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For immediate release:

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Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board and FirstNet Hold Plan Consultation in Iowa

Des Moines, IOWA – Today, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) joined the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) and a wide variety of public safety communication officials, public officials and many others from across Iowa for the first in a series of consultations regarding the building of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

This consultation meeting gave all in attendance a chance to ask questions and voice concerns about this broadband network and learn exactly what FirstNet is and how it works. At the same time, FirstNet officials on-hand were able to get an understanding of Iowa's unique needs for this system as they move forward with a plan by working together.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 requires that FirstNet consult with regional, state, and local jurisdictions on developing requests for proposals. FirstNet has spent the last year working with legislators, industry leaders, and public safety stakeholders to establish the mechanisms and relationships necessary to ensure effective consultation.

About FirstNet:

FirstNet will provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. The network will improve communications among local, state, regional, tribal and national emergency services personnel. FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration. FirstNet is governed by a 15-member Board appointed by the Secretary of Commerce that consists of representatives from public safety, government, and the wireless industry (www.firstnet.gov).

For further questions, please contact Thomas Lampe, Chairman, Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board at (515) 725-6113. www.isicsb.iowa.gov.



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