



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Interoperability Committee Meeting

**March 10, 2026**

**9:30 am**

**Virtual via Zoom**

[Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID: 861 1208 9169**

**Passcode: 007385**

- **Call to Order**

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM

- **Approval of Minutes**

- February 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin

- Approve the February 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Seconded by S. Morrison
  - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, M. McKay, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

- **Budget Updates**

- FFY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2026
  - Interop needs to complete \$261,557.09 of projects by this deadline.
  - We'll need to evaluate feasibility of all projects, transfer where possible, and potentially re-allocate if enough projects can't close out.
- FFY24 Grant End Date: July 31, 2027
- FFY25: TBD
  - Funding has been on hold while under review with EOPSS/FEMA.
- FFY26: MAPC has not received information on expected timing, but the Committee will discuss pre-planning.

- **Project Updates**

- ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy
  - Provide a secondary electrical circuit with backup service to the communications equipment shelter at NSR911.
  - RFQ conducted due to original estimate being under \$50,000.
  - Mandatory vendor site visit, 3 vendors attended, and it was determined that there was not enough room in the existing conduits/troughs, so the scope was adjusted.
  - Quotes were due yesterday and were all between \$110,00 - \$140,000.
  - Even if the funding was allocated, MAPC could not award because there are different procurement requirements for projects over \$100,000.

- The committee discussed possible options for next steps, and decided to allocate additional funding and re-do the procurement.

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson

- Reallocate \$103,825.86 from ECFCA/NSR911 VHF Combiner (\$58,825.86 from FFY23 C.09 and \$40,730.86 from FFY24 C.10) to support the NSR911 Electrical Circuit Redundancy project (FFY23 C.23 and FFY24 C.02).
- Seconded by J. Griffin.
  - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, M. McKay, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  - ECFCA GPS Clocks
    - Purchase of 2 GPS clocks for frequency reference and associated antenna/cabling at Long Hill and NSR911.
    - Still pending EHP approval due to government shutdown.
    - State Contract PSE01 procurement once approval is received.
  - ECFCA MW Middleton-Topsfield
    - Installation of the previously purchased equipment for Topsfield end of the link.
    - Drafted PJ, procurement specs, and EHP questions are with T. Dechene for review.
    - This will new EHP approval, as the old one expired in 2013.
  - ECFCA Pow Wow Fiber Connection
    - Provide redundant backhaul for the ECFCA and BAPERN UHF and VHF simulcast systems, including fiber and switches to connect the BAPERN Tower and equipment shelter to the Amesbury Fire and Police radio antenna tower and equipment shelter.
    - All approvals are in.
    - Scope of Work draft and questions are with T. Dechene for review.
  - EMS Repeater and Multi-Discipline Co-Location
    - Phase 2 for 3 antennas – PJ and ICIP are approved.
    - MAPC working on EHP and procurement specs.
  - FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders Installation
    - New project allocated at the last meeting.
    - Installation of the previously purchased equipment.
    - Approved at the last meeting, working on PJ.
  - FD-6 Simulcast Receiver Upgrades
    - Upgrade receivers which reached end of life, add simulcast to transmit sites, and replace the mobile radio VHF tie with a base radio.
    - Still pending EHP approval due to government shutdown.
  - MW Lawrence Gen – Holt Hill
    - Replacement of the unlicensed legacy NERAC/BAPERN link with an upgraded licensed link, replacement of antennas, radios, cabling.
    - The ICIP and PJ were approved.
    - MAPC is working on EHP and procurement specifications/scope of work.
  - NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle Upfitting
    - Laptops and Networking Equipment

- RFQ was conducted, awards are being confirmed, expect to finalize and make POs this week.
  - MegaFi Mobile HPUE
    - NEMLEC purchasing and being reimbursed by NERAC
  - Van Upfitting:
    - Invitation for Bids, due 3/25.
- NERAC Cache Radio Replacements
  - No funding yet, will ask Full Council to approval allocation from Cache funding at Thursday's meeting based on Interop suggestion.
  - Approximately \$100,000 available.
  - D. Spinosa and M. Collins sent recommended specs, in meeting packet, same as Kenwood radios for Field Comm Units.
  - The Committee noted a few changes to the specs.
  - MAPC will consult with D. Spinosa for new quote for ICIP.

MOTION put forth by D. Spinosa.

- Support the purchase of Kenwood radios as discussed to update NERAC's Regional Cache.
- Seconded by R. Patterson.
  - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, M. McKay, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  
- Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study
  - Hiring a consultant to conduct a radio feasibility study looking at line of site to eastern Essex County to determine feasibility of utilizing the Topsfield DPW water tank vs. construct new tower attached to DPW.
  - Final questions for scope of work are with Chief Collins-Brown.
- Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios (Beverly/Rockport)
  - Purchase and installation of VHF console radios, antennas, and cabling in Beverly and Rockport to allow for a control point channel and separate wide area network.
  - Finalizing feedback/questions to send scope draft and remaining questions to all stakeholders.
- NSR911 Control Station Combiner
  - New project allocated at the last meeting.
  - Received EOPSS approval, finalized specs.
  - Specs are with procurement team for an RFQ.
  
- **Training/Exercise Radio Communications Checklist**
  - ASHER Tabletop Exercise
    - Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response TTX for Acton, Boxborough, Groton, Littleton.
    - NERAC hired a consultant to plan the exercise and is paying BF/OT for participants. Final Planning Meeting occurred yesterday.
    - Exercise date is March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
    - Scenario will be homegrown violent extremist attack on at a school/polling site, on an election day when school is in session.

- They will not be using radios in the TTX, but hypothetical ICS-205 is still required for EOPSS approval of AAR-IP. D. Spinosa is in contact with Chief Arnum to assist.
- **FFY2026 Pre-Planning**
  - Guidance has not been released on funding amounts, priority areas, timeline, but info may be released with short turnaround time like FFY2025 so we want to plan ahead.
  - At Thursday's NERAC meeting, will be discussing the plan to likely release FFY2026 applications this week/early next, due end of the month, for review at April Council/Committee meetings.
  - Project Ideas / Priorities
    - The Committee discussed potential project ideas, including 7TAC bases for Middleton and Salem, and a BDA template, among other possibilities.
  - MA Tactical Channel Plan Requirements
    - This will be emphasized on the new FFY2026 project request form.
  - Meeting Schedule
    - Based on regular schedule Interop would meet after Full Council, but need to review applications to make suggestions for funding.
    - Applicants will be invited to present projects.
    - MAPC will connect with C. Ryan to determine date options and send survey to members.
    - The meeting will be held virtually.
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
  - D. Spinosa provided information on projects approved at the last SIEC meeting, COML courses, and state radio updates.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
  - Andover will be moving off CoMIRS state radio system. All infrastructure was purchased through NERAC, so this will need to be addressed.

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by R. Patterson.
  - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, M. McKay, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

**\* Next Meeting: TBD – Virtual \***

**ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department

Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering\*

Dave Frizzell: Metrofire

Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council

Ryan Higgins: Fire District 15

Matt McKay: Essex County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union\*  
Rich Patterson: Region 3 EMS  
Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department  
Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center\*  
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department\*  
Matt Svatek: Fire District 6

**ATTENDEES - OTHER**

Sarah Malloy: EOPSS / OGR  
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

**ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department

**The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:**

- March 10, 2026 Meeting Agenda
- February 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- FFY23 and FFY24 Interoperability Committee Budgets
- FFY25 NERAC Preliminary Budget
- NERAC Regional Cache Radio Upgrades Potential Specs