

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

March 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.

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)

Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

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)

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

GAATN Contractor:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

2. Citizen Communications: There were no citizen communications.

3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of February 25, 2025

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 SRS and A1N; there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Jaime asked what the totals in the "Crossing Heights" column represent; Chris said they represent the number of crossing heights measured on that ring per inspection, with the total at the bottom representing the total number of crossing heights measured for each ring in a given fiscal year. Since each ring is inspected at least twice per year, the crossing heights are measured at least twice per year.

B. Inventory report

Chris reported that 1,800 feet of reel 706 192-count fiber was used for the emergency repair due to conduit and fiber damage at Travis High School on 3/8/25.

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

5. Network Manager's Report

A. Project status report

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- A2N Splice case audits – ongoing through 5/1/25
- A2N TLC Backup NOCC relocation – scheduled to complete 4/2/25
- SRS TLC Backup NOCC relocation – scheduled to complete 4/9/25
- C1N Emergency repair 11107 Plains Trail gunshot – completed 3/13/25
- SRS Emergency repair at Travis High School – completed 3/8/25
- B1S Emergency repair Nuckols Xing/E. St. Elmo – completed 3/5/25
- B1S Emergency repair 9038 Nuckols Xing – completed 3/3/25
- Total FY25 jobs tracked = 97; Active/planning = 49; Completed = 48

B. Network incident report

Frank reported the following network incidents since the last meeting:

- 3/13/25 C1N 11107 Plains Trail – a gunshot damaged ring cable but only affected COA strands. BryComm performed an emergency repair. Management will file a police report per GAATN policy. The permanent repair for this span will be covered by the C1N Permanent Repair. This span has been hit three times by gunfire in the past few years.
- 3/8/25 SRS 1211 E. Oltorf Travis HS – contractor damaged GAATN conduit and cable. The root cause was a failure to fully locate the GAATN cable on the Travis High property. BryComm performed an emergency repair on 3/8/25.

C. Job budget report

Sarah reported that management is tracking 49 budget-impacting jobs totaling \$3.67 million. So far for FY25, 21 of those jobs have been completed and \$1.17 million has been invoiced. \$2.4 million is encumbered for the remaining 28 jobs. The fund balance bottom line is \$1.2 million. Gary asked about the invoicing for the Backup NOCC Decommissioning; Sarah said management is still awaiting some billing but that they should be able to unencumber about \$30k once the final billing has been received.

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

A. Austin Energy NJUNS tickets for entity node & tie cables

Frank reported that Carlos was in a meeting with Austin Energy (AE) on the morning of the last Technical Subcommittee meeting on 2/25/25. At that meeting, AE informed him of a backlog of NJUNS tickets that needed to be addressed in the system. At the last Tech meeting, Carlos informed the GAATN Tech members of his concern with the NJUNS backlog and that many of those are actually entity node cables. Frank said that, since 2/25/25, management has been in regular meetings with the GAATN maintenance contractor to review and account for GAATN's participation within the NJUNS system, as well as analyze and categorize the backlogged tickets into GAATN ring or entity node/tie cables. Frank noted that the plan going forward is for the GAATN maintenance contractor to monitor the system as well as update and clear tickets. If a ticket is related to entity-specific infrastructure that requires action, then the maintenance contractor will notify the GAATN entity while copying network management with the goal being engagement with the entity for a plan of action and allowing network management to monitor and collect data. Frank said the current backlog is over 700 tickets and that management is working with the maintenance contractor to verify these tickets and determine whether they have already been completed and updating the tickets as completed if applicable. Frank noted that all comms update the NJUNS system and that this backlog is not only GAATN, but AE has reached out to all comms to address their NJUNS backlogs. Frank said management and the maintenance vendor believe that a fair number of these have already been completed, they just were not updated in the system. He wants entities to be aware that they may be receiving notification from BryComm regarding any pending NJUNS tickets where action is

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

required that are related to their entity-specific infrastructure. Frank said that management will continue to meet weekly with the maintenance vendor until the NJUNS backlog is resolved. Steve asked if the tickets are listed as entity-specific; Frank said they are all listed as GAATN, and Carlos is reviewing those to determine which ones are entity node cables. Jaime asked about cables that are over-lashed to ring cable and whether those would be covered under the maintenance contract since they are on the same span; Frank said that was correct. Jaime asked if the backlog tickets are primarily entity cable; Frank said they're a mix of ring and entity cables. Jaime asked about the estimated cost range for the NJUNS tickets; Frank said that the maintenance contractor would have to determine that on a case-by-case basis. Jaime said that he would be in favor of a future state where the GAATN maintenance contractor is responsible for entity node cables in right-of-way that are subject to these NJUNS tickets; he would like to see a cost estimate for the increased scope to the maintenance contract. Frank said he wasn't sure how that would work because, for example, the City of Austin has over 50 miles of node/tie cables and how that might impact the inspections for the GAATN ring cable as well as the fairness of how much each entity pays.

B. GAATN inspections regarding aerial infrastructure span heights

Frank said that this item was requested during the last Board meeting, because of an incident where GAATN ring cable was struck by a truck in the driveway of a business. GAATN legal suggested that GAATN look at expanding the cable height inspection beyond just road crossings. Frank said that driveway heights are difficult because a measurement can be taken one week and then a car can hit a pole three poles down and causes the span to sag over the driveway. Frank said that any new projects that add driveways now come through the Austin Utility Location Coordination Committee, and those new projects require comms to raise up to a minimum of 15'6" over driveways. However, there were lots of projects with driveways added that didn't come through the AULCC and therefore comms may be below the new 15'6" requirement. Frank said that GAATN would have to weigh many times GAATN has been hit over driveways and how much that cost versus how much it would cost to measure every driveway as part of the maintenance contract. Dain said this comes down to a cost analysis of aerial incidents versus span height. Gary said this span looks like it had been sagging for quite some time, and although he understands that they won't catch everything, a span sagging this much should have been caught. Frank said that this has been addressed with the maintenance contractor and there is a column on the maintenance report for sagging spans. Jaime asked for clarification about what heights maintenance contractor measures on routine inspections; Frank said only road crossings; they don't currently measure heights over driveways or at mid-spans. Jaime said he would like to see if there are any solutions that could improve outcomes without adding any cost to the maintenance contract. For instance, instead of doing every street, maybe do the street closest to the middle where the sag would be the lowest. He said he would defer to management but he is wondering if there is an adjustment that could be made to provide better data in terms of at-risk plant without adding any costs or the need for additional resources. Frank said that management will look into that.

C. Backup NOCC Relocation

Frank reported that, on Friday, March 7, the design architect sent out the 100% design set and requested written approval to proceed. Frank noted management placed it on the GAATN SharePoint on March 10 and sent an email requesting that members review it. At the March 11 Board Meeting, the Board elected to defer approval of the design to the NOCC Subcommittee. The NOCC Subcommittee met on March 14 to do a final review and Jaime provided final comments to CBRE following that meeting. He said that CBRE has indicated that they are working on incorporating those comments. Jaime said that the comments were minor with the biggest comment being that the design showed more power than requested. Frank said that CBRE said that an estimate from the general contractor should be forthcoming by the end of this month. Frank said that Syd is also very

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

close to a final draft for the temporary NOCC. Dain asked about the progress of pulling the fiber to that site; Frank said that A2N and SRS are ready to splice. He said that right-of-way permits are still pending on the other two rings, but he is working with the COA to expedite those permits.

D. Seeking recommendation for Board approval of COA new node at 2400 Grove Blvd. entity-specific project at no cost to GAATN

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Code 418.181 and 551.089. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the COA new node at 2400 Grove Blvd. entity-specific project at no cost to GAATN; Gary Weseman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 2:33 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 6D. At 2:55 p.m., Chairman Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session. Any additional discussion held, or action taken on agenda items discussed in executive session are noted in the agenda item summary.
- 8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken):** An updated roll call was taken, and all members were re-confirmed as present; a quorum was re-confirmed.
- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as April 15, 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 2:57 p.m.