

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING HELD June 16, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858 Conference ID: 280 952 440#

### 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:

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT- Austin

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Ruben Reyes, on behalf of City of Austin

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm

A quorum was established at roll call.

Members of the public:

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications

Mike Ragain, on behalf of JC Communications

Wayne Wedemeyer, on behalf of UT-Austin

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

#### 3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of May 19, 2020

Jaime Guerra moved to approve the draft minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of May 19, 2020 as presented; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 4. Maintenance Contractor's Update

##### A. Maintenance report

Chris Gonzales reported that, since the last meeting, the maintenance contractor completed inspections on SRN and SRS; 36 deficiencies were corrected.

##### B. Inventory report

Chris noted that reel 710, which is a 10,400 feet of 192-count fiber, was added to the GAATN emergency stock. Chris noted that 1,270 feet of 24-strand COA fiber was used for the COA Emergency repair at Rutherford.

#### 5. Network Manager's Update

##### A. GAATN Project Status report

Carlos reviewed the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- AISD B1S Ann Richards School splice reconfiguration – completed 6/11
- AISD B1N Doss Elementary renovations – completed 6/10
- COA C2S Fire Station #43 node repair – completed 6/4
- Travis County C1N Tax Office new node install – completed 6/1

##### B. Job Budget Tracking report

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Sarah reported that GAATN should spend approximately \$524k in FY20 on 17 projects. She noted that eight projects will carry over to be paid in FY21 for approximately \$305k. She said a final FY20 and the first FY21 report will be reviewed at the July Board meeting.

### **C. GAATN Backup NOCC status update**

Carlos said he did not have an update on this agenda item, but expected that Bruce will have an update at the July Board meeting.

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

### **A. GAATN Technical Guidelines update**

Members reviewed redlined revisions to the technical guidelines and requested some edits that were noted by network management. Dain Herbat moved to recommend for Board approval the technical guidelines as revised by network management and amended by the Technical Subcommittee; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **B. GAATN Maintenance Procedure update**

Members reviewed redlined revisions to the GAATN Maintenance Procedure and requested some edits that were noted by network management. The main change was the addition of bullet point three which noted that GAATN would perform splice case audits of two to three rings annually, so that all splice cases would be audited every five years. Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the GAATN Maintenance Procedure as revised by network management and amended by the Technical Subcommittee; John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **C. Seeking recommendation for splice case audits for B1S and B2S**

Carlos reviewed a handout showing the report for splice case audits that will be completed for each splice case. Ruben asked whether the reports would be exported to a database; Carlos said they will be input into a master spreadsheet that network management put together a couple of years ago. Ruben said that Bruce wanted to be sure that GAATN was making this decision based on industry best practices or manufacturer specifications. Dain said that GAATN made the decision to audit all splice cases on the network several years ago, and since GAATN has done regular audits, the network has improved its reliability. Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the splice case audits for B1S and B2S for FY21; Dain Herbat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **D. GAATN project delays related to Austin Energy**

Syd Falk spoke about recent and ongoing project delays and permit denials due to Austin Energy. He discussed the typical time frames for project review and permit decisions, which can take upwards of 120 days. Syd said that GAATN has previously attempted to address these issues with Austin Energy, and to resolve these denials, but largely has been met with a lack of cooperation. Chris said that GAATN is not the only telecommunication entity having these issues with AE, in fact it seems to be an issue for all Comms that deal with them. Syd said that GAATN could continue to attempt to resolve these issues with AE management or their superiors, or GAATN could escalate the matter to the City Manager's office. Dain said GAATN has attempted to reach out to AE and resolve the matter directly, and he feels escalating to the City Manager's office may be the best option. Dain said he will reach out to Frank to discuss having Syd draft a letter that would be reviewed at the July Board meeting.

### **E. Process for TxDOT reimbursable entity-specific projects**

Syd said that network management requested his guidance regarding recent and upcoming TxDOT reimbursable projects where an entity-specific node cable is being relocated rather than a GAATN ring cable. He said that management is concerned about the logistics of payment and contracting with TxDOT in these cases. Historically, these projects have involved GAATN ring cable, and thus were considered GAATN projects. However, there are several upcoming projects and one recently completed project that only involved entity node cables that would otherwise be maintained and

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paid for by the entity. He noted that management spoke with TxDOT about those situations and TxDOT confirmed that if the relocation only involved infrastructure owned and managed by the entity, then the entity could contract directly with TxDOT. Jaime said that one of the main reasons he likes being a member of GAATN is the dedicated expertise of network management, and he would want management to oversee these projects regardless of who paid for them. Syd relayed that Frank had expressed that management would continue to interface with TxDOT, pull permits, and oversee the project as part of the SLA; the issue raised was just about the administrative side of contracting and payment. Syd said that management thought a MOU between GAATN and the entity would be a possible mechanism for payment, or that GAATN could draft a policy addressing these types of projects. John said he wants GAATN to be consistent on its handling of these types of projects and thinks it could be handled by transferring the reimbursement from GAATN to the entity. John asked Syd to come up with a list of options for the Board to review. Jaime asked for management to draft a policy to bring to the Board meeting for consideration.

**F. TxDOT B1N Relocation at RM620 and FM2222 COA entity-specific project**

Syd said this project was the reason the issue was raised that regarding entity-specific TxDOT reimbursable contracts. This contract was executed between TxDOT and GAATN last year and was just completed, however the cable that was relocated is a COA node cable and COA has agreed to pay for it. Management is requesting guidance on whether, in this instance since GAATN is the contracting entity, GAATN should pay for the project and then be reimbursed by TxDOT/COA or if COA should pay for the project and then GAATN transfer the partial reimbursement to COA.

**G. TxDOT B2S SH71 Relocation East of HWY130 and Ross Road Travis County entity-specific project**

Carlos said the design is not complete on this project, but he still wanted to notify the Technical Subcommittee that this project is forthcoming. It is another TxDOT partially reimbursable entity-specific project involving a Travis County node cable. Syd Falk left the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

**H. Seeking recommendation for B1S permanent repair at 7612 Bluff Springs Road**

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Gov't Code section 418.181 for protected infrastructure design review. Upon reconvening in open session John Kohlmorgan moved to recommend for Board approval the B1S permanent repair at 7612 Bluff Springs Road; Dain Herbat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**I. Seeking recommendation for COA B2S – Del Valle Fire & EMS Fire Station 50 new node entity-specific project**

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Gov't Code section 418.181 for protected infrastructure design review. Upon reconvening in open session John Kohlmorgan moved to recommend for Board approval the COA B2S Del Valle Fire & EMS Fire Station 50 new node entity-specific project; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**J. Seeking recommendation for COA B2S – Tie cable LCRA Radio Frequency Tower to Met 3 entity-specific project**

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Gov't Code section 418.181 for protected infrastructure design review. Upon reconvening in open session Dain Herbat moved to recommend for Board approval the COA B2S Tie cable LCRA Radio Frequency Tower to Met 3 entity-specific project; John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 3:28 p.m. GAATN Technical Subcommittee 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 on Agenda Items 6H, 6I, and 6J.

At 3:51 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the Technical Subcommittee in open session for discussion and actions, if any, on matters considered in closed session. Agenda Items 6H, 6I, and 6J were the only items

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discussed. Upon reconvening in open session, an updated roll call was taken and all members, except Gary Weseman, who announced present in the first roll call were present at the updated roll call. A quorum was re-established at the updated roll call.

**8. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as July 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via teleconference.**

The date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.