



**FACT SHEET**  
**Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**  
**Public Safety – 700 MHz projects**  
**“Low Risk” Project List**

**Purpose:**

Develop a list of potential “low risk” projects for BTOP public safety 700 Megahertz (MHz) projects that support and prepare for the nationwide public safety broadband network.

**Background:**

In February 2012, Congress enacted The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, which directed the creation of a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network (PSBN). NTIA wants to be prudent with any investments that are made before FirstNet, the entity charged by Congress with overseeing the PSBN, develops its blueprint for the nationwide network’s architecture. Specifically, NTIA wants to avoid investments that would need to be replaced if they are incompatible with the nationwide network. NTIA has created a list of “low risk” project investments for the public safety 700 MHz waiver recipients that have BTOP funding. This list outlines investments that are likely to be at a lower risk of being incompatible with the ultimate nationwide network.

Categories	Potential “Low Risk” Activities
Backhaul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Documenting and/or upgrading connectivity capabilities for public safety broadband</li> <li>▪ Documenting existing wireline/wireless backhaul resources to determine what is already in place and not used/underused (e.g., existing Public Safety Answering Points’ fiber capacity)</li> <li>▪ Analyzing existing Internet Protocol (IP) backbone to determine gaps in supporting high bandwidth PSBN</li> <li>▪ Planning and modeling network capacity to ensure backhaul links and aggregation points are appropriately provisioned</li> <li>▪ Upgrading existing backbone upgrades to support advanced capabilities [i.e., Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS)]</li> <li>▪ Installing fiber-optic connections to support high-bandwidth data capabilities</li> <li>▪ Installing sufficient microwave connectivity to support high-bandwidth data capabilities</li> </ul>
Site Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Documenting and/or upgrading existing site capabilities</li> <li>▪ Installing/expanding battery backup systems and/or generators to support additional broadband hardware</li> <li>▪ Expanding or enhancing existing shelters for broadband equipment</li> <li>▪ Conducting tower analyses to determine feasibility of supporting 700 MHz antennas for broadband</li> <li>▪ Documenting and analyzing site power/grounding to determine upgrades needed to support additional eNodeB and routing hardware</li> </ul>
Ancillary Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquiring Long Term Evolution (LTE) test equipment - handheld spectrum analyzers, cable testers, or drive test tools</li> <li>▪ Analyzing existing cell on wheel/cell on light truck (COW/COLT) capabilities</li> </ul>

