

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

June 21, 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: 156 941 34#

MINUTES

1. Call to Order (Including a roll call)

GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

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

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

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

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

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

Anthony Breckenridge, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

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

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Mace Royston, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

John Greiner, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote) – joined at 1:34 p.m.

GAATN Contractors/Members of the public:

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

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

2. Citizen Communications: There were no citizen communications.

3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of May 17, 2022

Dain Herbat moved to approve the draft 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 B2S, C1N and C1S with 27 corrected deficiencies between the three rings. He said there's been an uptick of pole transfers on B2S. Other than that, there's nothing out of the ordinary to report.

B. Inventory report

Chris reported that, since the last meeting, the maintenance contractor used 6,118 feet of GAATN stock 192-count fiber from reel R710 for the emergency permanent repair on SRN at Atkinson Road on 6/14/22. Jaime asked if there were more reels of cable ordered; Chris said that the Board approved the purchase of two 20k-foot reels, and those were ordered approximately eight months ago with a lead time of one year. Chris said current lead times are about 60 weeks.

5. Network Manager's Report

A. Project status report

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Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- SRN Travis County Civil and Family Courthouse – completed 6/16; Jaime said BryComm is relocating two UT tie cables on that span and asked Chris if those were the last of the UT cables to be relocated to clear that span; Chris confirmed that was correct.
- A1N Segment 9 – All applications for this segment have been approved by AE and this segment will be scheduled soon
- SRN emergency permanent repair at Atkinson Road – completed 6/16
- C1S emergency repair at S. 1st and Eberhart – completed 6/2

B. Network status report

Frank reported that, since the last meeting, two incidents occurred on the network.

- 6/2/22 – S. 1st and Eberhart: During routine ring inspection, BryComm found that C1S was torn down and laying in a grassy area between two poles. It may have been hit by a conex or job trailer that was parked within the corner lot. BryComm didn't find any visible damage on the cable, only the strand was snagged and pulled out of the false dead-end preform. They sent a crew out to make the necessary repairs. They were unable to identify a responsible party.
- 6/4/22 – SRN Atkinson Road: This was possibly caused by a lightning strike; BryComm performed an emergency repair on 6/4 to roll AISD and UT onto other strands. An emergency permanent repair was performed on 6/14 under the network manager's spending authority. Chris said they did not find any physical damage to the cable, but the damaged strands were found through an OTDR test. Jaime asked about the bonding and grounding of the cable and Chris explained the technical specifications. Jaime asked if that is something that should be added to the routine inspections; Chris said it would be very time consuming since GAATN is attached to about 15k poles. Frank said he did not recommend adding that to the routine inspections because this is such a rare occurrence and it wouldn't be worth the added time.

C. Job budget report

Frank reported that management is currently tracking 43 jobs totaling \$1.7 million. For FY23, so far, \$657k has been invoiced and \$1 million is encumbered. 19 jobs have been completed and 24 are still pending completion. Management will have a fiscal year end summary at the next Board meeting.

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

A. Austin Energy GAATN memorandum discussion

Frank said this will be an ongoing agenda item and will be further discussed in the upcoming Board meeting. He noted that the latest draft has been sent out to members and he has received some status reports from members.

B. Seeking recommendation for A2N and SRN splice case audits to be funded by FY23 MAC budget

Frank reviewed the proposals in the handouts. He said the GAATN Maintenance Policy was updated recently to call out auditing 2-3 rings each year so that all rings are audited every 5 year cycle. In GAATN's MAC budget, \$75k is set aside each year for these splice case audits. However, the total proposed amount for these two audits is \$153k. The increased cost for these two rings is due to the permitting and traffic control plans for these rings. The proposals represent a worst case scenario for those costs. However, due to financial considerations, the Board may elect just to do one splice case audit this upcoming fiscal year. Management will provide an updated forecast at the July Board meeting that shows the financial impact of doing both audits. Management recommended moving forward with both audits at the Technical Subcommittee level because that is in line with the policy and then letting the Board make the decision on a financial level. Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval A2N and SRN splice case audits to be funded from the FY23 MAC budget; Mace Royston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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- 7. Executive Session:** There was no executive session held.
- 8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken):** Since there was no executive session held, there was no updated roll call.
- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as July 26, 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 2:00 p.m.