

City of Fort Worth Broadband Antenna Tracking System

IT Solutions has added functionality to its Mobile Communications Center that will provide significant new capabilities to enhance public safety support for large events; provide more timely communication from City officials to residents; and, increase the effectiveness of the City's disaster recovery operations.

This week, IT Solutions successfully completed testing of a Broadband Antenna Tracking System (BATS). Acquired through a federal Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant, this system provides large bandwidth connections from non-City locations to the City network.

For example, with BATS, Fire and Police command vehicles working NASCAR races at Texas Motor Speedway will be able to connect to the City network, enabling public safety personnel to access all systems, databases and tools as if they were located at a permanent City site.

The Fort Worth Cable Television Office will be able to broadcast in high definition from remote locations, such as a Town Hall meeting held at a local school or other non-City site.

If a key City location experiences an extended network outage due to fiber cuts or other catastrophic incident, the Mobile Communications Center may be parked nearby to provide temporary connectivity via the BATS services.

The current BATS configuration provides general coverage over most of the City. Connectivity, however, is contingent on maintaining line of sight from the Mobile Center to one of two BATS terminals located on City radio towers at the North Beach and Rolling Hills sites.

ITS' Mobile Communications Center provides multiple public safety radio and network support functions. Through the use of its 70-foot mast and on-board generator, the Center can provide first responders with access to common mutual aid frequencies in addition to BATS. Wi-Fi capabilities will extend the range of access to services from nearby mobile command posts. And, the Center contains a workspace for technicians to repair or program radios on-scene as well as storage for spare parts, test equipment and replacement radios.

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