)
- Governance: FCC report to Congress on NG911 legal/regulatory framework (2013)
What’s Ahead

- Further action on Text-to-911 and Location Accuracy
  - Text-to-911 comments due April 4, replies due May 5
  - Major carrier voluntary text-to-911 implementation: May 15
  - Location accuracy comment dates to be announced shortly

- FCC Technology Transitions proceeding and trials – launched January 2014
  - Opportunity to test impact of IP transition on 911
  - FCC Technology Transition Workshop on public safety issues: April 17-18

- Continued FCC engagement with other NG911 stakeholders (federal, state/local/tribal, industry, consumer groups)
Thank You!

Contact Information:
Telephone: (202) 418-0632
E-mail: David.Furth@fcc.gov