

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

March 11, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

LCRA Red Bud Center

3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Rm 225, Austin, TX 78703

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: 841 242 095#

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:**

GAATN Board Chairman Dain Herbat called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

The following announced as present at the start of the meeting:

Paul Hodge, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Mark Stavis, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College (remote)

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (on site)

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR (remote)

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)

Robert Saddler, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

Mike Lohrstorfer, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)

Syd Falk, GAATN attorney (on site)

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:

Matt Molina, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

Jeremy Cantu, on behalf of Austin Community College (remote)

GAATN Contractors:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

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

**3. Review and approve the minutes for the regular Board Meeting of February 4, 2025:**

Gary Weseman moved to approve the minutes as presented; Steve Pyle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**4. Board Chairperson Update (Approximately 45 minutes) – Discussion and possible action regarding:**

**A. Seeking approval to transfer \$1.1 million from GAATN fund balance to supplement FY25 Budget and Budget line-item adjustments**

Sarah said that this agenda item is seeking approval to transfer \$1.1 million from the GAATN fund balance to increase the MAC Fiber budget from \$168k to \$178k and the MAC Labor budget from \$950k to \$2.04M. She said the beginning of FY25 GAATN fund balance was \$2.237M. She noted that the GAATN Board previously approved transferring \$165k from the fund balance – \$100k for the make ready of the relocated Backup NOCC and \$65k for the architect designing the new Backup

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NOCC. She said that the remaining fund balance after the \$1.1M transfer will be \$972k; the transfer to the MAC budget is for anticipated MAC invoices to be billed before June 30. She noted that GAATN will recover about \$126k from billings associated with this transfer for TxDOT project reimbursements. She said that GAATN management typically requests a transfer to the GAATN MAC budget around this time every year because the MAC contractors are better able to estimate which jobs will be complete and invoiced by the end of the fiscal year. Gary asked if she anticipated any more transfers would be needed; Sarah said that management is awaiting the proposal for the buildout of the backup NOCC and hope to bring that to the April Board meeting. She said that proposal may necessitate another transfer to increase the City of Austin purchase order so the COA can pay the vendor. Dain Herbat moved to approve transferring \$1.1 million from the GAATN fund balance to supplement FY25 Budget and Budget line-item adjustments as presented; Jaime Guerra seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **B. Fiscal Manager Service Level Agreement with Austin ISD**

Syd reported that he provided Paul and AISD with the current draft of the City of Austin network management SLA to use as a template. He said that Paul has forwarded it to the legal contact for AISD and it will move to the next step once he's reviewed it and given his feedback. Paul said that the current legislative session is the priority for the AISD legal department, but they have the GAATN SLA in their queue and will review/redline and return to Paul when they have the chance. Dain asked about the compensation; Syd said that AISD estimated 1.5 FTEs and there is not yet a dollar amount. Syd said the estimate of 1.5 FTEs is not set in stone and GAATN will need to examine AISD's estimate once it's provided.

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

Frank reported that all GAATN ring fiber is out of the Convention Center. He said that the Board voted in December to allow AISD to remove GAATN equipment. Frank coordinated with Convention Center and AISD to have the equipment removed and staged, to be hauled off on March 3rd. AISD staged the equipment inside the Convention Center as discussed but was not able to have it hauled off on March 3rd. Frank and Paul have since worked with the Convention Center and due to event schedules taking place, the only remaining date to haul off the equipment is March 17th, as offered by the Convention Center Assistant Director. Frank said that if this date is missed, then he has been told there won't be another date available. Paul said that the 17th is AISD's spring break, and since the district has nixed all overtime due to budget cuts, he is having a hard time rounding up people who can assist with the equipment removal. However, he said that Eric from the Convention Center has said that they may be able to provide some manpower assistance and make some accommodations for AISD for the 17th. Frank said from a GAATN standpoint, GAATN is complete with the decommissioning. Dain asked about the consequences if AISD is unable to pick up the equipment on the 17th; Frank said he has confirmed that there are no consequences for GAATN as far as the Convention Center is concerned. Frank said, however, there may be consequences for GAATN to utilize the equipment at AISD in the future, if they are unable to get the equipment. Dain asked the other entities to reach out to Paul if they could help AISD with removing the equipment.

### **D. GAATN Backup NOCC Relocation**

Frank reported that network management, Jaime (who represents the appointed Backup NOCC Subcommittee), and COA representatives from building services and data center operations met with the CBRE on 2/27 for the 75%-page turn. He said that management has received the final design package and uploaded it to the GAATN SharePoint for all members to review and that he had sent an email out to Board & Tech Members in regard He said that CBRE has requested written approval to proceed with signing and sealing the permit package for submitting to the COA. Frank asked members to review and provide any feedback by the end of the week. Dain asked about next steps; Frank said that the goal is to move as quickly as possible because once the permit package is finalized, it will take about two weeks for the general contractor to come back with a proposal and

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management hopes they can have that proposal in time for the April 1 Board meeting. Jaime said that the Technical Subcommittee did a quick page turn at the February Tech meeting and he doesn't want to lose too much time, and he feels like the plans are in good shape because they have incorporated the NOCC Subcommittee and Tech/Board member feedback. He thinks the next Board approval should be for budget and the ILA. Jaime asked Frank to schedule a NOCC Subcommittee meeting by the end of this week to fully review the plans. Frank said he will set it for Friday to give all members time to review the plans. Jaime said if there are no significant changes, then he will give CBRE the notice to proceed by the end of the week, but if there are significant changes, then they will hold off on approval and bring it to the March 25 Technical Subcommittee meeting. Dain confirmed that the NOCC Subcommittee will review and give approval for the design if there are no significant changes requested before Friday, 3/14; the Board will review and approve the funding of the buildout once the quote is received from the general contractor. Jaime asked about updates on the temporary location. Frank reported that the cable coming from outside the facility is in place; he reminded members to let he or Carlos know if they need access to the temporary NOCC.

### **E. New GAATN Backup NOCC ILA agreement negotiation**

Syd said he had a call last week with the two COA attorneys who are working on the ILA and they all agreed that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) would be a suitable agreement mechanism for the temporary Backup NOCC location. He sent them a draft MOU earlier today and expects to hear back from them next week. Dain asked about the ILA for the permanent Backup NOCC; Syd said they are comfortable with the template of the previous ILA but that will take more work.

### **F. Seeking approval for proposed SRS cable re-route for AISD Travis High School construction at no cost to GAATN**

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181, 551.089, and 551.071. Upon reconvening in open session, no additional discussion was held, and no action was taken.

### **G. Property damage claim against Gordon Foods Services for damage to C1S at 12115 Menchaca on 10/25/24**

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181, 551.089, and 551.071. Upon reconvening in open session, no additional discussion was held, and no action was taken.

## **5. Network Manager's Update:**

### **A. Project status report**

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed jobs:

- A2N splice case audit – ongoing through 5/1/25
- A2N TLC Backup NOCC relocation – scheduled to complete 4/2/25
- SRS TLC Backup NOCC relocation – scheduled to complete 4/9/25
- A2N ACCD Backup NOCC decommissioning – completed 2/26/25
- SRN ACCD Backup NOCC decommissioning – completed 2/12/25
- B1S Emergency repair at Nuckols Xing & E. St. Elmo – completed 3/5/25
- B1S Emergency repair at 9038 Nuckols Xing – completed 3/3/25
- SRS Segment 5 upgrade contractor repair – completed 2/19/25
- AISD D1N Sims ES decommissioning – completed 2/13/25
- COA A2N TLC temporary decommissioning – completed 2/6/25
- Total FY25 Jobs tracked = 95; active/planning = 50; completed = 45

Dain asked about the remaining segments of SRS and when those would be brought for Board approval. Frank said that management can bring a rough order of magnitude for the remaining segments 7-12 as well as the secondary fiber route for the new backup NOCC. Frank said there are

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also several repairs that were put on hold pending the new backup NOCC which will need to be brought back as well as other permanent repairs for damages that have taken place recently. He said that management can bring those ROMs/proposals, and the Board can determine the priority of those projects/repairs.

### **B. Job budget report**

Sarah reported that management is tracking 48 budget-impacting jobs for FY25. So far for FY25, 19 jobs have been completed and \$1.14 million has been invoiced. There is \$2.48 million encumbered for the remaining 29 jobs. GAATN has received \$217k in recoveries for damage claims and project reimbursements which leaves the fund balance bottom line at \$1.245 million.

- 6. Executive Session:** At 2:25 p.m., Chairman Herbat adjourned the GAATN Board of Directors Meeting for closed session, under Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.071, 551.089 and 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to seek legal advice or to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law (including but not limited to pending, anticipated or contemplated litigation concerning) regarding Agenda Items 4F and 4G. At 3:11 p.m., Chairman Herbat reconvened the Board Meeting in open session. Additional discussion held or action taken on agenda items discussed in executive session is noted in the agenda item summary.
- 7. Update Roll Call (only if executive session called):**  
An updated roll call was held upon reconvening in open session and all members that announced as present at the opening roll call re-confirmed their presence at the updated roll call. Additionally, Jeremy Cantu with ACC confirmed his presence.
- 8. Discussion and possible action regarding the financial report and current fiscal year budget issues**  
Sarah reviewed the monthly financial report provided by AISD for the month ending January 31, 2025. She asked members to review and send her any questions.
- 9. Meeting and Action Items Summary:**  
Frank reviewed the action items taken from this meeting:
  - Schedule Backup NOCC subcommittee meeting for Friday, 3/14 for final review of NOCC design
  - Tech agenda item – adding span heights to maintenance inspection scope
  - Tech agenda item – ROM for SRS Segments 7-12 and TLC Backup NOCC secondary fiber route as well as delayed and new permanent repairs (this may need to be brought to the April tech meeting)
- 10. Confirm date, time, and location for the next regular Board meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at LCRA Red Bud Center 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Room 225, Austin, TX 78703, and via Microsoft Teams Videoconference.**  
The date, time, and location for the next Board meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.