



## ***Bridging Public Safety Communications Through A Single Statewide Interoperability App***

### **THE CASE FOR ONE STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY APP**

The South Dakota Statewide Interoperability Council recognized the need for a single, statewide interoperability app to mitigate fragmented app adoption. As first responders around the state are rapidly expanding the use of mobile technology for various operational requirements, the portfolio of apps in use across the state had grown to over 100 in less than 2 years. The Council understood that the infancy of the technology limits the ability for interoperability and information sharing across platforms.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security SAFECOM guidance in the Technology Interoperability Continuum for the use of common applications, the state conducted a formal evaluation to select a single, statewide interoperability app and selected Bridge4PS.

### **BRIDGE4PS USE CASES**

Bridge4PS has been utilized to enhance situational awareness and streamline information sharing during various operations across the State of South Dakota including the South Dakota State Fair, Sturgis Rally, POTUS July 4th Visit to Mt Rushmore, civil unrest, and various other daily operations.

#### **Project Objectives**

- Statewide app interoperability
- Support all public safety ops
- Network & device agnostic
- Scalable
- Affordable

#### **Highlights**

- Single, Nationwide Directory
- Private Channels
- Unlimited group members
- System Integrations

#### **Point of Contact**

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## KEY BENEFITS



The directory allows South Dakota to collaborate seamlessly across all users within the state as well as neighbouring states and around the nation. Private groups allow them to restrict information sharing to only authorized users per operation.

The state recognized the financial responsibility it must bear to facilitate adoption of a single statewide app. The availability of Bridge4PS Basic accounts offers both budget flexibility as adoption grows throughout the state as well flexible user onboarding during incident response.

## CHOOSING BRIDGE4PS

Bridge4PS is architected differently than most apps which create individual environments for each customer organization. This segmentation is important for use cases where agencies do not want to share information outside of their organization, but it limits multi-agency information sharing. Bridge4PS was selected for 4 primary reasons:

1. Inherent **interoperability** exists through a single, nationwide directory.
2. **Cost-effectiveness** of Basic (free) accounts for occasional users and Pro subscriptions for those needing enhanced functionality
3. Bridge4PS is **Scalable** to support adoption by all first responders in the State of South Dakota.
4. **Network & device agnostic** – Users can collaborate regardless of wired or wireless network or device type. Users in fixed posts can use it on a computer while field personnel can use it on Apple or Android devices across any cellular or other wireless network.



*"At this point in time, Bridge4PS is the only practical solution to provide the widest number of users in the state access."*

-- **Mike Waldner**

South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunication

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