

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN SPECIAL-CALLED TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING HELD April 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858 Conference ID: 231 465 53#

### 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.

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin

Bruce Hermes, on behalf of City of Austin

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Mace Royston, on behalf of LCRA

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin

A quorum was established at roll call.

GAATN Contractors:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications

Kyle Gerher, on behalf of BryComm

Cory Brymer, on behalf of BryComm

#### 2. Citizen Communications: There was no citizen communications.

#### 3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of February 18, 2020

Dain Herbat moved to approve the draft minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of February 18, 2020; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 4. Maintenance Contractor's Report:

##### A. Maintenance updates

Carlos reported that, since the last meeting, the maintenance contractor completed inspections on B2S and C1N with 21 corrected deficiencies.

##### B. Material Inventory status

Carlos reported the only change was that reel 707 is now marked as allocated for the C1S TxDOT relocation at FM162 project. Frank notified the Technical Subcommittee that BryComm has ordered a reel of 192-count fiber to replace reel 707 in emergency stock.

#### 5. Network Manager's Update:

##### A. GAATN Backup NOCC project update

Frank noted that he sent out a revised project schedule and solicitation format to members view email and asked that they review those items. He reviewed the three main questions that the Board had for COA Public Works after the March 24 Board meeting:

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1. *Can GAATN add language requiring bidders to call out equipment part numbers and manufacturers?* Frank said section 11 will call the following items out in the criteria: cabinets/racks, UPS, generator, mechanical cooling system, and ATS. He asked members to let him know ASAP if any other equipment/materials should be added to that section. Jaime said GAATN needs to look at the high dollar items that require regular maintenance.
2. *Can the solicitation utilize a best-value approach instead of lowest bidder?* COA can accommodate this by revising the process to a competitive sealed proposal. This approach allows GAATN more flexibility but will delay the construction start date by at least two months (to start in October instead of August).
3. *What role will GAATN have in the evaluation and approval process?* GAATN can have two members on the evaluation subcommittee (there must be at least two COA employees on the panel). Jaime asked if network management could participate on the panel; Frank said is waiting on an answer to that question. Bruce said he thinks he and management could participate on the panel as COA employees as well as representatives of GAATN. Frank said that a supervisor and subordinate cannot participate on the panel together.

### **B. GAATN Project Status report**

Frank reviewed the following upcoming/completed projects:

- A1N upgrade projects – management anticipates approval for Austin Energy (AE) permits in two weeks with completion possible by June 30. Frank said he thinks completion is possible by June 30, but the fiber may just be placed by then and splicing may have to happen after June 30. Management has been awaiting permit approvals for this project since last year.
- B1N TxDOT relocation project at 620 and 2222 – splice date set for 4/27
- D1N permanent repair at Webberville Rd – COA is holding up permits because they have to remove solar panels before GAATN can complete the project.
- SRN permanent repair at Camino La Costa and IH35 – there is an AE pole that is bent, and so GAATN cannot attach to it. Management is waiting for AE to replace the steel pole so that GAATN can get the required height.
- Jaime asked Chris about the UT C2S Johnson Wildflower Center project that will require a crossing on Mopac. Chris said the crossing needs to be rescheduled, but the cable is being placed and they should be able to pull into the JWC in the next couple of weeks.
- Jaime asked Chris about the UT tie cable replacement from the fire behind 7-11 at MLK. Chris said that is scheduled to be placed on Tuesday, and then the cutover and splicing will be scheduled with UT. Jaime said they are flexible to the availability of BryComm’s resources.

### **C. Job Budget Tracking report**

Sarah reported that, since the last meeting, the C1S TxDOT FM1626 project was added. Management is currently tracking 16 budget-affecting jobs totaling \$679k, leaving \$58k for additional jobs.

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

### **A. GAATN fiber continuity testing**

Frank said the testing paused on March 27 due to COVID-19 and it was not deemed essential by GAATN. Once they can start back up again, they estimate it will take 60 days to complete, as they still need to test LCRA, Travis County and AISD. He said this project is unprecedented for GAATN, and GAATN changed its Technical Guidelines to bi-directional OTDR testing instead of continuity testing. The increased testing calls for more skilled resources, and this has been BryComm’s struggle with this project. Frank said BryComm began this project on January 15, 2019 and expected it to take six months, but it has taken much longer, due to lack of access to facilities, logistics of the testing itself, and lack of resources with the advanced technical knowledge of the GAATN network. Management has started to closely monitor BryComm on this project and will have BryComm start producing

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monthly reports about the testing for the Technical Subcommittee as part of their agenda item. Dain asked what was called out in the contract for this service; Frank said this service is not part of the maintenance contract, BryComm gave GAATN a proposal for this work. Frank said he thinks GAATN should look at making this a bi-annual maintenance project, because of the amount of work that is involved. John asked if the contractor has corrected their deficiencies that has prevented them from completing the project; Cory Brymer from BryComm said they did underestimate the amount of hours this would require, and there were logistical challenges they did not foresee. He said another issue is mobilizing enough employees with the advanced technical expertise to perform this testing on a live network. Cory said they have worked aggressively to hire more employees with advanced skillsets, but it is a process to bring them on and train them on the topology of GAATN. Cory said they are working to correct those issues, but it is not something they will be able to do overnight, but they will be transparent about their ability to complete the project. John asked Cory if 60 days is realistic for them to complete the project; Cory said that once they are able to restart, they believe that is enough time to complete notwithstanding something unforeseen such as a large amount of emergency repairs. Gary said he would like to work with BryComm to incorporate this project into the maintenance contract; Cory said he would be glad to work with GAATN on that.

### **B. ACC A1N KLRU Connection Project entity funded**

This agenda item was discussed in executive session for design review under Texas Government Code 481.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Gary Weseman moved to recommend for Board approval the ACC new site at A1N UT's Walter Webb Hall (KLRU); John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Gary Weseman moved to recommend for Board approval GAATN funding the replacement of the current node cable in UT's Walter Webb Hall with a 96-strand armored cable; John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **C. AISD C1N new node at Co-location Data Center entity funded**

This agenda item was discussed in executive session for design review under Texas Government Code 481.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the AISD C1N new node at co-location data center at no cost to GAATN; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 2:15 p.m., Chairman Jaime Guerra adjourned the GAATN Technical Subcommittee for closed session under Tex. Gov't Code section 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law for Agenda Items 6B and 6C.

At 2:32 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session for discussion and actions, if any, on matters considered in closed session. Agenda Items 6B and 6C were the only items discussed. Upon reconvening in open session, another roll call was taken and all members were noted as present except Bruce Hermes, City of Austin and Mace Royston, LCRA. A quorum was re-established upon reconvening in open session.

- 8. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as April 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the LCRA Service Center, 3505 Montopolis Blvd., Room A502/503, Austin, TX or via teleconference if necessary.**

Dain announced that there would be a special-called Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on April 21, 2020 and then the regularly scheduled Technical Subcommittee meeting would follow. Both of these meetings will be held via teleconference. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.