

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

March 22, 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

Remote audio-only option for public access: (512) 831-7858, Access Code: 567 252 292#

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:

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

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

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

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

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Mace Royston, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

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

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

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

Wayne Wedemeyer, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)

Arriving after roll call:

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote) – joined at 1:50 p.m.

2. Citizen Communications: There were no citizen communications.

3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of February 22, 2022

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

4. Maintenance Contractor's Report

A. Maintenance report

Chris reported that, since the previous meeting, the maintenance contractor completed inspections on SRN and SRS; 17 deficiencies were corrected between the two rings. There was nothing out of the ordinary to note.

B. Inventory report

Chris reported that, since the previous meeting, there were a couple of changes to the inventory report. For City of Austin's stock, on February 12, they used 1,020 feet for the B1N repair at Fire Station 39. For GAATN's stock, on March 17, they used 2,678 feet of reel 709 for the C2S repair at FM620 and Mansfield Dam.

5. Network Manager's Report

A. Project status report

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Carlos reported on the following completed projects:

- C2S emergency permanent repair at FM620 and Mansfield Dam, this damage occurred on March 14 and management was made aware by Travis County on March 16. It appears there was a truck that struck a pole and took it down which affected service at a Travis County Sheriff's Office. This only affected Travis County. An emergency permanent repair was performed on March 17 and there will be no further repairs. Carlos said there is an accident report and management will look into filing a claim on the responsible party's insurance company. Jaime asked if Austin Energy and other providers were down; Carlos said no, he thinks GAATN was the only one on that pole and that was a GAATN pole that was replaced.
- C2S/B1N Travis County Balcones Wildlife Preserve new node – completed 2/24
- A1N UT Colorado Apartments new node – completed 3/1

B. Network status report

Carlos noted that the only new item on this report is the C2S emergency permanent repair at FM620 and Mansfield Dam which was discussed in detail in the last agenda item.

C. Job budget report

Carlos reported that management is tracking 39 jobs totaling \$1.66 million. Of those, 16 have been completed and \$602k invoiced. \$1 million is encumbered for 23 pending projects. So far in FY22, GAATN has recovered \$208k.

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

A. Power incident at the GAATN Backup NOCC

Carlos reported that a few weeks ago, there was a power outage at the facility which houses the new GAATN backup NOCC. The incident took out power to the backup NOCC and caused the generator to engage. Carlos said management did not know at the time the cause of the power outage or why the generator continued to run after the power was restored. The outage lasted 40 minutes but the generator ran for three hours, which was two hours after the power was restored. Yesterday, Carlos had a site visit with the electricians and facility personnel. An issue was found with the fuse switch that feeds the NOCC; there are some extra safety features on that switch which may have prevented it from functioning as expected. Carlos said they are addressing this in two ways. First, if GAATN's ATS engages in the future, an email will automatically be sent to facility personnel who will then notify the on-call electrician. Second, facility personnel are looking into bypassing the safety features on the switch. Carlos said this was not a failure of the GAATN equipment and it performed to specifications; there was no outage at the NOCC due to the backup generator. Jaime asked why the electrical engineers did not catch this; Carlos said they did not realize those additional safety features were on the switch. Carlos reiterated that this will not cost GAATN anything and the NOCC facility will cover any cost to remedy this issue. Jaime asked what the City of Austin Data Center Operations group thinks about the proposed plan; Carlos said that DCO proposed the first part of the solution (email notification) and they have no issue with the second part of the solution (bypassing safety features). Carlos said this issue should be resolved in the next couple of months, but there is no danger to the NOCC in the meantime. Steve asked if someone looked at the fuel level; Carlos said it is on a feed so there is no tank and no issue with fuel levels. Carlos said that this agenda item will be reviewed at the next Tech meeting again.

B. Subcommittee recommendation for GAATN Backup NOCC maintenance

Carlos reviewed a handout showing the proposed NOCC maintenance service level, which was recommended by the Backup NOCC Maintenance Subcommittee. The estimated annual cost is approximately \$18k. The estimated annual utilities are \$6k. This is well below the approved FY23 budget line item of \$55k for NOCC maintenance and utilities. Carlos said management is seeking recommendation for Board approval so an agreement can be drafted between GAATN and the COA

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for maintenance. Ruben asked if there would be any additional maintenance that is needed for the NOCC; Carlos said no, this is all that is needed, but that he recommended GAATN eventually consider an escrow account for replacement of certain large ticket items like UPSes/batteries/etc. Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the annual GAATN Backup NOCC maintenance proposed service level for an estimated annual cost of \$18k; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Seeking recommendation for GAATN A1N Relocation at 715 S. Exposition Blvd (H-E-B) developer-funded project

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the GAATN A1N relocation at 715 S. Exposition Blvd (H-E-B) developer-funded project at no cost to GAATN; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Seeking recommendation for SRS upgrade projects

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Carlos said that the estimated cost of SRS upgrades including terminations at Travis and Crockett High Schools total \$1.35 million, which includes \$165k of cable. The cost of the cable may go up on April 4, which could add an additional \$45k to the cable cost. Management has represented the cost of SRS to be divided among three fiscal years 23, 24 and 25. As represented in the budget meeting in December and also today, completing SRS in three years will require the GAATN budget to be increased by at least \$300k beginning in FY24 and going forward. Gary said the Board could look at stretching the project out over more years to keep the budget lower going forward. Gary moved to recommend for Board approval the buildout of SRS at 192-count fiber based on project plans presented by network management; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 1:58 p.m., Jaime Guerra adjourned the GAATN Technical Subcommittee for closed session, under Tex. Gov't Code section 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) regarding Agenda Items 6C and 6D.

At 2:21 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session. Agenda Items 6C and 6D were the only items discussed. Any further discussion held or action taken on items discussed in executive session will be noted in the summary for that agenda item.

- 8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session:** An updated roll call was taken and all members that were present at the initial roll call announced as present at the updated roll call with the exception of Mace Royston. A quorum was re-established at the updated roll call.
- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as April 19, 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 2:27 p.m.