

# *The VIPER Newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015*

As part of our communications effort to keep everyone informed of our progress, we will be distributing a quarterly newsletter via email and posting a copy of it on the VIPER website at [www.ncdps.gov/VIPER](http://www.ncdps.gov/VIPER). If you would like to contact us, you can email us at [VIPER@NCSHP.ORG](mailto:VIPER@NCSHP.ORG) or call 1-888-92-VIPER.

## **Quick Facts**

- 241 total sites planned for statewide coverage
  1. 210 sites constructed and on-the-air
  2. 2 sites are fully funded and under construction
  3. Funding for remaining site construction has commenced starting this fiscal year
- VIPER estimated to cost \$206.5M to complete
  1. \$174.5M funded to date (includes \$7M R for tower construction in FY14-15)
  2. Pending: Additional \$32M left to be funded for site construction
- VIPER maintenance and support costs
  1. \$7.5M once completed
  2. Current funding = \$5.3M recurring (includes \$2.8M Recurring starting FY13-14)
  3. Pending: Additional \$2.2M recurring to effectively provide maintenance and support once build-out is complete
- Challenges
  1. VIPER has been notified by the town of Mint Hill that the Mint Hill site will be decommissioned. VIPER is in the process of negotiating with NCDOT to build a replacement site on their property at Matthews.
  2. In moving forward with construction of new tower sites, the challenge will be to get fully executed leases prior to site construction.

## **Legislative funding for site construction**

- Through Senate Bill 402, VIPER has been provided site construction funding in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.
  1. \$7M (Recurring) funds for VIPER Tower Construction
- A recurring \$7M funding is expected for FY15-16 for VIPER Tower Construction.

## **Tower Construction Update**

- The Potato Knob site in Swain County will be brought online next quarter.

## **Radio reprogramming (Rebanding/P25)**

- Second Touch programming continues to move forward. We have encountered some counties and agencies that have already completed a second touch of their equipment. The FCC requires us to document that every radio has been cleared of the old, pre-rebanded channels. We are currently working with the FCC to determine what type of documentation is required to show that all radios in NC do not have pre-rebanded channels in them. More information will be forthcoming.

- Reconfiguration dollars are only available to program end user radios that are primary users of the VIPER system. The funds will not cover the reconfiguration of radios covered by another licensee's frequency reconfiguration agreement (FRA).
- Each VIPER POC should have received a document specifically outlining what items are covered in the Second Touch programming agreement.

**VIPER ID status**

- VIPER provided each county point of contact (POC) or state/federal agency POC with a block of assigned VIPER ID's.
- Counties/agencies must submit a completed VIPER ID form containing all of the relevant information, including the VIPER ID pulled from their respective list to VIPER for activation.
- VIPER POC's should maintain their inventory and will be required to submit an annual "true-up" document to VIPER in January of each year. The "true-up" document for 2015 was due no later than Friday, 30 January 2015 and should have been forwarded to [VIPER-activate@ncshp.org](mailto:VIPER-activate@ncshp.org).
- Updated instructions along with a new form are available online at <http://www.ncdps.gov/viper> and click on the Forms tab.

**High Windy tower**

- The old AT&T building has been removed and construction of the new building will begin next quarter. The site will be operational by the end of 2015.

**System Health**

- The System Health is a new section that we plan to provide with each newsletter to update our stakeholders, users and partners as to how the VIPER system is doing. These statistics are taken directly from the system.

1. System count

Users (actual radio ID's, consoles not incl.)	78,000+
Trunked channels	1,327
Conventional channels	398
Talk groups	3,988
Comm centers tied directly to VIPER	20

2. System growth & health: while the system has grown substantially in the number of PTTs from last July to this May, the percentage of busies has decreased enormously.

	<b>July 2014</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
PTT (Push to Talk)	6,704,558	7,156,369
% Busy	0.79%	0.17%

3. Busies (post P25): The percent of busies compares the number of busies vs. the number of PTTs on the system. Acceptable industry standard is 3% busies for a system. Below is VIPER's system health as it relates to the percentage of busies that we get on the system.

	<b>PTT average</b>	<b>% Busy</b>
Daily average	245,000	0.18%
Monthly average	7,300,000	0.18%
1 <sup>st</sup> year average	74,340,878	0.40%

- System summary: After the system's transition to P25, we've seen an increase in the number of users and push to talk on the system. Although those numbers have increased significantly, the percentage of busies on the system has decreased substantially and is well below the industry standard. This reflects the excellent health of the system due to the hard work of the VIPER staff.

