

Subject: CAD to CAD
Related Department: PSCEM

FY 2025 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up

4/10/2024

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Garvey at the work session on March 21, 2024, regarding the following question:

Can the Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management share their understanding for the District of Columbia's (DC) reasons for not participating in the regional Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) to CAD shared dispatch program? How do we coordinate with DC?

CAD to CAD is part of the National Capital Regions' Data Exchange Hub (DEH), which utilizes information technology to improve the flow of information between emergency support personnel in the region. Through partnership between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) and participating National Capital Region counties and cities, the CAD to CAD program first began in 2010 to provide first responders the ability to share real-time information and data in a reliable, secure, and timely manner in order to save lives, preserve property, and ensure proper communication in every response. Since then, the program has expanded to include more data between emergency communication centers and first responder agencies.

Arlington County currently participates in the CAD to CAD program and has established a robust protocol to ensure the quickest possible response time. With the planned refreshment of Arlington's CAD system in FY 2025 and the implementation of additional call handling protocols, Arlington's response times and ability to work with partners in the CAD to CAD program will continue to improve.

The District of Columbia (DC) is performing integration testing with their own CAD system in order to participate in the CAD to CAD program. The District Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Arlington County Fire Departments are discussing a limited pilot program of automatic aid responses on the bridges. The CAD2CAD interface might be completed during the second half of 2024. If the pilot is successful, then some modest improvements in response times may be seen in the region, particularly in fire department responses along the borders of Arlington County and the District. Currently, Arlington and DC emergency communication centers manually exchange call data and coordinate mutual responses through telephone; however, this means of communication lacks the benefits of the CAD to CAD program noted above. DPSCEM and ACFD will continue to coordinate with DC to review the demonstrated benefits of the CAD to CAD and continue with operation coordination and interoperable data and communication flows.

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List of CAD to CAD Participants:

Virginia

- Virginia Emergency Management
- City of Alexandria
- Arlington County
- City of Fairfax
- Fairfax County
- Prince William County
- City of Falls Church
- Loudoun County
- City of Manassas
- City of Manassas Park

Maryland

- Town of Bladensburg
- City of Bowie
- Charles County
- City of College Park
- City of Frederick
- Frederick County
- City of Gaithersburg
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County
- City of Rockville
- City of Hyattsville
- City of Takoma Park
- City of Greenbelt
- City of Laurel