

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

February 21, 2023 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

Remote audio-only option for public access: (512) 831-7858, Access Code: 966 307 47#

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:

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

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

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

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

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

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

Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Paul Hodge, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

GAATN Contractors:

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 January 24, 2023

Gary Weseman moved to approve the 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 A1N and A2N with 15 corrected deficiencies between the two rings. Jaime asked about the impact of the winter storm on the inspections, Chris said there was a lot of tree clean up but the only issue was the cable down on D1N.

B. Inventory report

Chris reported that, since the last meeting, a repair was performed on 1/21/23 on SRN/D1N at Airport Blvd & Manor Rd, which used 1,390 feet of R647. He also said that 648 feet of the City of Austin reel was used on 1/21/23 for the COA repair at Morris Williams Golf Course tie repair at Airport Blvd and Manor Rd. Jaime asked about current fiber lead times; Chris said he recently reached out and the lead time for Corning is currently 6-10 weeks for 192-count fiber.

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5. Network Manager's Report

A. Project status report

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- B2S MET2/MET3 288 spur replacement phase 2 – scheduled to complete 2/23/23
- SRN/D1N emergency repair at Airport and Manor – completed 1/21/23
- B2S MET2/MET3 288 spur replacement phase 1 – completed 2/7/23
- A1N segment 7 upgrade – Frank said installation should be starting this week because all permits have been approved.
- A1N segment 8 – AE make ready portion is completed and the vendor is getting the ROW and COA permits and this one should be completed after segment 7.

B. Network status report

Frank reported on the following network outages/damages that occurred since the previous meeting:

- 2/22/23 - SRN/A2N damage affecting only DIR strands at Trinity and 17th St. Carlos showed some video footage that may suggest that this was caused by underground work being performed in the area.

C. Job budget report

Frank reported that management is tracking 44 jobs totaling \$3.4 million. Since the last meeting, the pole replacements for San Antonio street, that are being reviewed today, were added and are highlighted in yellow. So far for FY23, 7 jobs have been completed and \$250k has been invoiced for MAC work, leaving \$3.2 million encumbered.

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

A. GAATN Existing Unallocated Fiber Allocation Policy (EUFAP) pricing review

Frank noted that this was reviewed at the last Tech meeting, and from that meeting, it was requested that management send out the method of calculation for the current installation pricing. Frank said management sent that out via email to members and it is also part of the handouts. Carlos reviewed the method of calculation based on today's installation prices and noted that this pricing was more appropriate for future new members rather than current members who already paid to have the original infrastructure installed. Jaime said the EUFAP is a policy for current GAATN members and there is nothing to compel it to extend this cost to a new member requesting to join GAATN. He also said that increasing the cost for current members threefold would make it cost prohibitive. He said GAATN is best served in some situations with less allocated fiber and more members paying into the collective. Dain said he thinks it's in GAATN's best interest to have an agreed upon formula for non-GAATN members to join GAATN. Frank said he thinks there could be two policies, the EUFAP policy for current members, and a policy for new members to join GAATN. He thinks there should be an equitable approach to a policy for new members. Frank said currently there is an entity asking for pricing to join GAATN and management needs the Board to provide guidance on how that should be calculated. Leslye asked if a new member joining must be approved by the Board; Frank said it must be a unanimous approval. Dain said it would also require an amendment to the GAATN interlocal agreement and approval from all entity's governing bodies. Gary recommended coming up with a base entry fee to join GAATN with the understanding that the entity joining will need to also purchase fiber from another GAATN entity if on the transport rings or GAATN unallocated fiber if on the subrings. Frank recommended that an agenda item for a new member to join GAATN be on the next Board meeting so Syd can speak to it. Dain asked that an agenda item be added to the next Board meeting to form a subcommittee to come up with a policy and formula. Jaime said that he does not believe any further action needs to be taken on the current EUFAP and that it should remain as is with the old pricing; Dain agreed that the current EUFAP should be left in place.

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B. Seeking recommendation for placement of eight new GAATN poles on San Antonio street

Frank reported that management has met with AE and ROW regarding the eight contiguous stub poles on San Antonio that are slated to be removed by AE at some point in the future. He said that GAATN has proposed replacing those eight poles with its own GAATN poles to reduce the risk to the network. Frank said the plan is to place the new poles in close proximity to the current ones and then he will ask the maintenance contractor to detach GAATN fiber only from the AE poles and reattach to the new GAATN poles. Frank said when AE notifies the other comms on the current AE stub poles of their removal, if those comms choose, then they can form pole attachment agreements with GAATN at that time and attach to the new GAATN poles. Jaime asked if GAATN will be able to get the top attachment on the new poles; Frank said yes possibly but it will be subject to what's going on in field when the poles are placed. Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the placement of eight new GAATN poles on San Antonio Street; Leslye Conoley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. **Executive Session:** There was no executive session.
8. **Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken):** Since there was no executive session, there was no updated roll call.
9. **Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as March 21, 2023 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 meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.