

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

July 23, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

City of Austin Permitting and Development Center  
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Rm 1202, Austin, TX 78752

Teams Videoconference link provided 72 hours prior to meeting on homepage of [www.gaatn.org](http://www.gaatn.org)

Remote audio-only option for public access: (512) 831-7858, Access Code: 772 321 60#

## 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:

Paul Hodge, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Mark Stavis, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College (remote)

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

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

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

GAATN Contractors:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

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

### 3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of June 18, 2024

Gary Weseman moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Dain Herbat 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 C1N and C1S with 14 corrected deficiencies between the two rings. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

#### B. Inventory report

Chris said there were no changes to this report since the last meeting.

### 5. Network Manager's Report

#### A. Project status report

## **GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY**

Frank reported to members that Travis County has requested a network maintenance moratorium for the election from October 19 through November 8. They have requested that only emergency maintenance be performed during that window.

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- A2N Splice Case Audit – ongoing through 8/1/24
- COA B1S Public Health Dove Springs Community Ctr new node – scheduled to complete 7/25/24
- B2S Emergency repair Sematech Tower/Marshalling Yard – completed 6/29/24
- Placement of eight new poles on San Antonio St – completed 6/26/24
- AISD B1N Wooten Elementary node decommissioning – completed 7/18/24
- AISD C1N Harris Elementary node decommissioning – completed 7/16/24
- AISD C1N Node fiber splicing – completed 6/26/24
- COA B2S Fire Station #22 node reconnection – completed 6/24/24

### **B. Network incident report**

Frank reported on the following network incidents that occurred since the last meeting:

- 6/29/24 B2S at 2801 Montopolis Dr vandalism – cable was found cut near a homeless camp; cutting tools and a ladder were observed nearby.
- 7/22/24 B2S at COA Central Maintenance Complex – cable was found cut near a homeless camp. Jaime asked if the fiber was just cut or if a section was taken out. Chris said that, in both cases, they took a section of fiber and cut other comm cables as well.

Dain asked if a police report was filed for these incidents; Carlos said they have not been filed yet but he will file them for both incidents. Dain requested a review of GAATN's damage policy regarding filing police reports when GAATN property has been damaged in a criminal manner. Jaime asked for an agenda on the next Tech meeting to review that policy and see if it needs to be updated. Jaime said that the Board might need to talk to Syd because he was told by UT Police that the fiber optic cable is considered state property and intentional damage above a certain monetary threshold could be a felony offense.

### **C. Job budget report**

Sarah reported that 47 jobs had expenses paid out in FY24 with 30 of those being completed and fully paid. In total, GAATN spent \$1.14 million in MAC expenses of the \$1.1 million MAC budget.

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

### **A. Backup NOCC Decommissioning**

Frank reported that GAATN must begin prepping for the demolition of the Austin Convention Center which means that all members must plan to remove their equipment from the Backup NOCC by the end of November 2024. Frank explained that once the permitting is approved, GAATN needs to begin the fiber ring re-route one ring at a time which is crucial to the decommissioning. Frank said, in speaking with the NOCC subcommittee yesterday, the members will have to patch through at this location and get their equipment out. He noted that it is highly unlikely that the new NOCC location will be ready by this time. He said that the members must vacate their equipment by the November deadline because GAATN cannot afford to allow the permits to expire since the demolition is scheduled to take place in the spring. The remainder of this agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, no additional discussion was held, and no action was taken.

### **B. Backup NOCC Relocation and Subcommittee Update**

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, no additional discussion was held, and no action was taken.

## **GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY**

- 7. Executive Session:** At 1:50 p.m., GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra adjourned for closed session, under Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.089 and 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law (including but not limited to pending, anticipated or contemplated litigation concerning) regarding Agenda Items 6A and 6B. At 2:13 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the Technical Subcommittee in open session. Any further discussion held, or action taken on items discussed in executive session will be noted in the summary for that agenda item.
- 8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session (only if Executive Session taken)**  
An updated roll call was taken and all members that announced as present at the initial roll call, reconfirmed their presence at the updated roll call. A quorum was re-established.
- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as August 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at City of Austin Permitting and Development Center 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Room 1202, Austin, TX 78752 and via Microsoft Teams Videoconference.**  
The date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.