STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID A. GARCIA
Secretary

FISCAL YEAR 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET

TESTIMONY OF

Luis M. Estrada
Deputy Secretary, Department of Information Technology

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair
February 23, 2016

House Appropriations Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Chair
February 24, 2016

45 Calvert Street • Annapolis, MD 21401-1907
Tel: (410) 260-7778 • Fax: (410) 974-5060 • Toll Free: 1 (800) 705-3493 • TTY Users: call via Maryland Relay
http://www.doit.maryland.gov

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Luis Estrada, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Information Technology. I am joined by Greg Urban, Chief Operating Officer, and James Appel, Executive Financial Officer. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide this testimony to the general assembly.

The Department of Information Technology provides centralized Information Technology services and oversight of IT projects for executive branch and independent agencies. We are the principal procurement unit for the State's IT and telecommunications purchases and lead the development of Maryland's strategic IT direction.

The 700 MHz Public Safety Communication System, one of the projects in the State's Major IT Development Project portfolio, replaces several outdated State Agency radio systems with a new state-of-the-art communications system. The system is designed to enhance communications for first responders and public safety agencies, thereby eliminating interoperability deficiencies between legacy State radio systems. The deficiencies include incompatible technologies, gaps in radio coverage, and aging and outdated infrastructure. The system is designed to meet the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' (APCO) Project 25 (P25) standards, ensuring emergency communications compatibility between State Agencies, local governments, Federal Public Safety officials, and out-of-state first responders. This project will also correct existing emergency communications system deficiencies by constructing new infrastructure specifically designed to meet current and future requirements of the State and participating local

communications systems.

The system was a major success during the civil unrest in Baltimore City in April 2015. It operated as designed and supported the coordinated response of Maryland State Police, Maryland National Guard, Maryland Department of Transportation, and Maryland Emergency Management Agency, in addition to other State, local, and out-of-state first responders. The system supported over 100,000 radio transmissions in support of operations throughout the City of Baltimore.

Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2013, covering the MdTA, the I-95 corridor including Baltimore City, and Maryland's Eastern Shore. In 2015 Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, and Harford Counties became operational. Anne Arundel County and Howard County are planned to go-live in the summer of 2016, completing Phase 3 of the project. The design for Phase 4 (Western Maryland) is complete and site surveys are underway. Phase 5, covering Southern MD and the National Capital Area, is approved and received its Notice-to-Proceed in September 2015.

The Department of Information Technology remains committed to providing outstanding cost-effective IT services to State Agencies maximizing the tax dollars entrusted to us by the citizens of Maryland.

On behalf of Governor Larry Hogan, I thank you for your time and welcome any additional questions from the committee.

Summary of Issues

Public Safety Communication System Project Is Delayed, Which Increases Costs: The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) authorizes $15.0 million. Last year, $28.5 million was planned. The funds are reduced as a cost containment measure. This adds $5.9 million to total project costs and delays realizing the public safety benefits associated with this project. **The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that funding for this project is restored to the levels programmed for fiscal 2017 in the 2015 session *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP).**

The Department of Information Technology supports the Governor's budget as presented. DoIT will continue to work with the Department of Budget and Management to best leverage the investments available to the public safety communications system to provide the maximum amount of benefit to the user community.

The system funded with this initiative has an objective of providing full on-street coverage but does not guarantee complete in-building coverage. Prior to implementing the system, an early estimate projected that as many as 230 additional towers may need to be built to provide in-building coverage. Since implementing the system, the coverage has proved to exceed expectations in a number of areas. As a result, the effort it would take to provide in-building coverage appears less than previously anticipated. In some cases, adding an antenna that goes through the building and can transmit from the top of the building is sufficient. **The department should brief the committees on what is required to provide in-building coverage. This should include a discussion of work and costs.**

There are two primary ways to increase coverage. The first is to increase the number of transmitter locations (towers) in the system. Alternatively, the system's coverage can be augmented using small cells, bi-directional antennae, and repeaters. The original RFP considered the scenario of increasing the level of coverage to provide "portable in-building coverage" (coverage using a portable radio, hip mounted, inside a building) statewide. Based on the original price proposal from Motorola, the cost was estimated to be $471M and only considered adding sites to the system to increase the coverage.

As stated in the question, the pre-construction coverage predictions have turned out to be conservative, leading to better than expected on-street and in-building coverage. Therefore, a new design and cost estimate would need to be produced to support in-building coverage. It is not feasible to prepare a reliable estimate prior to the end of the legislative session. Given the operational experience we now have with the system, the best course of action would be to take a targeted look at building coverage and establish a plan that uses a mixture of technologies to provide in-building coverage in a manner that meets the needs of the various public safety system users.