

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

April 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. or if Special-Called Board Meeting is not concluded at 2:00 p.m., the Technical Subcommittee Meeting will begin upon completion of the Special-Called Board Meeting
Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858 Conference ID: 458 112 569 #

MINUTES

1. Call to Order (Including a roll call)

GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

The following announced as present at the start of the meeting.

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR

Bruce Hermes, on behalf of City of Austin

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Wayne Wedemeyer, on behalf of UT-Austin

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin

A quorum was established at roll call.

GAATN Contractors:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm

Joining the meeting after roll call:

Mace Royston on behalf of LCRA, joined at 2:38 p.m.

2. Citizen Communications

There were no citizen communications.

3. Review and approve minutes from the special Technical Subcommittee meeting of April 7, 2020

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

4. Maintenance Contractor's Update

A. Maintenance report

Chris Gonzales reported that since the last meeting, the contractor has completed inspections of C1S with 10 corrected deficiencies.

B. Inventory report

Chris Gonzales reported that there has been no changes in inventory.

5. Network Manager's Update

A. GAATN Project Status report

Frank reported no changes to the project status report since the last meeting. He anticipates several permits for active projects will be approved in time for an update at the next technical subcommittee meeting.

B. Job Budget Tracking report

Frank reported there are 16 budget-affecting projects approved totaling \$697k, or 92% of the FY2020 MAC budget, leaving \$58k for additional projects.

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

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

A. Seeking recommendation for GAATN C1S splice case project

Frank informed the board that there is a request to perform reel-to-reel splices on C1S. Carlos added that last year Travis County purchased 12 strands on C1S, and these repairs are required to give them connectivity. These strands are cut at the entrance to the case, so all fibers in C1S will be impacted during the repair. Jaime asked how the network management team knows only the cases indicated in the scope of work are the ones affected. Carlos answered that it is due to a splice case audit. Carlos did note that it is a possibility to find one or two additional affected cases, but it is unlikely. Frank said he first noticed existing unused tubes cut short when he first joined GAATN and he informed all vendors to stop the practice of cutting tubes short at that time. Jaime asked if GAATN's current technical guidelines explicitly prohibit the practice. Frank said he will double check. Gary Weseman moved to recommend to the board to fund the correction of four splice cases on C1S to restore connectivity throughout the ring on the strands that were cut short for \$17,654. Bruce Hermes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Seeking recommendation for splice case audits for B1S and B2S

Per Frank Ammons, there are two proposals for splice case audits for B1S and B2S to be completed in the next fiscal year. Ideally, B1S would take priority so the work can be completed in time as to not disrupt DIR during the upcoming legislative session. This work is the second phase of completing splice case audits for all the rings. Bruce asked for clarification on the purpose of splice case audits besides natural degradation and wear. Frank answered that splice case audits are standard practice within the industry and that previously in the field, a significant amount of data was misidentified. Now all the cases are mapped with GPS coordinates. In addition, over time the type of splicing has changed. Bruce said that in that regard, splice case audits could be considered preventative maintenance and Frank agreed. Jaime asked if the splice cases on B1S and B2S have been audited before. Frank said yes, the last audit was six years ago, and before beginning the first splice audits years ago and after multiple discussions, the Technical Subcommittee recommended a six-year audit interval between rings. Bruce asked why this work is considered an audit if the location of the strands do not change. Jamie added that the poor splice connections would have been already identified in the previous audit. John asked if the work across all the rings is being divided over time. Frank said it was. John asked for the splice case audit schedule be shared with the subcommittee. Jaime suggested the work be deferred if resources are limited. Dain said that the first round of audits was successful and expressed his favor for the work as long as resources are available. Gary said that the board saw a need for the audits in the past and if there is no reason to repeat it periodically, then GAATN needs to change the policy. If GAATN does see a need to continue audits, then adjusting the timeframe on a permanent basis, or cancelling it altogether would be a preferred practice than delaying the audits. Jamie suggested continuing the conversation at the next technical subcommittee meeting.

C. Seeking recommendation for A1N Upgrade Segments 5-13

Frank informed the board that prints and a cost analysis have been provided to them. With the tech committee's approval, the Network Manager would request proposals from GAATN vendors. Jaime added that due to existing familiarity with the project from the design session, executive session to review plans is not necessary. Dain Herbat moved to recommend to the board to begin the A1N upgrade of segments 5-13. Mace seconded the motion. Bruce asked if this was an armored upgrade and Frank confirmed it will be armored per the GAATN Technical Guidelines. Dain added that SRN,

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

SRS, A1N and A2N are the only outstanding partially unarmored rings. Frank Ammons led a roll call vote and it passed unanimously.

7. **Executive Session** (if an executive session is necessary, Technical Subcommittee members and other authorized participants will use a different teleconference line not accessible to the general public; once the executive session is concluded, the meeting will resume on the Teleconference number given above): **Adjourn for closed session, under one or more of Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076 and/or one or more of sections 418.175 - 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to seek legal advice or to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law (including but not limited to pending, anticipated or contemplated litigation concerning):**
- A. Construction, equipment, and product warranty claims;
 - B. Damage to GAATN fiber optic cables, equipment, hardware, and other property;
 - C. Contractual, tort or other legal or equitable claims by or against GAATN; or
 - D. The procedures and operations of the Board or the organization;
 - E. GAATN Management and Operation
 - And/or to consider matters concerning:
 - F. Real property purchase, exchange, lease, easements or value;
 - G. Gifts or donations;
 - H. Personnel;
 - I. Security devices, security personnel or security procedures or protocols; or
 - J. Issues involving GAATN physical plant detail made confidential by law
 - K. Or other matters as permitted by the Texas Open Meetings Act

Reconvene for discussion and actions, if any, on matters considered in closed session.

There was no executive session.

8. **Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as May 19, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via teleconference**
- A. Jaime Guerra confirmed the date and time of the next Technical Subcommittee meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.