

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

October 3, 2023 1:30 p.m.

LCRA Dalchau Service Center

3505 Montopolis Drive, Building A, Room A502, Austin, TX 78744

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: 972 200 656#

**MINUTES**

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

GAATN Board Chairman Dain Herbat called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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

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

Leslye Conoley, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

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

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

Mike Lohrstorfer, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Robert Saddler, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

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

Anthony Breckenridge, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

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

Syd Falk, GAATN attorney (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.

GAATN Contractors/Members of the public:

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

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

**2. Citizen Communications:**

Leslye introduced Mark Stavis as the new IT Corporate Manager for City of Austin CTM Network Infrastructure and Operations Group. She noted that there would soon be new Board members appointed for the City of Austin.

**3. Review and Approve the minutes for the regular Board Meeting of September 5, 2023**

Gary Weseman moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Leslye Conoley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

**A. Notification of Election Blackout Dates requested by Travis County from October 18 to November 18, 2023**

Frank notified the Board that Travis County requested elective project and maintenance blackout dates from October 18 to November 18 for the election. He said that only emergency repairs should be performed during this window. Frank noted that any projects previously scheduled for these dates will be moved out.

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### **B. Seeking approval for GAATN 2024 Board and Technical Subcommittee Meeting Dates**

Sarah reviewed the handout with the proposed 2024 meeting dates. All dates are on Tuesdays and all meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the exception of the February and August Board meetings, which will begin at 1 p.m. for the SLA evaluations. Gary Weseman moved to approve the proposed 2024 GAATN meeting dates as presented; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **C. Notification of GAATN Network Management SLA final renewal year ending August 31, 2024**

Frank reported that the final renewal year for the network management SLA began on September 1 and ends on August 31. He said the COA Board Member will meet with COA/CTM Finance to determine the costs for the 2024 – 2029 SLA. This cost will be brought to either the November or December Board meeting and included in the FY2025 Proposed GAATN Budget. He noted that the SLA does require both GAATN and Austin City Council approval.

### **D. Austin ISD 2022 Bond Impact to GAATN Super node sites and request to appoint related subcommittee**

Frank said the management team has not yet received an invitation from the AISD architect. He asked if AISD had any updates. Mike said AISD wants to do a walkthrough of the Backup NOCC to get ideas for the new Travis High School site. Frank asked Mike to reach out to him and Carlos to schedule the walkthrough.

### **E. Seeking approval for engineering, design, trenching, and fiber costs for the A1N, A2N, SRS, and SRN decommissioning projects at the GAATN Backup NOCC at a cost of \$242k to be funded by the FY24 GAATN MAC budget**

Frank stated that In April of 2023, GAATN received a memo from the City of Austin Convention Center Department which provided notification of the pending closure of the Austin Convention Center and that they anticipate closure of the facility in the spring of 2025 with demolition of the facility taking place soon thereafter. He said since then, GAATN Network Management has worked closely with the GAATN Chairs and City of Austin Management including the Austin Convention Center while making recommendations and presenting associated costs to the GAATN Board and Technical Subcommittee with continued recommendations that the decommissioning of the Backup NOCC within the Austin Convention Center take place as soon as possible, since the Management Team anticipates the entire decommissioning to take approximately 12 to 18 months to complete. He noted that, at the 9/19/23 Tech meeting, the Tech Committee recommended for approval the engineering and design for the decommissioning of the transport rings around the Convention Center. He said that management is also including the A2N permitting and excavation as well as the fiber costs for all four rings due to time constraints. All of these priority costs total \$242k and will be funded from the FY24 MAC budget. The current fund balance bottom line is \$1.34 million. If these costs are approved, the fund balance bottom line will be \$1.1 million. Frank then reviewed the estimated cost that have been proposed for the total decommissioning of the Convention Center as well as a rough estimate of costs to relocate the NOCC to Fire Station 4 (FS4). Sarah then reviewed a financial forecast for FY24 – FY29 and the projected impact that the NOCC will have on GAATN's finances. Steve asked about the cost of running electrical to FS4. Frank said that cost would be determined by AE if GAATN receives approval to build the NOCC there. Gary and Steve expressed concern that the overall cost of the relocation will be higher than estimated. Frank noted that the decommissioning and the relocation are two separate projects that must be viewed and considered separately. He noted that management brought an estimated total cost due to Steve's request at the September tech meeting, but the agenda item for consideration today is funding of part of the decommissioning. Frank said that the decommissioning will have to occur regardless of what happens with the relocation and that management highly recommends that the Board approve what is requested today so that management can begin the decommissioning process. Jaime Guerra moved to approve the engineering, design, excavation, and fiber costs for the A1N, A2N, SRS, and

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SRN decommissioning projects at the GAATN Backup NOCC at a cost of \$242k to be funded by the FY24 GAATN MAC budget; Dain Herbat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **F. GAATN Backup NOCC relocation and associated agreement**

Frank reported that, as of the September 5 Board meeting, the Board approved for GAATN to officially pursue Fire Station 4 as the new location for the Backup NOCC. He said a formal request letter, signed by Dain, was sent to the Fire Department on September 20. If GAATN receives approval from COA to place a building on the Fire Station 4 property, then GAATN legal will begin working with the COA attorney to draft an ILA using the current ILA as a template. Dain asked Leslye if there was any update since the request for Fire Station 4 was sent to the City of Austin Fire Department. Leslye said the appropriate people are aware and engaged, but she doesn't have any further update.

### **G. Property damage claim against Wright Tree Services for damage to C1S at 405 Eberhart Lane on 6/27/23**

Sarah reported that the total cost of damages for the emergency and permanent repairs is \$133,600.60. Management met with Wright Tree on 8/29 to review the permanent repair proposal. She said Wright paid the claim in full on 9/1, and sent GAATN a copy of the check. AISD has not yet received the check, but once they do, this claim will be fully resolved. This will be the final update on this item.

### **H. Property damage claim for underground damage at B1N Hwy 183 and Technology Blvd on 8/1/23**

Sarah reported that the total cost for the temporary repair was \$19,978.66. Management requested proof of the locates from USIC. USIC's investigation found that USIC was at fault and they opened up a claim for GAATN. USIC has stated that, per the agreement, they will pay for the restoration only, and they had some questions about the repair, which management answered. She said management is awaiting the final claim determination from USIC and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

### **I. Property damage claim against JD Abrams/Lone Star Paving for damage to C1N at IH-35 and Rutherford on 9/20/21**

Syd said this suit is likely to start depositions in the near future and he will reach out to the appropriate people when the time comes.

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

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

Frank reviewed the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- A1N upgrade project Segment 1 – scheduled to complete 10/17
- A1N upgrade project Segment 11 – will be rescheduled from 11/2 due to election blackout
- SRS upgrade project Segment 1 – will be rescheduled from 11/16 due to election blackout
- C2S emergency repair at Escarpment, damage from unknown vehicle – completed 10/2
- A1N upgrade project Segment 8 – completed 9/28
- A1N upgrade project Segment 2 phase 1 – completed 9/21
- B1N temporary relocation Hwy 183 and Technology – completed 9/14
- A1N Damage at 4301 Speedway Drive #2, contractor error – completed 9/11
- A1N upgrade project Segment 10 – completed 9/7
- Travis County A2N Star Flight @ Dell node decommissioning – scheduled to complete 10/11
- COA A2N Town Lake Center node replacement – completed 9/28

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

Sarah reported that management is tracking 35 jobs totaling \$2.79 million. For FY24, 3 jobs have been completed and \$163k has been invoiced. The fund balance bottom line is \$1.34 million.

### **C. Notification of Preliminary FY2025 GAATN Site List**

Sarah noted that the Preliminary FY2025 GAATN Site List is now available on the GAATN SharePoint.

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The changes for next year's site list are listed below the document. She will send an email to all members with instructions for making any changes to the site list. She noted that this will be brought to the November Tech and December Board meetings for approval.

**D. AISD 24RFP005 for GAATN Underground Locate Service issued October 3**

Sarah reported that the RFP for GAATN Underground Locate Services was issued by AISD on October 3 and will close on October 31. She said that notifications were sent to five vendors and also asked members to send any suggested vendors to her as well. She said a recommendation will be brought to the November Tech and December Board meetings for consideration of award.

**6. Executive Session:** There was no executive session.

**7. Update Roll Call (only if executive session called):** Since there was no executive session, an updated roll call was not taken.

**8. Discussion and possible action regarding the financial report and current fiscal year budget issues. (AISD, 10 minutes):**

**A. Financial Report**

Sarah reviewed the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2023. GAATN's ending fund balance, including the \$2.1 million emergency set aside, was \$3.8 million. She asked members to review the report and send her any questions they may have.

**9. Meeting and Action Items Summary:**

- April eclipse work scheduling

**10. Confirm date, time, and location for the next regular Board meeting on November 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at LCRA Dalchau Service Center 3505 Montopolis Drive, Building A, Room A502, Austin, TX 78744 and via Video Conference on Microsoft Teams.**

The date, time, and location for the next regular Board meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.