



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

May 12, 2026

9:00 am

Virtual via Zoom

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 871 0669 6067

Passcode: 656601

▪ **Call to Order**

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM

▪ **Approval of Minutes**

- April 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by S. Brown

- Approve the April 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Seconded by D. Spinosa
 - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, D. Frizzell, R. Higgins, M. McKay, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

▪ **Budget Updates**

- FFY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2026
- FFY24 Grant End Date: July 31, 2027
- FFY25: MAPC and EOPSS are finalizing some details of the contracts for signature. Funding is expected to be released soon, and the grant end date will be December 2027.
 - The only Interop project in NERAC's FFY2025 Plan is the Fire District 14 Communications Unit Vehicle.
 - Original Request: \$350,129
 - NERAC FFY25 Allocation: \$251,953.19
 - CRHSAC FFY26 Allocation: \$61,476.60 based on updated equipment quote.
 - NERAC can begin vehicle procurement when FY25 funding is available, and CRHSAC can procure equipment with FY26 funds.

▪ **Project Updates**

- Project updates were kept minimal to conserve time for FFY26 planning.
- Electrical Circuit Redundancy
 - PO was issued.
 - EHP was completed and submitted.
 - Most equipment has been delivered.

- Vendor cannot start installation until EHP approval – EOPSS asked if FEMA could expedite, but given estimate of mid-July for approval.
 - We are working with vendor to invoice for equipment in the meantime.
 - Pow Wow Fiber Connection
 - PO was issued.
 - Vendor will be on site today to get started.
 - NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle
 - Van and purchased equipment were brought to the shop for upfitting.
 - There are a few additional items needed for functionality, and sufficient funding left in the line item, so we will procure.
 - Cache Radio Replacements
 - NERAC Full Council voted to approve additional \$100,000 from Cache funding towards the replacements.
 - State Contract procurement conducted for 32 radios (out of the 90 needed).
 - PO will be issued this week.
 - NSR911 Control Station Combiner
 - PO was issued to the low quote vendor, then they said they could not accept some of the liability terms as written.
 - MAPC is looking at options, including awarding to the next low quote if needed.
 - Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios (Beverly/Rockport)
 - A meeting was held with key stakeholders on April 16, 2026 to discuss project plans, including specs/scope for procurement.
 - It was determined that MAPC/NERAC would procure equipment and installation but not integration, so sites could use their preferred vendors.
 - After that decision, Rockport requested another meeting, and determined they would handle installation of their equipment as well.
 - Rockport will approve final equipment specs so MAPC can begin procurement.
 - After all the changes along the way, the project will be greatly below budget.
 - Beverly also has a few additional items needed (discussed at the main stakeholder meeting), which would be within budget.
 - All other projects with existing allocations are in various stages of pending approvals and/or developing specs/scope for procurement (all have been started, but have components in the works prior to procurement).
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
 - No updates
- **FFY2026 Budget Planning**
 - FY26 Planning Overview
 - Councils were instructed by EOPSS to begin FFY2026 preliminary planning.
 - We do not yet know how much funding FEMA will make available, or what categories will have minimum spend requirements – so preliminary planning will be based on same amounts as last year.
 - Project requests were due April 30th, and applicants were encouraged to attend the applicable Committee/Council meeting to present.
 - Interop will review related requests and determine preliminary allocations to recommend to the Full Council.

- Full Council meeting May 14th to review committee recommendations and other project requests, and determine preliminary budget plan.
 - Committee members were sent Project Summaries and a link to all request documents for review.
 - Level funding would be \$1.2million for NERAC.
 - NERAC has approx. 40 projects for consideration totaling over \$4million.
 - The Committee reviewed typical minimum spend requirements for LETPA and NPAs, and project eligibility requirements.
 - The project request form required confirmation that entities requesting funding must have the MA Tactical Channel Plan implemented, or be willing to meet with Interop.
- **Project Presentations**
 - The following project/funding requests were presented to the Committee.

Bedford Fire/EM Conversion to Simulcast (J. Bailey)	\$106,869.12
ERCES/BDA Framework/Toolkit Development (A. Chadis)	\$20,000.00
Essex County 7TAC Interoperability Bases (D. Spinosa)	\$100,000.00
Framingham Mobile Comms/Response Vehicle (S. Riley)	\$239,220.78
NSR911 Shared Frequency Feasibility Study (C. Ryan)	\$75,000.00
NSR911 VHF & UHF Control Station Combiners (C. Ryan)	\$80,000.00
 - **Committee Discussion and Preliminary Budget Recommendations**
 - The Committee discussed the projects presented.
 - While the Committee felt that they were valuable projects, they determined that the Bedford Fire/EM Conversion to Simulcast and the Framingham Mobile Command/Emergency Response Vehicle did not sufficiently meet the regional requirement for eligibility.
 - The following budget recommendations were decided on:

ERCES/BDA Framework/Toolkit Development (A. Chadis)	\$20,000.00
Essex County 7TAC Interoperability Bases (D. Spinosa)	\$100,000.00
NSR911 Shared Frequency Feasibility Study (C. Ryan)	\$75,000.00
NSR911 VHF & UHF Control Station Combiners (C. Ryan)	\$80,000.00
 - **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - None.

MOTION put forth by D. Frizzell

- Recommend the above allocations to the Full Council for consideration for NERAC's FY26 Plan, and adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by G. Rowe
 - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, D. Frizzell, R. Higgins, M. McKay, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: June 9, 2026 ***

ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center*
Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch
Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department
Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering*
Dave Frizzell: Metrofire
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
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department*
Matt Svatek: Fire District 6

ATTENDEES - OTHER

James Bailey: Bedford Fire Department
Dave Curtis: Framingham Police Department
Karla Kahale: MAPC
Sarah Malloy: EOPSS / OGR
Snowy Quinn : Framingham
Sean Riley: Framingham Police Department
Alex Rock: EOPSS / SWIC
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department
Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council

*NERAC Full Council Member

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- May 12 2026 Meeting Agenda
- April 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- FFY23 and FFY24 Interoperability Committee Budgets
- FFY26 Interoperability Project Requests