LARRY HOGAN
Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

MICHAEL G. LEAHY
Acting Secretary

State of Maryland
Department of Information Technology

Department of Information Technology
Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget

TESTIMONY OF
Michael G. Leahy, Acting Secretary

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair
March 01, 2018

House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Chair
March 07, 2018

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am James Appel, Executive Financial Officer and I am joined by Norm Farley, Maryland FiRST Director. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide this testimony to the general assembly. I would also like to thank Patrick Frank, our DLS analyst, for all his hard work. The Department of Information Technology has one Capital project on which we are currently working and will be submitting several new projects in FY2020. Projects we are considering for FY2020 and beyond include consolidated, larger capacity data centers, the Rural Broadband initiative, and a statewide VoIP telephone system. I will yield the floor to Mr. Norm Farley to update the committee on the Maryland FiRST project.

1. DoIT should be prepared to brief the committee on the extent to which there are concerns about backhaul that need to be addressed, including potential costs.

The MD FiRST system provides redundancy in its design, minimizing the risk for a single point of failure. Historical documentation regarding backhaul assets, such as fiber pathways, wasn't always available during the design phases. Some historical documentation showed diverse pathways from a particular site, when the primary and redundant fiber runs through the same conduit for some distance. In the event of damage to that conduit a backhaul failure could occur resulting in system outages, dropped communications or isolated communications from the main system(s).

Several backhaul locations have been identified in which a need for additional hardening is required to maintain the desired level of redundancy. The Department will work with the Department of Budget and Management in the FY2020 budget cycle to address these items.

2. The Department should be prepared to brief the committees on why Ethernet technology was not used in regions 1 to 4 and what the expected cost of and Ethernet upgrade is.

At the time the MD FiRST RFP was developed (2006-2008), the State's requirement to the solicitors was the use of T-1s in the design as it supported the State's legacy microwave equipment (this is still true in many cases today). At this point in time, use of Ethernet technology in Land Mobile Radio design was still emerging. In July 2015, Motorola announced a decision the stop its existing support of T-1s in calendar year 2022. Design for Phase 4 was approved in April 2015 and equipment ordered/shipped prior to the Motorola announcement. Afterwards, a project decision was made to move forward with Ethernet in the Phase 5 design/implementation to reduce future transition costs for the State.

We are working with Motorola to get a more precise estimate and looking at competing out as much of the work as possible. The Motorola System Upgrade Assurance (SUA) agreement, which keeps the system current with software and associated hardware upgrades will be impacted if Ethernet conversion does not occur soon. The State is currently running on system software version 7.14. Version 7.17, expected to be released in 2019, is the last version that will support T-1s. The current upgrade plan is to receive version 7.17 during calendar year 2019, with

the next upgrade in calendar year 2021 (the Ethernet conversion will have to be completed prior to receiving this upgrade). The Department will work with the Department of Budget and Management in the FY2020 budget cycle to address these items.