

GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 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

Remote audio-only option for public access: (512) 831-7858, Access Code: 720 597 966#

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:

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)

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

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

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

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

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

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

James Denman, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

Paul Hodge, on behalf of Austin ISD (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:

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (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 August 20, 2024

Dain Herbat moved to approve the minutes as presented; Gary Weseman 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 the inspections of D1N and SRN with 22 corrected deficiencies between the two rings. He said there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Justin asked about the schedule for the inspections; Chris said the scheduled week for each ring inspection is noted on the left-hand side of the report. Chris said they are physical inspections, including pole transfers. Jaime asked about the likelihood of opening a splice case during physical inspections; Chris said they don't open splice cases during physical inspections.

B. Inventory report

Chris said that there have been no changes to this report since the last meeting.

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5. Network Manager's Report

A. Project status report

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed jobs:

- SRS, SRN, A1N, A2N Backup NOCC Decommissioning projects – tentative schedule added for December through March to be reviewed in Agenda Item 6A
- B1N/SRS TxDOT Cap Ex South temporary relocation – scheduled to complete 9/25/24
- A1N Upgrade segment 11 – scheduled to complete 9/18/24
- SRS Upgrade segment 3 – scheduled to complete 9/23/24
- A2N splice case audit – ongoing through 10/1/24 – change order pending
- C1S emergency repair at Congress – completed 9/4/24
- B1S emergency repair at Metcalfe – completed 8/21/24
- ACC/COA/UT A2N 5th street garage new node – scheduled to complete 9/19/24

B. Network incident report

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

- 9/4/24 C1S Congress – vandalism caused by an unknown person. BryComm performed emergency repair; management filed a police report per GAATN policy. Permanent repair to be determined.
- 8/21/24 B1S Metcalfe – teardown by known freight truck. BryComm performed emergency repair without adding splice – no permanent repair necessary. Management filed a claim with the freight company.

C. Job budget report

Sarah reported that management is tracking 34 jobs totaling \$3 million. For FY25, 3 jobs have been completed and \$99k has been invoiced.

D. Notification of updated 2025 Technical Subcommittee meeting dates

Sarah noted the change in dates for the September and November 2025 Technical Subcommittee meetings. She will send the outlook invites soon.

E. Reminder about Texas Open Government Training requirement due October 1

Sarah reminded the members that they all must complete the two Texas Open Government training courses and send her their certificates by October 1. There are still seven members who need to complete the training.

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

A. Seeking recommendation for Board approval of proposed cutover schedule for GAATN Backup NOCC Decommissioning SRS, A1N, SRN, and A2N fiber re-route

Frank said that management is seeking recommendation for Board approval for the GAATN Backup NOCC Decommissioning Proposed Cutover Schedule of the four transport rings. He said the handout illustrates the proposed schedule that must be approved to meet the deadline to vacate the GAATN Backup NOCC before the scheduled demolition of the Convention Center. Frank said that the Austin Convention Center will close on 4/1/25 for demolition. He noted that the new GAATN Backup NOCC relocation has not been decided or approved; and once approved, it could take up to 12-18 months minimum to relocate. He said, as discussed since July, all entities must vacate equipment, cross connects, etc. from the Austin Convention Center by 11/30/24 to meet the proposed decommissioning schedule. He said that management is always available to assist all entities with planning. He noted that, when the decommissioning projects were approved on 2/4/24, the Board clarified that the cutover schedule would require separate approval, which is why management is bringing this schedule for recommendation today. He said that, if GAATN does not approve the cutover schedule as proposed, then permits will have to be resubmitted, which could delay the decommissioning by months. He reported that, if the GAATN decommissioning is delayed due to

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Board non-approval, and the Convention Center demolition proceeds as currently scheduled, then GAATN would be at risk of an opening on all four transport rings. Steve P. asked if this agenda item included removal of the inside plant fiber; Frank said GAATN will abandon the inside plant fiber in place and do the transport ring cutovers in the street. Frank said that management could assist DIR with planning for any cross connects they currently have at the Backup NOCC; Steve said he would reach out to management to discuss the cross connects. Gary said his only concern is the SRS cutover scheduled week in December, because it is the week of finals; he said he'll verify to make sure there are no issues with that week. Dain said he is opposed to this schedule; he said that as soon as GAATN vacates the building and cuts the fiber, GAATN is down to a single NOCC. He said that means that if anything happens at the primary NOCC, then GAATN is down, or at least anything that requires super ring communications. Dain said, as he has noted since GAATN first received notice of the Convention Center expansion and Backup NOCC displacement, that his priority is to limit the amount of time that GAATN is down to a single NOCC. Dain said that the last time this happened, when GAATN moved into the Convention Center, it had been running on a single NOCC for a long time, which was a significant risk. He said he feels it's his duty to fight to maintain the GAATN network for Travis County and all the GAATN entities. Dain noted that he has written a letter and given it to Steve M. at COA for review; after Steve reviews, then Dain will run it by GAATN legal. Dain said that the purpose of the letter is to let the COA know that GAATN is unable to comply with this deadline because GAATN is critical infrastructure that needs to stay up. Dain said that, due to challenges entirely out of GAATN's control, the Board has been unable to finalize their selection of a replacement Backup NOCC site, which means that GAATN will not be able to move into a replacement site for quite a while into the future. He said he is pushing back, and he hopes that the City Manager receives the letter soon. Dain said that he knows that management is doing their job by bringing the proposed schedule, and members are allowed to have their opinion on it, but he is opposed to it. Jaime asked management if the order of the ring cutover is flexible; Frank said that SRS must be the first one, but the week could be changed to a different week in December. Carlos said SRS must be first and A2N must be last. Paul with AISD said if GAATN does have to adhere to this proposed schedule, then AISD is open to helping out by letting other entities borrow their strands; he said they don't have too many to spare, but they have enough. Jaime said there would not be a vote taken on this agenda item at this time.

B. Seeking recommendation for change order for GAATN Backup NOCC Decommissioning A2N fiber re-route in an amount not to exceed \$40k

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181 and 581.089. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the change order for GAATN Backup NOCC Decommissioning A2N fiber re-route in an amount not to exceed \$40k; Dain Herbat seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Notification of relocation of UT and COA fibers to ACC 5th Street Garage entity-specific project at no cost to GAATN scheduled for September 19, 2024

Carlos said that, in preparation for the decommissioning of the Convention Center, COA and UT are relocating their A2N fibers to the 5th Street Garage. Jaime said the agenda item says notification, but he feels this should be voted on since it is adding a site for UT and COA. Carlos clarified that it is a relocation of the Convention Center sites on A2N for those entities. Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the relocation of UT and COA fiber to the ACC 5th Street Garage entity-specific project at no cost to GAATN; Mark Stavis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

D. Backup NOCC Decommissioning

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This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181 and 581.089. Upon reconvening in open session, no additional discussion was held, and no action was taken.

E. Backup NOCC Relocation and Subcommittee Update

This agenda item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181 and 581.089. Upon reconvening in open session, no additional discussion was held, and no action was taken.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 2:02 p.m., GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra adjourned for closed session, under one or more of Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.089 and 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law regarding Agenda Items 6B, 6D, and 6E.

At 3:17 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session. Any additional discussion held, or action taken in open session 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 re-confirmed their presence at the updated roll call except for James Denman with LCRA. A quorum was re-established.

- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as October 15, 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 of the next Technical Subcommittee meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.