



U.S. Department  
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**Federal Transit  
Administration**

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**REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 2010-74**

Subject: **Urgent!** Change in Radio Systems or Lose Communication Capabilities and Licenses

Program Area: ITS

Date: October 18, 2010

The following information and training opportunities about the changes mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requiring two way radio systems in the very high frequency (VHF) and ultra high frequency (UHF) bands to narrow their transmissions by 2013. **This will require many transit agencies to replace their entire radio infrastructure and subscriber units. Agencies failing to make the transition may face license revocation and possible fines.** Yet, there is a tremendous amount of misinformation about what must be replaced to meet the new requirements.

For the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Narrowbanding outreach effort has become a very important task. We have worked with American Public Transportation Association (APTA), National Transit Institute (NTI) and various offices within FTA to spread the word out. Our latest effort with NTI was the development of materials for webinars and training classes.

NTI has scheduled **Narrowbanding courses** in:

Tampa, FL	November 8
San Francisco, CA	December 6
Los Angeles, CA	December 8

If you are interested in attending, please use the following link <https://www.ntionline.com/CourseInfo.asp?CourseNumber=TRI36TEST> and register online. The National Transit Institute (NTI) will be sponsoring this FREE course (\$150 for consultants and contractors). If, for whatever reason (other than 'Waiting List Only'), you are unable to register for this course online, download the Registration Form and fax the form to 732-932-1707.

Two **Narrowbanding webinars** on **October 19, 2010** and **November 4, 2010**. If you are interested in attending, please use the following link <https://www.ntionline.com/CourseInfo.asp?CourseNumber=TRI36> and register online. The National Transit Institute (NTI) will be sponsoring this FREE course (\$0 for consultants and contractors). If, for whatever reason (other than 'Waiting List Only'), you are unable to register for this course online, download the Registration Form and fax the form to 732-932-1707.

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These schedules are posted also on the FTA Homepage at <http://www.fta.dot.gov>, under 'Upcoming Events' in October through December. For the general information about Narrowbanding, please click the button 'Ready for Narrowbanding?' on the FTA homepage or go to the FCC link at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/technology/communication/radios/fcc-narrowbanding.htm>.

Key aspects of Narrowbanding from the website:

- Most current public safety radio systems use 25 kHz-wide channels.
- FCC has mandated that all non-Federal public safety licensees using 25 kHz radio systems migrate to narrowband 12.5 kHz channels by January 1, 2013.
- Agencies that do not meet the deadline face the loss of communication capabilities.
- Agencies need to start planning now to migrate to narrowband systems by assessing their current radio equipment and applying for new or modified licenses.

For further information, please contact Region 10's Annette Le at 206-220-4461 or by email at [annette.le@dot.gov](mailto:annette.le@dot.gov).

Sincerely,



R.F. Krochalis  
Regional Administrator

