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August 31, 2026

Dear Member of the Texas Legislature,

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), in collaboration with the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) and our local, state, tribal, and federal partners, is pleased to present the 2026 *Annual Report on Interoperable Communications* in accordance with Texas Government Code §421.096 and §421.098 on behalf of the Office of the Governor. The report is available for your review at:

https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/iod/interop/docs/interoprpt.pdf.

Over the past year, DPS and the Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), with the support of the TxICC, continued working alongside public safety stakeholders across Texas to improve interoperable communications capabilities. Despite continued reductions in federal grant funding and increasing fiscal constraints at all levels of government, Texas has maintained forward momentum through strong partnerships, strategic planning, and responsible stewardship of available resources. Key accomplishments during the reporting period include:

- Twenty-two of the twenty-four Councils of Government (COGs) and the combined State Agencies completed a 2025 Focus Group survey, providing valuable insight into regional interoperability capabilities, priorities, and emerging communications needs.
- The annual Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition Conference brought together communications leaders from across the state to exchange best practices, discuss emerging technologies, and strengthen statewide coordination.
- They collaboratively developed and published the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) in November 2025, which serves as the State's interoperability strategic plan: https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/iod/interop/docs/texasscip.pdf

DPS remains committed to advancing interoperable communications throughout the state. Working through the SWIC and the TxICC, DPS will continue to strengthen statewide governance, promote the adoption of national standards and best practices, support regional collaboration, and enhance emergency communications planning. Sustained investment in interoperable communications, including governance, training, technology, cybersecurity, and infrastructure, remains critical to ensure Texas first responders have the capabilities necessary to communicate seamlessly before, during, and after emergencies.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Freeman F. Martin, Colonel

2026 Report on Interoperable Communications

to the Texas Legislature as required by:

Texas Government Code 421.096

Texas Government Code 421.098

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 Legislative Report highlights the planning, effectiveness, funding, accomplishments, and challenges of interoperable communications activities completed in Texas during calendar year 2025, reported by the Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator's Office at the Texas Department of Public Safety, state agencies, and regional Councils of Governments through the annual Focus Group survey reports.

For the second consecutive year, Texas counties reported that no Level 4 Voice Interoperability (proprietary shared radio systems) are in widespread use within their jurisdictions. This finding reflects Texas' continued embrace of standards-based communications technologies and interoperable solutions in support of statewide public safety communications.

The major regional radio systems in the state continue to gain participating agencies and grow their coverage footprint. However, many agencies cannot afford the recurring subscription costs of joining a regional system, while others still choose to run their own independent systems. This complicates ongoing State efforts to interconnect disparate systems and improve interoperability, especially during disaster situations.

In addition to addressing established radio standards, the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) continues to proactively address data interoperability by promoting common tools for daily operations and large-scale events.

Training gaps remain one of the most significant impediments to effective, interoperable communication. The State, Regions, and Tribes all lack tools to incentivize participation in communications training and exercises.

Federal preparedness grants administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) remain the primary funding source supporting public safety communications interoperability across Texas. These investments enable statewide governance, regional interoperability initiatives, communications planning, training and exercises, technical assistance, cybersecurity, and modernization of mission-critical communications infrastructure used daily by thousands of public safety agencies. Recent reductions in this funding create additional challenges for agencies seeking to sustain and modernize emergency communications capabilities.

Despite these fiscal challenges, the Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Program continued to strengthen statewide communications through strategic planning, stakeholder collaboration, support for regional interoperability initiatives, and advancement of standards-based technologies that improve operational coordination across all levels of government. These efforts have enhanced Texas' ability to support both day-to-day incidents and large-scale emergencies requiring coordinated, multi-jurisdictional response.

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Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) serves as the strategic plan and roadmap for improvements in public safety communications. The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), in partnership with the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC), leads SCIP-related planning and policy efforts.

The TxICC SCIP Executive Council (SEC) – a 29-member body that consists of a representative from each Council of Government, one per Tribal Nation, one for the combined State Agencies, and the SWIC – uses the SCIP to identify and address statewide communications challenges, standards, and strategic initiatives. The plan helps prioritize resources, strengthen governance, and inform stakeholders about the importance of continued investment in public safety communications.

The SWIC Office conducts regular workshops to review and update SCIP goals and initiatives (the progress status for each of these goals can be found in Appendix A of this report), as well as the TxICC-hosted annual conference, where proposed updates are voted on and emerging issues are discussed. The latest version of the SCIP is available on the Texas Department of Public Safety website. The biennial update to the SCIP was published in November 2025.

https://www.dps.texas.gov/IOD/interop/docs/texasSCIP.pdf

Regional Interoperability Communications Plans

In 2011, the TxICC initiated Regional Interoperability Communications Plans (RICP) to document public safety communications needs, create a technical implementation and migration plan, and identify the associated costs to meet those unique needs within each COG. Each COG/Tribe maintains and regularly reviews the plans. Through their annual Regional Focus Group Workshop, COGs and Tribes bring together public safety responders to discuss and document progress on their RICPs and the SCIP, as well as priorities, accomplishments, challenges, and needs.

Communications is the fundamental capability within disciplines and jurisdictions that practitioners need to perform the most routine and basic elements of their job functions.

Agencies must be operable, meaning they must have sufficient wireless communications to meet their everyday internal and emergency communication requirements before they place value on being interoperable, i.e., able to work with other agencies.

Communications interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies (police, fire, EMS) and service agencies (public works, transportation, hospitals, etc.) to talk within and across agencies and jurisdictions via radio and associated communications systems, exchanging voice, data and/or video with one another on demand, in real-time, when needed, and when authorized.

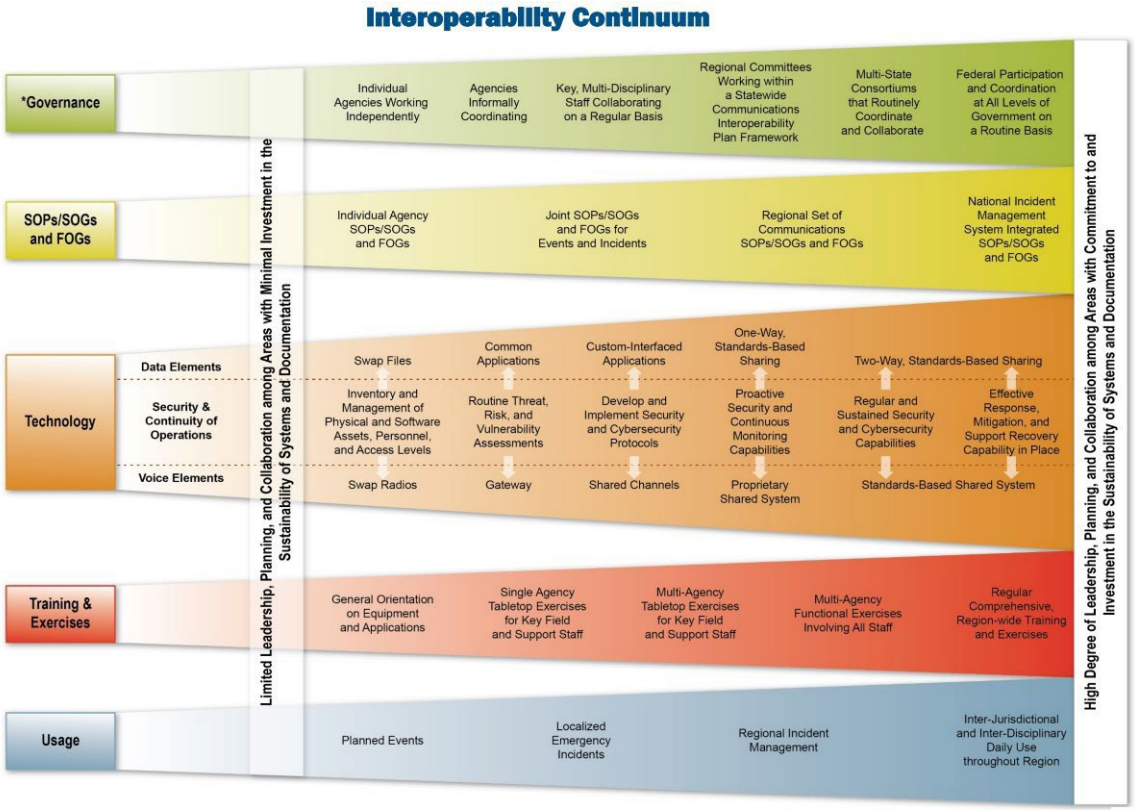
It is essential that public safety has the intra-agency operability it needs, and that it builds its systems toward interoperability.

Source: Target Capabilities List, www.DHS.gov, 29

The SWIC Office partners with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to hold workshops to review and update RICPs. Since 2017, twenty COGs and all three Tribes have conducted workshops to update their regional plans. Four COGs remain pending. Due to reductions in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding, Technical Assistance requests ceased in 2025, creating a ripple effect that has delayed regional efforts to update their RICPs in a timely manner.

The Status of Voice Communications Interoperability in Texas

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model is based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. The model outlines the evolution from the lowest level to the highest level of communications interoperability.



Texas is reporting an overall level of 3.81 (Mid-Range) on the Voice Technology Lane of the Maturity Model.

Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model Color Codes:

Level One (least interoperable) ..... 0 County
Level Two ..... 6 Counties
Level Three ..... 142 Counties
Level Four ..... 0 Counties
Level Five (most interoperable)…….106 Counties
Total..... 254 Counties
Average Statewide Interoperability Level: 3.81

This level is an increase in maturity from 3.74, as reported in the 2025 Report on Interoperable Communications. The SWIC Office continued to develop educational materials to help counties and agencies better assess their interoperability levels, leading some counties to evaluate their capabilities more accurately.

The most common level of interoperability in Texas is Level 3, with a growing number of counties and agencies seeking to join regional radio systems as Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grants support the construction of new towers and the upgrade of repeaters, base stations, and consoles.

Appendix B shows a map of Maturity Model levels by county.

Expenditures Toward Interoperability

The Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) allocated $7,197,499.14 in FY2025 State Homeland Security Program (HSGP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funding for Interoperable Communications to jurisdictions across Texas. These funds supported a range of interoperable emergency communications projects, including the construction of communication towers, upgrades to microwave transmission equipment, and the acquisition of mobile and portable radios and related accessories.

The PSO allocated an additional $1,218,370.39 in FY2025 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program (PSN), and the State Crisis Intervention Grant Program (SCIP) funding to support similar initiatives. These grants primarily funded the purchase of radios, communication accessories, and receiver/transmitter systems, enhancing the emergency communications capabilities of local jurisdictions.

The SERI grant program is a biennial grant program. There was no allocation in 2025.

Ongoing challenges related to limited local funding and the high costs of maintaining aging communications equipment continue to impact agencies' ability to develop and sustain interoperable communications systems. As a result, Texas jurisdictions remain heavily reliant on state and federal grant programs to ensure the operability of emergency communications for first responders, thereby supporting their critical mission of protecting the safety and security of Texans.

All communications equipment purchases funded through these grant programs are submitted to the SWIC Office for review, ensuring alignment with the SCIP goals, standards, and strategic initiatives.

Training

Inadequate end-user radio training remains the most persistent barrier to advancing effective interoperability in Texas. First responders from different agencies routinely arrive at the same incident with compatible equipment: P25 radios correctly programmed with the state and national interoperability channels. Too often, the users do not know how to operate their radios to navigate to an appropriate channel or mode to maintain communications.

The SWIC Office partners with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Texas Division of Emergency Management to host an online training course on radio basics.

However, this is a general course, as agencies use many different radio models from various manufacturers. There is also no state requirement that first responders take such training, nor that they prove ongoing competency in the use of their radios.

In November 2025, the SWIC office launched a new program, Radio Rodeos, built on efforts by the City of Victoria and Victoria County. This event brings local first responders together in a controlled environment to effectively address two key items: 1) to improve responders' ability to navigate their radios to find the appropriate channel when required, and 2) to ensure their

radios are programmed correctly. The SWIC office's goal is to complete all twenty-four COGs by November 2027.

Another ongoing training need is the certification of personnel in Communications Unit (COMU) roles. The COMU is a critical part of the Incident Command System. COMU personnel develop the communications plan for an incident, and they provide logistical and technical support for communications equipment. During a disaster, the timely arrival of trained COMU personnel helps establish effective, interoperable communications rapidly. It is vital to maintain a large roster of such personnel that can be activated and deployed during emergencies.

The SWIC Office oversees the training and credentialing of COMU roles in Texas, with support from DHS/Emergency Communications Division (ECD) and partner agencies.

Communications Training Courses offered by TxDPS and DHS/ECD in 2025

- Two Communications Unit Leader classes (16 attendees each)
- One Auxiliary Communications class (26 attendees)

State-Credentialed Communications Personnel

- Texas has 93 State Credentialed Communications Unit personnel.
- Texas has 18 State Credentialed Communications Unit instructors.

Accomplishments Toward Interoperability

Below are some achievements reported through the TxICC and TxDPS across the state in 2025.

TxICC / Statewide Accomplishments

The SWIC Office conducted various stakeholder engagements and activities:

- Processed 82 Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP) Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) defining interoperable communications protocols
- Approved 176 grant-funded communications equipment requests
- Three State Agency Communications meetings
- Annual TxICC Conference
- Produced and distributed 15 TxICC newsletters and cybersecurity notices
- 683 agencies had an active MOU on file with TxDPS for interoperable communications

State Agencies improved their communications capabilities:

- DPS: Purchased multi-band radios with LTE capability
- TXDOT: Purchased multi-band radios and expanded the GATRRS-13E radio network by adding a site in George West.
- TCEQ: Purchased multi-band radios
- TFS: Purchased multi-band radios with LTE capability
- DPS and TXDOT partnered to build three co-located Tower sites in Kerrville, Lometa, and Fairfield

TxDPS Response Operations Deployments for 2025

Completed twenty-five deployments supporting TxDPS Task Force and Special Operations:

- Shelter Deployment/THP Support – Reveille Peak Ranch – 1/29 – 1/31/2025
- Aircraft Support – La Copa Ranch – 1/31 – 2/7/2025
- Cellular SOW Deployment/THP Support – Eagle Pass – 2/12 – 3/10/2025
- Junction DA Trial Support – Junction – 2/24 – 2/28/2025
- Chilifest – Snook – 4/304/6/2025
- Riot Training Support – Coppell – 4/15 – 47/16/2025
- Aircraft Support – Austin – 4/23 – 4/24/2025
- Tops Off Jeep Weekend – 5/15 – 5/18/2025
- Support Edwards County DA office – 5/18 – 5/23/2025
- Support Rocksprings DA office – Rocksprings - 5/19 – 5/23/2025
- Public Safety Expo – Edinburg – 5/22/2025
- TDEM Conference – Fort Worth – 5/27 – 5/30/2025
- Junction DA Trial Support – Junction – 6/10 – 6/13/2025
- Mass Programming Assistance – Midland – 6/23 – 6/26/2025
- Kerrville Disaster Assistance – Kerrville - 7/5 – 8/20/2025
- MVCI Conference – San Antonio – 8/25 – 8/28/2025
- LODD Funeral – Huntsville – 9/21 – 9/23/2025
- Live at the Station Concert/THP Support – 9/25 – 9/27/2025
- Mass Programming Assistance – Hillsboro - 9/29/2025
- Central States Communications Boot Camp – Durant, OK – 10/12 – 10/10/2025
- LE Officer event – Brownsville – 10/29/2025
- Lonestar Rally – Ennis - 11/5 – 11/8/2025
- Aircraft Support – Canyon – 11/13 – 11/21/2025
- Lampasas ISD Law Enforcement Competition – Lampasas - 12/6/2025
- CEOT Training – Florence – 12/8 – 12/12/2025

Team Awareness Kit Deployments

The TxICC added a goal in the 2023 SCIP to implement Team Awareness Kit (TAK), a government-owned situational awareness application. In 2025, that goal was further refined to measure TAK usage at multi-agency events. TxDPS hosts Texas TAK for first responder agencies at no cost. Below is a non-exhaustive list of multi-agency events where TAK was implemented:

- Lone Star Le Mans – February 2025 – COTA Austin
- Central Texas Flooding – July 2025 – Travis/Burnet/Williamson Counties
- Kerr County Flood – July 2025 – Kerr County
- Peach Festival – July 2025 – Weatherford
- Zach Top Concert – September 2025 – Hearne
- Red River Boot Camp – October 2025 – Durant, OK

During this period, federal, state, and local responders have had the opportunity to utilize this valuable platform to ensure situational awareness in a variety of environments, most notably during the Central Texas Flood response. TAK proved its versatility and collaborative benefits as an interoperability tool.

Texas Interoperable Radio Interconnect System (TIRIS)

TIRIS is the State's system-of-systems approach to building an interoperable statewide radio network. In 2025, there were four trunked systems participating in TIRIS: GATRRS-13E (Greater Austin Travis Regional Radio System, LCRA-200 (Lower Colorado River Authority),

NTIRN-44A (North Texas Interoperable Radio Network), and TXWARN-1A7 (Texas Wide Area Radio Network), and three conventional sites (DPS-Amarillo, DPS-Waco, and Palo Pinto). With the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant funding in 2024, the SWIC office will add the AARRS-0D2 (Alamo Area Regional Radio System), SETRRS-4E6 (Southeast Texas Regional Radio System), the LRGVRRS-2B5 (Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Radio System), and up to seven additional conventional sites to TIRIS.

Communications Exercises coordinated with TxDPS in 2025

Communications Exercises (COMMEX) provide experiential learning based on disaster and critical-incident scenarios.

- Red River Communications Boot Camp at Durant, OK, with numerous state and local agencies

Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs)

SAG members are representatives from the TxICC, and groups are established to achieve the goals and initiatives outlined in the SCIP. Selected accomplishments from each of the SAGs are summarized below:

Texas Encryption SAG

The Encryption SAG was formed in 2024 to develop guidance and processes for coordinating the use of encryption keys. This group continues its mission to develop a formal plan for the coordination of encryption use in the State.

Texas TAK SAG

The Texas TAK SAG was formed in 2025 to develop guidance and processes to fully implement TAK statewide. They will focus on topics such as governance, disaster response, training, and data consistency.

Texas Deployable Trunked System SAG

The Deployable Trunked System SAG was formed in 2025 to develop guidance and processes for coordinating the use of portable trunked radio system sites, including the existing P25 regional radio systems and the 700 MHz Nationwide Deployable Trunked System.

Regional Accomplishments

COGs reported their accomplishments and challenges below through the annual Focus Group Reports. Appendix C highlights the Focus Group survey results from the COGs for 2025.

- 13 COGs reported agencies within their area are partners of existing regional radio systems
- 6 COGs reported projects to enhance radio communications through expanding radio systems and installing new repeaters and dispatch consoles
- 15 COGs reported conducting regular drills, exercises, and events using interoperability assets

Conclusion

Improving public safety interoperability in Texas requires more than technology alone; it demands sustained, dedicated funding and active participation from local governments. Without a reliable investment stream, agencies will continue to struggle to modernize equipment, maintain system readiness, and ensure personnel are adequately trained to operate seamlessly across jurisdictions and disciplines.

The success of statewide interoperability depends on local government engagement, as emergency response is initiated at the local level. Combining reliable, dedicated state funding with the existing framework will provide Texas with a resilient and unified communications environment, ensuring that first responders are fully trained and equipped to safeguard lives and property during both routine operations and large-scale emergencies. Continued investment in statewide interoperability will strengthen responder safety, improve operational efficiency, and enhance the delivery of emergency services to Texas citizens.

APPENDIX A: SCIP Goals Progress Table

Governance and Leadership

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Status	Metric	NECP Alignment
1.1 Maintain the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Office and the Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) by maintaining the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), inclusive stakeholder engagements, and reviewing governance documents	SWIC	Ongoing in odd-numbered years	On Target	SCIP evaluated biannually, TxICC charter evaluated every four years	1.1
1.2 Maintain Regional Interoperable Communications Committees (RICCs) in all 24 Council of Governments (COGs), including the three Tribes and conduct meetings annually at a minimum	COGs, Tribes	Ongoing	Approaching Target	Verified through Focus Group (FG) report	1.2
1.3 Review and revise local and tribal points of contact lists including emergency communications stakeholders, SCIP Executive Committee (SEC) delegates, radio programmers, ID plan contacts, cyber security stakeholders, 9-1-1 stakeholders, and Communications Unit contacts, and any new subject matter experts identified in the annual Focus Group (FG) Report	COGs, Tribes, SWIC	April 30, annually	Off Target	Updates contact lists submitted to TXSWIC@dps.texas.gov with annual FG report	1.2

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Status	Metric	NECP Alignment
1.4 Educate state, local, tribal, and regional decision makers and elected officials on the importance of all aspects of interoperable communications and the need to fund and sustain systems	SWIC, COGs, Tribes, Texas Association of Regional Councils	April 30, annually	Approaching Target	Verified through FG reports	1.2
1.5 Locally or regionally hold at least one information exchange/demonstration session with stakeholders and the public (possibly in conjunction with an existing regional public event) to share agency mission, initiatives, deployable assets, and any other available resources that could be used for regional or statewide response	COGs, Tribes, and all stakeholders	April 30, annually	Approaching Target	Verified through FG report	1.3
1.6 Develop legislative report of statewide progress towards interoperability and SCIP initiatives based on RICC Focus Group Reports	SWIC	June 30, annually	On Target	Completed report	1.3
1.7 Maintain the Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP), eTXFOG and affiliated Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and post to a shared location	Tx DPS	Ongoing	Approaching Target	This is a living document. Updated eTXFOG in Fall awaiting access to library.	1.3

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Status	Metric	NECP Alignment
1.8 Inform stakeholders on new technology and cybersecurity updates (including urgent notices as required)	SWIC	Ongoing	On Target	TxICC Newsletters and notices	1.3
1.9 SWIC Office represents the State of Texas at the Federal level and at industry conferences	SWIC	Ongoing	On Target	SWIC Office attendance per year: 2 NCSWIC meetings 4 NCSWIC/SAFECOM/ Federal committee meetings (virtual or in-person) Fire Marshals, Texas Police Chiefs etc. At least one conference per discipline	1.3
1.10 Increase public safety Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) GETS/Wireless Priority Service (WPS) adoption rate by 2%	SWIC, TDEM, COGs/Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), Emergency Support Function (ESF) partners	February 2027	Data not available from CISA due to budget cuts	Verified in Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Priority Telecommunications Services (PTS) reporting	1.3
1.11 SWIC Office maintains SOP for team awareness kit	SWIC	Ongoing	On Target	Updated as needed with Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) input. Posted on SWIC website.	1.3

Planning and Procedures

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
2.1 Engage RICC to complete annual Focus Group and Interoperability Level reports, using surveys, webinars, or meetings	COGs, Tribes, SWIC	April 30, annually	On Target	>85% completed FG and Interoperability Level surveys	2.1
2.2 Identify and prioritize needs and plans for interoperability for each of the COGs and Tribes. Review and Update Regional SOPs as needed. Determine if tools or best practices need to be developed	COGs, Tribes, SWIC	In-person COG/regional workshop, biannually	Off Target	>85% of the total of COGs and tribes have a biannual meeting. Review or Update Regional SOPs	2.1
2.3 Review, update, and maintain resources in common collaboration platforms	SWIC	Ongoing maintenance	Approaching Target	Annual review of information and files on shared sites to ensure information is up to date (Communications Assets Survey and Mapping Tool [CASM],	2.1
2.4 COGs engage appropriate stakeholders to update the technology capabilities and migration sections of Regional Interoperable Communication Plans (RICPs), in addition to any other RICP sections or information requiring updates as needed outside Technical Assistance (TA)	COGs, Tribes	Ongoing Annually *Update no less than 5 years	Off Target	Updated RICP reports, verified through FG report	2.2
2.5 Develop a single unified communications database	TxDOT, TxDPS, TPWD, TDEM	August 2027	Approaching Target		2.2

Training, Exercises, and Evaluation

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
3.1 Promote awareness and participation for the basic interoperable radio training curriculum available online. Also, engage accredited organizations as appropriate to adopt interoperable radio communications curriculum as part of continuing education programs	Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE); Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP); Texas Health and Human Services (THHSC); State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals of Texas (SSFMA)	April 30 Annually	On Target	Training available online. Compile list of and contact accrediting organizations and points of contact (POCs)	3.1
3.2 Agencies conduct regular drills to practice use of interoperability channels/talk groups; examples include: • Regular roll calls on interoperability channels/talk groups • Parking lot drill (TXSWIC webpage) • Regular communications drill integrated with annual required training	SWIC	April 30 Annually Every 2 Years	On Target	SWIC is working on conducting radio reviews. TTX focused on county and public entities verified naming conventions and radio programming.	3.1
3.4 Identify the effectiveness and use of Regional Standard Operating Procedures (RSOPs) during exercises or real-world events, in compliance with the National Incident Management (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS)	COGs, Tribe	Ongoing	Off Target	All COGs and tribes conduct multi-agency exercise every two years, verified through FG report	3.1

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
3.5 Identify a Communications Unit single POC for each COG and Tribe; POCs will maintain the list of Communications Unit personnel.	COGs, Tribes, SWIC	Ongoing	Off Target	Data uploaded, maintained and verified through FG report.	3.3
3.6 Measure the usage of Team Awareness Kit (TAK) on multi-agency events	SWIC	Ongoing Annually	On Target	Annual report with number of agencies hosted and number of multi-agency events supported.	3.2
3.7 Measure the usage of Bridge4PS on multi-agency events	SWIC	Ongoing Annually	On Target	Implement into state exercise	3.2

Communications Coordination

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
4.1 Monitor and share industry and government advancements and best practices in communications during the annual TxICC Conference	SWIC, COGs, Tribes	Quarter Four (Q4) Calendar Year (CY) 2023, annually	On Target	At least one SWIC presentation or message to TxICC annually; RICCs share with local stakeholders	4.2
4.2 Regularly review and update local, tribal, and regional asset inventories in the CASM database-review relevancy and incentives	COGs, Tribes, SWIC	Ongoing	Off Target	Verified through FG reports	4.2

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
4.3 Coordinate with emergency alerts and warnings and Next Generation 9- 1-1 (NG9-1-1) organizations to provide updates and best practices to stakeholders	SWIC, Commission on State Emergency Communication, 9-1-1 Districts statewide, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	Ongoing	On Target	NG9-1-1 and Alerts & Warnings updates provided to stakeholders annually at minimum, generally at TxICC annual conference. SWIC Office, CSEC Executive Director and TDEM Alerts and Warning Unit Chief meet quarterly	4.2, 4.3
4.4 Update RSOPs as needed; distribute to all local, tribal, and mutual aid responder agencies in the region	COGs, Tribes	January, biannually	Off Target	Updated RSOPs uploaded to HSIN, verified through FG report	4.2
4.5 Share resources and best practices among federal, state, tribal, regional, and local entities that highlight interoperability improvements and cost savings	System Owners, SWIC	Every two years	On Target	Conduct annual TRUNK managers meetings	4.2

Technology and Infrastructure

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
5.1 Transition public safety voice radio systems to comply with Project 25 (P25) standards for statewide interoperability	COGs, Tribes, SWIC	Ongoing	Approaching Target	Verified through technology interoperability levels identified annually by counties and Tribes through the level of interoperability survey	5.2

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
5.2 Program all public safety and incident response subscriber radios with TSICP-designated interoperability channels and applicable interoperability talk groups	COGs, Tribes, system managers, state agencies	Ongoing	Approaching Target	Verified through FG reports	5.2
5.3 Verify public safety agencies have executed the TSICP MOU	COGs, Tribes, local entities, SWIC, state agencies	Ongoing, biannually	Off Target	Verified during grant process with SWIC approval, verified through FG reports	5.2
5.4 Enforce standards to regulate grant funding distribution	SWIC in collaboration with Office of the Governor	Ongoing	On Target	Verified during grant process with SWIC approval. 7/800 UHF/VHF adding all three bands and AES multi-key encryption for required grant-required radios. For TRUNK Radios: Phase 2 DMA, Time division multiple access, Multi-system Over the radio (OTAR) rekeying	5.3
5.5 Implement the Team Awareness Kit (TAK)	DPS, TDEM, state agencies, local entities	Ongoing	On Target	Used during training exercise/event, verified through FG reports	5.3
5.6 Evaluate and implement Bridge4Public Safety	DPS, TDEM, state agencies, local entities	2027	On Target	Used during training exercise/event, verified through FG reports	5.3
5.7 Establish a statewide standard for state or federally administered grant funding for emergency radio communications	TSICP Advisory Group	July 2026	Off Target	Establish a standard feature set from each manufacturer	5.2
5.8 Establish a standard SSID for Wi-Fi-enabled radio connectivity	TSICP Advisory Group	Dec 2026	Approaching Target		5.3

Cybersecurity

Initiatives	Owners	Date	Tactical/ Strategic	Metric	NECP Alignment
6.1 Promote a cybersecurity awareness month webinar series further.	DIR, UTSA Cyber Command	Ongoing	Approaching Target	Completion of webinar, can be in conjunction with TxICC Conference or CISA Cyber Awareness Month	6.1
6.2 Encourage agencies to conduct cybersecurity threat assessments, maturity assessments, or vulnerability assessments utilizing best practice guidance	SWIC, COG	Ongoing	On Target	Provide best practice documents via TxICC newsletters or presentations/webinars, verified through FG report	6.1
6.3 Actively share best practices, standards, and frameworks for cybersecurity from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and CISA on Bridge 4PS	SWIC	Ongoing, monthly uploads	On Target	Best practices and standards uploaded to platform, share Texas DPS Cyber Newsletter	6.2
6.4 Create a working group to use common cybersecurity collaboration platform Bridge 4PS	SWIC	2027	On Target	Create working group to use Bridge 4PS	6.3
6.5 Implement Bridge 4PS	SWIC	2027	On Target	Go-live of platform	6.3

APPENDIX B: Voice Radio Communications Interoperability Levels Across Texas

THE TEXAS STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY MATURITY MODEL

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model is based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. The model outlines the evolution from the lowest level to the highest level of communications interoperability. The map of Texas on page 22 highlights each county's 2025 interoperability level in the "Voice Technology" lane of the model. The information was obtained directly from the 24 COGs and three Federally Recognized Tribes in Texas through a survey submitted to TxDPS.

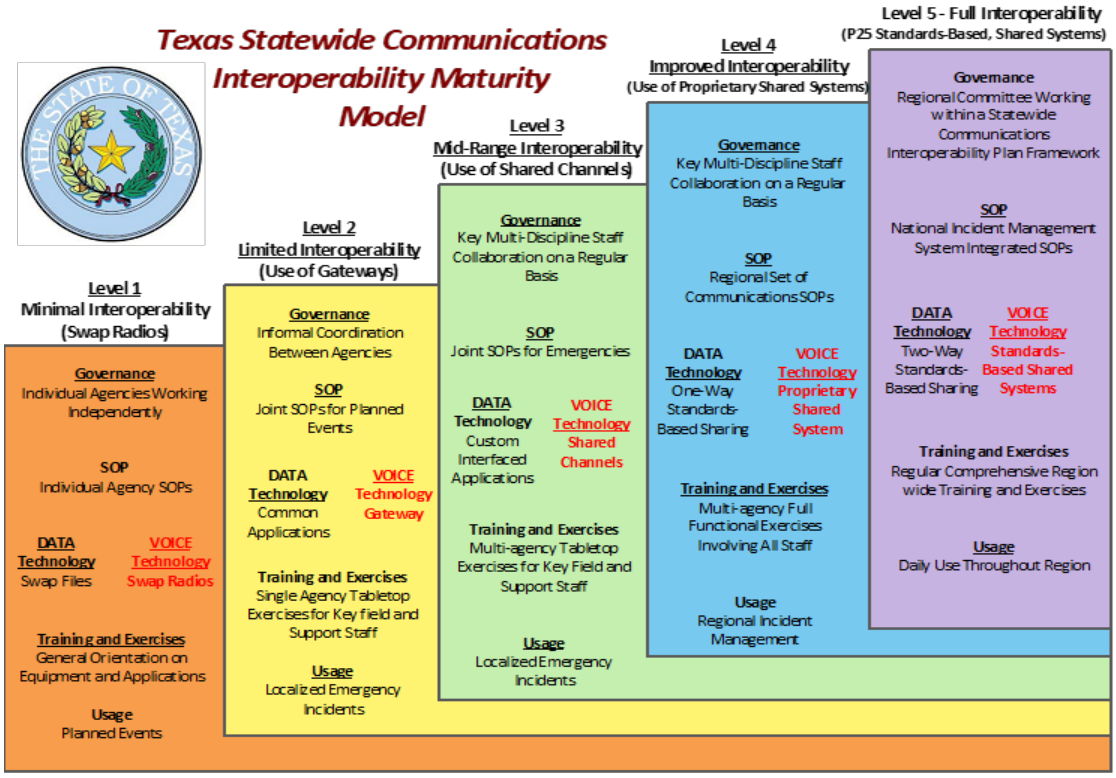
Level One = The lowest level of interoperability, accomplished by physically exchanging radios to communicate with other agencies (swap radios).

Level Two = Minimal interoperability, accomplished using gateway devices (electronically interconnecting two or more disparate radio systems through gateways).

Level Three = Mid-range interoperability using shared channels.

Level Four = Improved interoperability using shared proprietary system(s).

Level Five = The optimal level of full interoperability using P25 standards-based shared systems to communicate with other agencies.



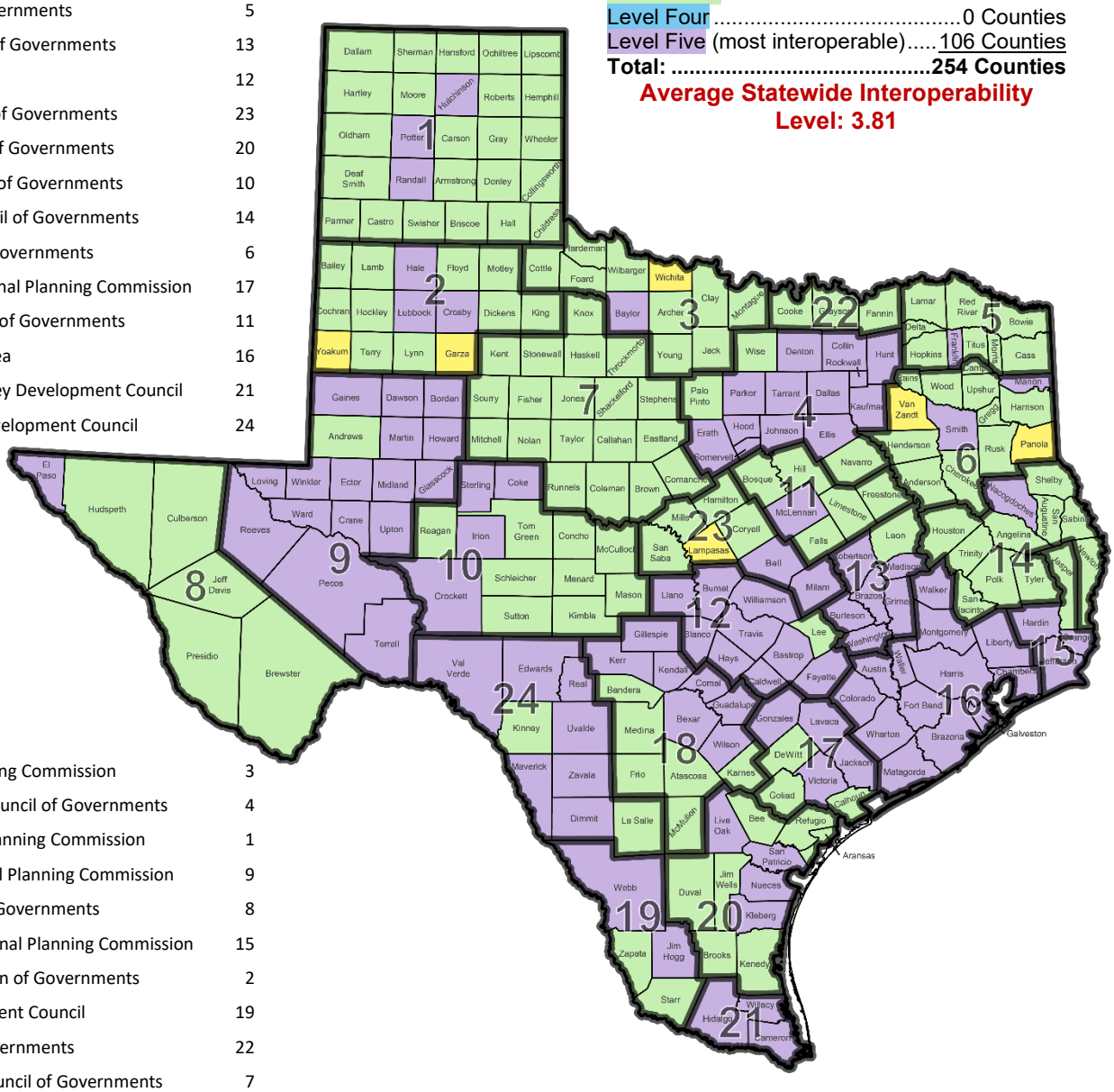
2025
Texas Statewide Voice Communications Interoperability
Color-Coded Map by COGs and Counties

Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Maturity Model Color Codes:

Level One (least interoperable).....0 County
Level Two.....6 Counties
Level Three.....142 Counties
Level Four.....0 Counties
Level Five (most interoperable).....106 Counties
Total: .....254 Counties

Average Statewide Interoperability Level: 3.81

COG Region Name	#
Alamo Area Council of Governments	18
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	5
Brazos Valley Council of Governments	13
Capital Area Council of	12
Central Texas Council of Governments	23
Coastal Bend Council of Governments	20
Concho Valley Council of Governments	10
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	14
East Texas Council of Governments	6
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission	17
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	11
Houston-Galveston Area	16
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	21
Middle Rio Grande Development Council	24
Nortex Regional Planning Commission	3
North Central Texas Council of Governments	4
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	1
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	9
Rio Grande Council of Governments	8
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	15
South Plains Association of Governments	2
South Texas Development Council	19
Texoma Council of Governments	22
West Central Texas Council of Governments	7



APPENDIX C: 2025 Focus Group Survey Results

The Focus Group Survey was available to COGs, Tribes, and State Agencies from January 2026 through April 2026 for reporting on activities accomplished in 2025. 22 of 24 Texas COGs and the Combined State Agencies completed the 2025 Focus Group Survey.

*Note: The results below reflect answers from Texas COGs only

Governance

- 90% of Texas COGs reported they have an active committee that meets to serve as the Regional Interoperable Communications Committee
- 14% of the committees meet monthly
- 32% of the committees meet quarterly
- 36% of the committees meet annually.
- 28% of Texas COGs have updated contact lists with the SWIC Office.
- 91% of Texas COGs reported having met with regional decision-makers or elected officials to promote interoperability and support sustainable funding for communications.

Planning and Procedures

- 86% of Texas COGs participated in a public event displaying communications equipment.
- 32% of COGs have updated or reviewed their RICP within the last five years.

Training, Exercises, and Evaluation

- 59% of COGs participate in regularly scheduled drills using interoperable communication.
- 77% of COGs reported participating in a multi-agency exercise.
- 82% of COGs reported participating in an exercise or event that employed mobile communications assets as part of the exercise.
- 59% of COGS reporting agencies use broadband applications daily.
- 50% of COGs have designated a Communications Unit point of contact.

Communications Coordination

- 59% of COGs reported updating their Regional SOP in the last three years.

Technology and Infrastructure

- COGs report that P-25 standards have been adopted for communications infrastructure and subscriber equipment.
    - 68% report that greater than 90% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.
    - 27% report that 50-90% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.
    - 5% report that 25%-50% of their agencies use P-25 equipment.

- COGs report that P-25 radios have been programmed in compliance with the TSICP.
    - 59% report that 90-100% of their agencies have programmed radios to the TSICP.
    - 32% report that 50-90% of their agencies have programmed radios to the TSICP.
    - 9% report that 25-50% of their agencies have programmed radios to the TSICP.

- COGs report that agencies are generally part of a Regional Radio System.
    - 59% report that their agencies are generally part of a Regional Radio System.

Cybersecurity

- COGs reported that agencies are increasingly conducting Cybersecurity Threat Assessments.
    - 27% report that 90-100% of their agencies have done assessments.
    - 50% report that 50-90% of their agencies have done assessments.
    - 14% report that 25-50% of their agencies have done assessments.
    - 9% report that less than 25% of their agencies have done assessments.

- COGs indicate that Land Mobile Radio, Broadband Applications, 9-1-1/CAD, Alerts and Warnings, and LTE Applications are technologies included in cybersecurity threat assessments.

- COGs report implementation of multi-factor authentication on broadband applications.
    - 28% report that 90-100% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
    - 50% report that 50-90% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
    - 18% report that 25-50% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.
    - 9% report that less than 25% of their agencies have enabled multi-factor authentication.

- COGs report agencies have developed Cybersecurity Incident Action Plans.
    - 19% report that 90-100% of their agencies have developed plans.
    - 27% report that 50-90% of their agencies have developed plans.
    - 27% report that 25-50% of their agencies have developed plans.
    - 27% report that less than 25% of their agencies have developed plans.

2025 Capability Gaps reported during the COG and Tribe Focus Group survey:

Funding remains the number one gap identified in the Focus Group survey.

- Most COGs report that agencies lack sufficient funds to purchase P25 infrastructure such as towers, repeaters, connectivity, and generators.
- Consistent funding is needed to purchase or replace multi-band P25 subscriber equipment for most agencies.
- Costs related to migrating an independent radio system to a regional system
- Coverage gaps indicated that additional tower sites are still needed in most COGs.

Cybersecurity

- Compared to last year's report, more improvement has been made. Many agencies are now conducting Cyber Threat Assessments and developing Cyber Incident Action Plans.

Training and Exercises

- Funding for regional exercises and training remains a critical need.
- Many COGs are asking for more training on end-user radio usage.

Regional Radio Systems

- Funding is required to join and operate most regional radio systems. Due to the monthly user costs, there is continued resistance to joining existing systems.
- Lack of funding to purchase multi-band and trunked-capable radios