

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

March 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

City of Austin Permitting and Development Center  
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Rm 1202, Austin, TX 78752

Teams Videoconference link provided 72 hours prior to meeting on homepage of [www.gaatn.org](http://www.gaatn.org)

Remote audio-only option for public access: (512) 831-7858, Access Code: 693 847 298#

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order (Including a roll call):

GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The following announced as present at the roll call:

Paul Hodge, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)  
Mark Stavis, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)  
Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)  
Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR (remote)  
Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin (on site)  
Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)  
Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)  
Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)  
Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)  
Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)  
Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)  
Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

Members joining after roll call:

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College – joined at 1:32 p.m. (remote)  
Anthony Breckenridge, on behalf of City of Austin – joined at 1:32 p.m. (remote)

GAATN Contractors:

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)  
Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

### 2. Citizen Communications: There were no citizen communications.

### 3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of February 20, 2024

Dain Herbat moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### 4. Maintenance Contractor's Report

#### A. Maintenance report

Chris reported that, since the last meeting, the maintenance contractor completed inspections on B2S and C1N with 17 corrected deficiencies between the two rings. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

#### B. Inventory report.

Chris reported that, since the last meeting, the maintenance contractor used 1,436 feet of reel 647 on 3/2/24 for the SRN emergency repair at Hwy 290 and Cameron Road for suspected rodent damage.

## GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

### 5. Network Manager's Report

#### A. Project status report

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- SRS upgrade project segment 4 – scheduled to complete 3/21/24
- SRS upgrade project segment 6 – scheduled to complete 3/28/24
- A2N splice case audit – in progress from 4/1/24 through 6/30/24
- A1N upgrade project segment 2 phase 2 – scheduled to complete 4/4/24
- SRS upgrade project segment 5 – scheduled to complete 4/11/24
- C1N emergency repair 817 E. Braker – to be scheduled soon

#### B. Network incident report

Frank reported on the following network incidents since the last meeting:

- 3/2/24 – SRN emergency repair at Hwy 290 and Cameron. This was caused by a rodent at the riser, and multiple entities were affected. BryComm performed an emergency repair. A previously approved underground re-route will take care of the permanent repair. Jaime asked if there was a u-guard in place at the riser. Chris said there was a 2 inch u-guard in a 4-inch pipe; he said something may have crawled in between the u-guard and the pipe. Chris said they are going to start installing a bell housing that cover the 4-inch pipes and step down to the 2-inch u-guard so everything is covered 100%. Chris said it's hard to put up 4-inch u-guards because it takes up so much space on the pole, so they typically put a smaller u-guard on the pole even though it's a 4-inch pipe. Chris said going forward though for any projects, they will put the bell housing on to make sure everything is covered. Jaime asked if the installations of the bell housings will be tracked on the maintenance; Chris said no, it's not part of the ongoing maintenance unless they are directed to do so by network management. Frank said there are two options: 1) have an assessment done by BryComm to figure out how many are needed in the field and complete this as a separate maintenance project, or 2) have BryComm place these as needed during their routine inspections and track them on the inspection report. Frank said management will work with Chris to determine pricing and circle back to the Tech Committee on a recommendation.
- 2/20/24 – C1N emergency repair at 817 E. Braker. This was caused by a gunshot and only AISD was affected. As a very temporary fix, AISD's fibers were rolled over and the fiber was patched pending the election moratorium. A temporary repair will be scheduled in the very near future and a permanent repair will be assessed and brought to the Tech and Board for consideration.

#### C. Job budget report

Sarah reported that management is tracking 51 jobs totaling \$3.4 million. So far for FY24, 19 jobs have been completed and \$571k has been invoiced. There are 32 jobs pending with \$2.86 million encumbered. GAATN has received \$162k in damage claim and project reimbursements. The fund balance bottom line is \$703k.

### 6. Committee Chairperson's Update – discussion and possible action on:

#### A. Seeking recommendation for A1N Union at 24th St. relocation developer-funded GAATN project at no cost to GAATN

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the A1N Union at 24<sup>th</sup> Street relocation developer-funded GAATN project at no cost to GAATN; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY**

### **B. Austin ISD 2022 Bond Projects Impact to GAATN Super node Sites (Travis HS, Northeast ECHS, and Crockett HS)**

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, there was no further discussion held or action taken.

### **C. Backup NOCC Decommissioning**

Frank reported that an associate project manager that is assigned to the decommissioning of the Convention Center reached out to him regarding the location of fiber within a six-block radius. Frank said he made him aware of the decommissioning transport rings re-route design to ensure those pathways are not in conflict with the demolition and reconstruction. Jaime asked if he would be a contact to discuss reimbursement of make-ready costs. Frank said he informed him that GAATN has been working closely with the City of Austin (COA) regarding the decommissioning, but he did not discuss anything regarding requested in-kind contributions or concessions. Frank said he asked him to copy Rolando at the Convention Center on any correspondence since he is the point of contact for GAATN regarding the decommissioning. Frank said that the engineering and permitting for the decommissioning re-route of the four transport rings, as approved by the Board, is currently underway.

### **D. Backup NOCC Relocation and Subcommittee Update**

Frank reported that the COA Historic Landmark Commission will be reviewing the request for the new NOCC to be built at a historic Austin Fire Department site at its April 3 meeting. Frank said he will let all members know if that is approved and the next step will be for Syd to begin negotiations with the COA for a new ILA for the new Backup NOCC. Jaime asked if the item will be on the consent agenda or if it will be on the regular agenda; he wants to know if someone from GAATN should be available to attend to answer questions if needed. Frank said he is checking with the COA and hopes to have that answer by the end of the week.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 1:51 p.m., Chairman Jaime Guerra adjourned the GAATN Technical Subcommittee for executive session under Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.089 and 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law regarding Agenda Items 5A and 5B.

At 2:43 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session. Agenda Items 5A and 5B were the items discussed. Any additional discussion held or action taken in open session on items discussed in closed session are noted in the summary for that agenda item.

- 8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken):** An updated roll call was taken upon reconvening in open session and all members that announced as present at the initial roll call, plus the two members who joined after the initial roll call, announced as present at the updated roll call. A quorum was re-established.
- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as April 16, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at City of Austin Permitting and Development Center 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Room 1202, Austin, TX 78752 and via Microsoft Teams Videoconference.**  
The date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.