GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING HELD January 26, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858 Conference ID: 842 723 60#

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 start of the meeting:
   Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin
   Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County
   Ruben Reyes, on behalf of City of Austin
   Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin
   Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN
   Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN
   Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College
   Mace Royston, on behalf of LCRA
   Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County
   John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD
   Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR
   A quorum was established at roll call.
   Members of the public:
   Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications
   Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm

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

3. **Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of December 15, 2020**
   Gary Weseman 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 the maintenance contractor completed inspections B1S and B2S on with 27 corrected deficiencies between the two rings. Chris noted that the number of pole transfers had increased since their last inspection in August.
   B. **Inventory report**
      Chris noted that they used 628 feet of 192-count fiber from reel 709 for the SRN emergency repair at Cameron Road and 52nd Street. Jaime asked if the conduit had been repaired in the emergency repair; Chris said no, they had to take a different route.

5. **Network Manager's Report**
   A. **GAATN Backup NOCC Status Update**
      Frank reported that a preconstruction meeting was held earlier today with Spawglass and City of Austin. The building permit has been approved and the notice to proceed is being issued. The key personnel for each group was identified. A new updated schedule will be issued soon and Frank will send it out once received. Frank also said that construction scheduling would be more flexible since there are no event planned at the site. He said all parties will meet every other week beginning mid-

February, and he and Carlos will be in those meeting; he asked if members would like to join those meetings, to please email him and he will forward the invites. John asked for an estimated completion date; Frank said it is estimated to be August of this year.

B. **Project status report**

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- A2N re-route Sabine between 4th and 6th – scheduled to complete 2/17
- A1N upgrade project segment 12 – completed 1/6
- SRN emergency repair Cameron Road & 52nd – completed 1/6 – Frank noted this damage occurred due to an underground contractor boring into GAATN conduit despite the fact that GAATN was properly located. Frank noted that management is awaiting the proposal for the permanent repair and will issue a demand letter to the responsible party once the proposal is received. Management will bring the permanent repair to the Tech/Board for approval. He said this damage was caused by a contractor doing underground work for another CLEC. Frank said there is a temporary solution in place that will need to get fixed as soon as possible.

C. **Job budget report**

Frank reported that, since the last meeting, the Emergency repair on SRN at Cameron Rd was added. Management is tracking 33 jobs totaling $1.7 million with an expected recovery of $277k. If all of the jobs are completed in FY21, we will be overbudget by about $112k. Management will continue to monitor the status of these jobs, and if necessary, will seek another fund balance transfer closer to the end of the fiscal year. Jaime asked if the Board should be approving FY22 projects at this point. Frank said that management will be bringing up the issue that fiber prices and lead times are expected to increase starting in June. Dain said perhaps the Board should consider approving other projects now using the fund balance and then reimbursing the fund balance with FY22 MAC funds. Frank said the Board might want to consider purchasing fiber for SRS segments as soon as possible.

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

A. **GAATN replacement value calculation for emergency set aside**

Frank reviewed the updated estimated valuation for the at-risk portion of the network as presented by network management. According to the updated estimation, the at-risk portion of the network is valued at 17.5 million. Gary asked if the anticipated increase in fiber is included in this calculation; Frank said it is not and he can add that and bring it to the next Board or Tech meeting. Dain said he would like to review the policy before voting to increase the emergency set aside and that can be done at the Board meeting, and then the Board can review the updated valuation.

B. **GAATN dark fiber testing**

Frank noted that this document was sent to members earlier in the week for review. Frank reviewed the dark fiber testing recommendation document and the estimated costs associated with each option. Frank said that the current GAATN standards call for both OTDR and OLTS testing of all dark fiber every year to be performed consecutively. He noted that if GAATN does not change that standard, he expects the cost of that level of testing to be approximately $100k per year. Dain expressed concern about lowering GAATN's current standards. Gary and Ruben noted that testing is preventative maintenance and beneficial to GAATN's network and entities. Frank said, hearing all the members comments and concerns, his recommendation is to go with OLTS testing of all network dark fiber in year one and ODTR testing of all network dark fiber in year two, which is estimated to cost $25k per year. Frank noted that, if GAATN adopts this recommendation, it would remain part of the maintenance contract, rather than a separate RFP. Jaime Guerra recommended for Board approval option 2A which is testing all dark fiber on entire network using OTDR in year one and OLTS in year two; Ruben Reyes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

    C. **Seeking recommendation for A2N-SRS-LVL3-COA 425 West Riverside Drive developer-driven project at no cost to GAATN**
This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181 for protected infrastructure design review. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the A2N-SRS-LVL3-COA 425 West Riverside Drive developer-driven project at no cost to GAATN; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. **Executive Session:** At 2:48 p.m., Jaime Guerra announced that the GAATN Technical Subcommittee was Adjourning for closed session, under Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.089 and 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law (including but not limited to pending, anticipated or contemplated litigation concerning) Agenda Item 6C.

At 3:01 p.m., the GAATN Technical Subcommittee reconvened in open session. Agenda Item 6C was the only item discussed.

8. **Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as February 23, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via teleconference.**
The date, time and location for the next Technical Subcommittee were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

01.26.2021 GAATN Technical Subcommittee Minutes   Page 3 of 3