

- In 2017, AT&T won the contract to deploy the FirstNet network as part of a huge, one-of-a-kind public-private partnership. FirstNet is the only dedicated, nationwide network serving Public Safety today, delivering reliable wireless services to First Responders with a public safety grade of excellence.
- The FirstNet program is entirely self-funded with zero taxpayer burden. There is a reinvestment by the carrier as part of the partnership – \$18 billion for upgrades and enhancements, like 5G and mission critical video.
- Today, FirstNet is made up of a dedicated stack of radio spectrum – the way our devices talk to the network to deliver essential network features for public safety.
- There is a part of the spectrum that is not part of the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) deployment model today. Public safety must stay at the technological forefront and this spectrum is needed in order to so.
- Over 20 years ago, the FCC allocated to public safety 50 MHz on the 4.9 GHz spectrum to manage at the local level. It has remained stagnant. To address this underutilization, we have a vision for 4.9 GHz to be deployed nationwide for FirstNet 5G as a force multiplier.
- We have partnered with the largest public safety associations like FOP, IAFF, IACP, IAFC, NREMT, NAEMT, and many more to ensure that vision is shared with people everywhere who can make a difference for first responders. We have received support from professional and volunteer organizations large and small nationwide.
- Currently, only 8 percent of the people who have access to 4.9 GHz use it today. That’s mostly because it’s deployed at a very local level for very specific use cases. With FirstNet, local control of the network is now nationwide, and incumbents using 4.9 for work today will be allowed to continue that work.
- We believe putting 4.9 on FirstNet will accelerate next generation features for mission critical capabilities for FirstNet users. For capabilities like AI, augmented reality, IoT, streaming video, Next Gen 9-1-1, and more to come to fruition on FirstNet, 4.9 must be allocated to the FirstNet Authority.
- The FirstNet Authority, the government agency that manages the public-private-partnership, will have oversight of 4.9 GHz and ensure it is deployed and optimized for FirstNet mission-critical capabilities.
- We hope you’ll support the PSSA’s recommendations to the FCC to allocate 4.9 to the FirstNet Authority and follow the FirstNet governance model for public safety oversight. Looking forward, an important policy priority is to secure Congressional reauthorization of FirstNet prior to February 2027.