

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING HELD July 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858 Conference ID: 504 623 661#

### 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

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR

Bruce Hermes, on behalf of City of Austin

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County

Mace Royston, on behalf of LCRA

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm, LLC

A quorum was established at roll call.

Members of the public:

Wayne Wedemeyer

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

#### 3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of June 16, 2020

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

#### 4. Maintenance Contractor's Update

##### A. Maintenance report

Chris reported that, since the last meeting, the maintenance contractor completed inspections on A1N and A2N with 41 deficiencies corrected. He noted that the pending pole transfers increased by 10%. Jaime asked if BryComm was seeing any heat related issues during inspection; Chris said just possibly the issue with the AISD strand on C1S.

##### B. Inventory report

Chris reported that reel 708 was being allocated to the B2S Fiberlight fiber re-route into the conduit. He said two 10k' reels of 192-count have been ordered to replenish GAATN's emergency stock fiber.

#### 5. Network Manager's Update

##### A. GAATN Project Status report

Frank reviewed the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- B2S Burleson Road fiber re-route to Fiberlight duct bank – scheduled to complete 8/4
- SRN/A2N Capitol Complex re-routes – schedule is pending conduit construction and this project is a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

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- C1S Temporary repair at South 1<sup>st</sup> and Emerald Wood – completed 6/16
- COA B2S Austin Del Valle Fire & EMS Fire station 50 new node – completed 6/23
- UT B1N Pickle Research Center work – Jaime noted that BryComm completed the input work this past Saturday and is scheduled to do the output side this coming Saturday which will be impactful to both UT and LCRA.

### **B. Job Budget Tracking report**

Sarah reported that, since the previous meeting, the splice case audits and B2S permanent repair at Bluff Springs were added to this report. She noted that the illustrated MAC budget includes the \$275k fund balance transfer approved for the A1N projects. She said there were 10 jobs carried over from FY20 totaling \$359k, and management will request a transfer from the fund balance at the August Board meeting to pay for these jobs. Jaime asked John if he had any concerns; John said there were no concerns; he'll just need specific details as to how much will need to go to labor and cable.

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

Frank reported that the solicitation documents have been sent out to the pre-selected vendors, and Frank also sent out an email to all members last week with the link to the solicitation. A virtual pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on July 23 and proposals are due August 18. A link to the virtual pre-proposal meeting is included in the solicitation package. Frank noted that everything is moving forward at a good pace; the method of procurement is slated to be the July 30 City Council agenda. Jaime asked when Frank expects construction to be completed; Frank said that if all permits get approved timely, he expects it will be either the end of the first quarter or second quarter of 2021.

### **D. GAATN dark fiber testing update**

Chris reported that they had to backtrack this past week to AISD and wrap up three rings for them. Once these rings are wrapped up, he expects an additional eight to nine weeks to complete the testing.

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

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

Frank said that this topic has been discussed in the recent meetings. Frank said that Syd will bring a policy for GAATN entity-specific projects to the next Board meeting. Frank noted that GAATN will be fully reimbursed by TxDOT and COA for this project. GAATN will pay BryComm \$62,348 and then 45% of that will be reimbursed by TxDOT and the remaining 55% will be reimbursed by COA. Jaime asked for a copy of the draft policy in advance of the Board meeting.

### **B. Splice case audits discussion**

Frank said there was a request at the previous Board meeting to review the splice case audit process in correlation with the approval of the updated Maintenance policy and the splice case audits for B1S and B2S. Frank reviewed a handout illustrating the process for conducting a splice case audit and the report template for data collection. Bruce suggested the document should be revised to reflect that items 5-18 be sub items of 4, because they are the data that is being collected. Frank said this document was just for informational purposes for the Tech Committee as requested, and is derived from the scope of work that management gives the maintenance contractor. Gary asked what happens with the information that is collected from the audits; Frank said they are entered into the master spreadsheet created by management and compared to the previous audits. Jaime asked if deficiencies noted are corrected on the spot or scheduled for later; Frank said both, it depends on the deficiency. John asked if the Tech committee will get a deficiency report after the audits; Frank said yes, that will be presented once the audits are complete. Bruce asked about the frequency of the audits; Frank said the Board just approved a five-year cycle to audit all rings. Bruce said he sees these audits as preventative maintenance, but he doesn't think the fiber needs to be visually traced

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each time. He says these could be cheaper and quicker if GAATN dropped some requirements from the audits. John suggested that GAATN do one full round of audits for the entire network, and then look at the data and re-evaluate what the second cycle may require. He said history has shown that people get their hands in the cases and things happen to the cases and fibers due to misunderstandings or weather such as lightning. Bruce said he is all for looking the cases over but he thinks that if some fibers are misconnected, the consequence would be immediate. Dain said when new nodes are added to splice cases, occasionally the wrong strands get spliced together and the audits are a way to catch and correct those deficiencies. Frank said that management is the subject matter experts for outside plant and the splice case audit SOW presented is used by many other telecoms; he said that GAATN needs to consider the risks if they remove requirements from the audits. Frank said management will create a deficiency report for the two rings that are approved for FY21 compared to the previous audits for those rings and will present that to the Tech committee. Jaime asked if the procedures address pressurized splice cases underground; Frank said they don't and it's been discussed in the past. Frank said GAATN uses the LG350 splice cases underground; Harold says UT uses those too but they do pressurize them. Frank said he will look more into pressurizing them and will speak to the manufacturer and vendors and circle back to Jaime. Bruce asked in a typical month how many splice cases are opened; Frank said six to ten on average. Frank said both vendors are contracted to perform an audit on each case included in every project they perform.

### **C. SRN/A2N Re-routes for Capitol Complex**

Carlos reported that management foresees this project completing at the end of August, but as of right now is not scheduled. He said the splicing of these two rings will be consecutive, one after the other, to minimize the impact to entities. He noted that DIR will have a complete cut on their node cable 1.5 times due to trying to correct the problem of having two rings inside of one case in front of the Bob Bullock Museum. Carlos said DIR has one node cable going into the two rings in the splice case. Jaime asked if this is the only accommodation for GAATN; Carlos said yes, management will send out GAATN alerts, and if he sees any unusually long outages, he will reach out to the specific entities. Steve said he will reach out to Carlos to discuss the project and impact.

**7. Executive Session:** There was no executive session.

**8. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as August 18, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via teleconference.**

#### **A. Add any agenda topics for next month's meeting.**

Jaime noted that next month's meeting will include an agenda item to discuss Bentley accuracy and update procedures. He asked members to review their Bentley to see if there were any discrepancies. The time, date, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.