

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

January 25, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

LCRA Service Center at 3505 Montopolis, Austin, Texas 78744

Building A, Room A502/503

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: 286 509 933#

## MINUTES

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

GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

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

Ruben Reyes, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

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

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

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

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Frank Ammons, 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 1:45 p.m. (remote)

GAATN Contractors/Members of the public:

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 December 14, 2021

Steve Pyle moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Ruben Reyes 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 of C1N and C1S with 13 corrected deficiencies between the two rings; he said there was nothing out of the ordinary to report on the inspections.

#### B. Inventory report

Chris reported that, since the last meeting, on January 6, 2022, the maintenance contractor used 391 feet of reel 704 for the C1N emergency repair at 1202 E. St. Johns; the damage was caused by a gunshot on New Year's. Jaime asked if the orders were placed for the two reels of fiber that were previously approved by the Board; Chris said they were ordered the day they were approved by the Board, but the lead time is about 50 weeks. Jaime asked if there were any concerns for other materials; Chris said currently they have a good stock on those items, but they have seen short lead times, such as four weeks, on some materials. Jaime asked Chris and network management to keep an eye on those items to determine if GAATN should keep a stock on hand.

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### **5. Network Manager's Report**

#### **A. GAATN Backup NOCC status update**

Frank reported that the door access badge is scheduled to be placed this week. The camera is in transit and he expects it will be installed by the time the final ring is activated the first week of February. Frank said he expects all rings will be activated and the room will be fully operational by February 3. He said the gateway for the remote access for the generator has been worked out and everything is going very well and on track. Jaime asked if there an option for a key override in the event the card reader fails. Frank said it was written into the ILA that facility security staff keep a master key on hand in the event of card reader failure or emergency.

#### **B. Project status report**

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- SRS Activation into GAATN Backup NOCC –completed 1/19
- SRN Activation into GAATN Backup NOCC – scheduled to complete 1/26
- A2N Activation into GAATN Backup NOCC – scheduled to complete 2/2
- C1N Temporary repair at 1202 E. St. Johns Ave gunshot – completed 1/6
- A1N/A2N Travis County Civil/Family Court new nodes – completed 1/24
- A1N UT Colorado Apartments new node – Jaime said Brycomm should be placing the cable and will be reaching out to network management to schedule the splice.

#### **C. Network status report**

Frank noted that the only item to report on was the damage that took place on January 1 when a network cable at 1202 E. St. Johns was damaged by a gunshot.

#### **D. Job budget report**

Frank reported that management is tracking 35 jobs totaling \$1.6 million. So far, 11 jobs have been completed. For FY22, 13 jobs totaling \$736k have been approved.

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

#### **A. Backup NOCC maintenance agreement subcommittee update**

Frank said that the subcommittee had a meeting with the City of Austin Data Center Operations (DCO) subject matter expert on January 24. He said the meeting was productive and the subcommittee reviewed proposals with varying service levels from multiple COA vendors. Management and DCO took some action items from the meeting that they are working on; a follow up meeting will take place early February. Frank noted that this agreement was requested by the City of Austin outside of the ILA for the backup NOCC, since GAATN is responsible for paying for maintenance for the backup NOCC per the ILA. Frank said that the agreement needs to be in place by July to make sure they are covered before the manufacturer warranty ends.

#### **B. Transport ring upgrade timeline & make ready discussion**

Frank said this agenda item was requested by a Board member. He noted that, as discussed in multiple previous meetings, working with Austin Energy (AE) to get projects completed in a timely manner has proved a challenge. Frank said he met with AE to discuss GAATN's priority of upgrading the transport rings to see if anything could be done to expedite those upgrades. The main topic that came out of that meeting was regarding electrical make ready (EMR) and how it could be expedited. AE said they have six approved contractors for EMR, and if GAATN could contract directly with one of those vendors, that would expedite the process for GAATN's projects. Frank said this would be a challenge for GAATN to take this on directly with the limited in house resources, so he asked AE if GAATN's contractors could sub the EMR work out but they said no. Frank recommended that management work with Syd to review the ILA and see what options GAATN has with regards to the EMR. Frank said that the AE approval process can take up to 3 months but once it is approved, the EMR can take approximately 5 months; he said it's the 5 months lead time that GAATN could expedite

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by hiring its own AE approved EMR contractor. Frank said that tracking the pole applications and approvals/denials/EMR is basically a full time job. Ruben asked if management had another resource dedicated to coordinating this work if that would ease the administrative burden; Frank said it would be very helpful. Ruben asked how many projects are being held up in this process, Frank said all A1N segments that have not been completed are still being held up at some point in the AE process as are several permanent repairs. He noted this would be the same situation for most of the segments for the remaining transport rings. Frank suggested that if the Board desired to complete these upgrades in five years and were to approve another resource for the management team to manage these projects and applications with AE, that it be a temporary employee or a contractor that could be renewed annually until the upgrade projects are completed. Jaime said he thinks the Board should first authorize and fund the upgrade of SRS and then look at ways to complete the other rings in parallel. Dain said he supports Franks recommendation for more resources, both for the management team and for the EMR. Frank said management plans to bring costs/proposals for SRS in March and will work with GAATN legal in the meantime to figure out what can be done with regards to contracting for EMR work.

### **C. Seeking recommendation for C1N permanent repair at 1202 East St. Johns Avenue**

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Code 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the C1N permanent repair at 1202 East St. Johns Avenue; John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 2:16 p.m., Jaime Guerra adjourned the GAATN Technical Subcommittee for closed session under Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.089 and 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law Agenda Item 6C.

At 2:29 p.m. Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session for discussion and actions, if any, on matters considered in closed session. Any action taken or further discussion held on agenda items discussed in executive session is noted in the summary for that agenda item.

- 8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken):** All members present at the initial roll call were present at the updated roll call; Gary Weseman joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m. and was present for the updated roll call.
- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as February 22, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at LCRA Service Center 3505 Montopolis, Bldg A, Room A502/503 Austin, Texas and via Microsoft Teams Videoconference.**

The date, time and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.