

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

February 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

City of Austin Permitting and Development Center

6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Rm 1208, 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: 953 304 037#

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:

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 (remote)

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

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

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

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

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Sarah Eichelberger, 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 28, 2025

Dain Herbat moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Gary Weseman 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 D1N and SRN with nine corrected deficiencies between the two rings. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

B. Inventory report

Chris said there have been no changes to this report since the last meeting.

5. Network Manager's Report

A. Project status report

Carlos reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- A2N ACCD Backup NOCC Decommissioning – scheduled to complete 2/26
- A2N Splice Case Audit – ongoing through 2/28
- SRN ACCD Backup NOCC Decommissioning – completed 2/12

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- SRS ACCD Backup NOCC Decommissioning – completed 2/5
- A1N ACCD Backup NOCC Decommissioning – completed 1/29
- SRS Segment 5 contractor warranty repair – completed 2/19
- B1N Emergency repair of brittle fiber at case B1N18 – completed 1/23
- AISD D1N Sims Elementary node decommissioning – completed 2/13
- COA A2N Town Lake Center temporary node decommissioning – completed 2/6
- FY25 Total Jobs = 93; Active/planning = 51, completed = 42

Jaime said that one of UT's node cables at the Pickle Campus was damaged due to attempted copper theft. Paul said that one of AISD's node cables on C1N at Blanton was damaged due to attempted copper theft. He asked if these entity node damages were tracked by management; Carlos said management does not track those, because GAATN is not responsible for those. Jaime asked if those types of entity node incidents should be tracked; Gary said it would be helpful to track them on the monthly incident report. Jaime asked management to discuss and consider adding those kinds of entity incidents to the report.

Carlos said that it would also be helpful for the Tech Committee to discuss entity node cables and how to address deficiencies on node cables found by Austin Energy (AE) since GAATN doesn't maintain those entity node cables. He said that AE has identified many deficiencies, and it is believed that a good percentage of those deficiencies are on GAATN entity node cables. He said that BryComm may have to go out and correct these deficiencies as special projects, because AE said they will start holding up GAATN project applications if they are not corrected. Gary asked if the entities receive or have access to the reports of these deficiencies; Carlos said they come through the NJUNS ticket system. Carlos said this is a new directive from AE and management and BryComm are trying to determine where these deficiencies are and come up with a plan for how to address them. Carlos said that the entity node cable maintenance might have to come under the umbrella of the GAATN maintenance contract to address this going forward. Dain said that would be a very big change because GAATN has always operated with the node cables being the responsibility of each entity. He said that it would be a major contract shift and require significant funding; he said GAATN should think very carefully before accepting responsibility for entity's node cables. Steve said that if an entity has a lot of deficiencies, then they could have a big budget impact; he wanted to know how GAATN can get ahead of that to give entities as much notice as possible to plan for it from a budgetary perspective. Paul said he is all for AISD network services receiving those notifications of node cable deficiencies because he has a budget set aside for node cable maintenance and repairs. Jaime requested an agenda item at the next Tech meeting to discuss the deficiencies on entity node cables.

B. Network incident report

Carlos said there have been no changes to this report since the last meeting.

C. Network incidents requested report

Sarah presented an analysis of network incident trends since FY22. Since FY22, GAATN has had 55 network incidents with the highest number of incidents (21) occurring in FY24. So far FY25 has had 13 network incidents. The rings that see the highest number of incidents are C1N, C1S, and B2S. The top two causes of damage are vehicle-related and attempted copper theft (due to the misidentification of fiber optic cable as copper cable). Cumulatively, GAATN has spent \$107k on emergency repairs for attempted copper theft and \$146k on vehicle-related incidents since FY22. Jaime requested that this report be updated and presented annually at the Tech meeting.

D. Job budget report

Sarah reported that management is tracking 47 budget-impacting jobs. So far for FY25, 17 jobs are complete and \$908k has been invoiced. \$2.7 million remains encumbered for 30 pending jobs.

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GAATN has received \$217k in project reimbursements and damage claim recoveries. The fund balance bottom line is \$1.275 million. Jaime requested that management bring rough order of magnitude costs for the secondary fiber route to the next Tech meeting.

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

A. Backup NOCC Decommissioning

Carlos reported that, as of tomorrow, GAATN rings will be 100% vacated from the Austin Convention Center. Carlos said the old cables will be wrecked out on March 17. Jaime asked if the equipment had been removed; Paul said that they have a target date in the next couple of weeks to pick up the equipment. Jaime said that next month, this standing agenda item should fall off; Dain agreed that it would apply to the Board meeting standing agenda item as well.

B. Backup NOCC Relocation

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

7. Executive Session: At 2:03 p.m., Chairman 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 regarding Agenda Item 6B.

At 2:27 p.m., Chairman Guerra reconvened the meeting in open session. Agenda Item 6B was the only item discussed. Any additional discussion held, or action taken on agenda items discussed in executive session will be noted in the summary for that agenda item.

8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken):

An updated roll call was taken and all members that announced as present at the opening roll call re-confirmed their presence in the updated roll call. A quorum was re-confirmed.

9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as March 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at City of Austin Permitting and Development Center 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Room 1208, Austin, TX 78752 and via Microsoft Teams Videoconference.

The date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.