

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

January 24, 2023 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: 941 267 695#

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order (Including a roll call):

GAATN Technical Subcommittee Chairman Jaime Guerra called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

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

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

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

Mace Royston, on behalf of LCRA (remote)

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

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

Paul Hodge, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

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

Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

A quorum was established at roll call.

Members joining after the start of the meeting:

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County – joined at 1:36 p.m. (remote)

GAATN contractors/members of the public:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

Lucas Hayden, on behalf of Austin Energy (remote)

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

### 3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of November 15, 2022

Gary Weseman moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mace Royston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### 4. Maintenance Contractor's Report

#### A. Maintenance report

Chris said that, since the last meeting, BryComm completed inspections SRN and SRS with 18 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, but over the past weekend there was a repair where emergency fiber was used. Next month's report will reflect that repair. Harold asked if that was a permanent repair; Chris said it was not permanent.

### 5. Network Manager's Report

#### A. Project status report

Frank reported on the following upcoming and recently completed jobs:

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- A2N Maintenance hole relocation at Lamar and Toomey – completed 1/19
- B2S MET2/MET3 288-ct spur replacement phase 1 – scheduled to complete 2/1
- SRS Maintenance hole relocation at Lamar and Toomey – completed 1/4
- COA D1N Emergency repair at D1N18 and D1N20 – completed 1/19

### B. Network status report

Frank noted the following two updates to this report:

- **1/18/23 COA D1N Emergency repair** – this damage only affected the COA and there were broken strands at two different cases with one strand causing an outage on a production circuit. Cases D1N18 and D1N20 were affected. BryComm performed an emergency repair splice on 1/19/23. Chris said it was one fiber that was broken in both cases and it appeared to be brittle fiber chip and silicone. Dain asked how old the fiber is; Chris said it was installed in 2003 and it is armored but dated. Frank said that the Board may consider adding this data point to the splice case audits and that if the contractor finds chip and silicone in the field, they could redo the entire splice. Dain asked Frank how much of that old fiber is still out there; Frank said management will take that as an action item and review documentation to find out how much old fiber is still out in the field. Frank said management will circle back to the Tech committee.
- **1/21/23 SRN/D1N Emergency repair** - SRN/D1N/and COA Tie cables were hit presumably by a large vehicle at Manor and Airport Blvd. SRN was completely severed. The vehicle did not stop and no police reports were filed therefore there is third party to go after for a damage claim. On 1/21/23, BryComm performed an emergency repair and management will request proposals for a permanent repair. Jaime asked if GAATN was the only one hit; Chris said it was just GAATN and the truck probably didn't realize that it hit the cables. Chris said the lowest clearance was 17 feet 2 inches from the ground and the requirement at that location is 15 foot 6 inches. Frank said this is the first hit at this location he can recall.

### C. Job budget report

Frank noted that this report has been updated to include the TxDOT Cap Ex North project, which will be 100% reimbursed by TxDOT and will take several years to complete. Management is tracking 43 jobs totaling \$3.4 million. So far for FY23, 5 jobs have been completed and \$236k has been invoiced. \$3.2 million remains encumbered for the other 38 jobs. Jaime asked if the Cap Ex North project will be inclusive of the UT tie cable at Manor Road; Chris said the one that will impact UT is the Cap Ex Central and that has not started the planning phase as of yet.

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

### A. Request for evaluation subcommittee member for Bentley Management RFP

Frank noted that management is working with Austin ISD to issue the RFP for Bentley Management in early February. He said that two Board members volunteered to participate in the evaluation subcommittee and that one more volunteer was needed. Anthony Breckenridge volunteered to participate on the evaluation subcommittee with Steve Pyle and Harold Nall.

### B. Review of GAATN Project Priority Rankings

Frank reported that the Project Priority Rankings were distributed in December for ranking and there was one change from the FY22 rankings, which is that the SRS to SRN tie cable utilizing Longhorn Dam jumped to the second spot on the priorities, pushing SRN and A2N 192-count replacement down to third and fourth. Jaime said this will go to the Board for approval.

### C. GAATN Existing Unallocated Fiber Allocation Policy (EUFAP) pricing review

Frank said that at the last Board meeting, it was requested that management bring updated pricing for the EUFAP policy. Frank said management has reviewed and come up with updated pricing at today's prices, but this is subject to the Board's discretion and approval. Carlos said that management came up with updated pricing at today's prices per the request of the Board. He said management

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recommends for the policy itself, that the Board add a paragraph that states how often the pricing should be reviewed and updated. He said the updated prices reflect installing 114-count fiber at today's costs. Carlos noted that this policy was designed for existing members to acquire unallocated fiber and that has already been placed and that all members have already paid for this fiber to be placed at the original cost of \$3 per foot. He said the new pricing could be considered for new members to join but this doesn't consider installed infrastructure cost but that would have to be determined by the Board. Dain said he believes that Carlos is using the right calculation of 114 to determine the per strand cost, but he asked how Carlos got to the per foot cost for both the original and updated. Carlos said in 2014, management took some projects and averaged out the cost of those projects and the footage replaced and came up with \$3 per foot. For 2023, he looked at two different metrics, one was recent previous projects and current ongoing projects, which now include electrical make ready, and it came to \$8.79 per foot for 114 and \$9.93 for 192. Carlos said the Board will have to determine how much a new member joining GAATN should pay, and this updated pricing is a starting point for that calculation, but he thinks the EUFAP pricing for current members should stay the same \$3 per foot because the existing infrastructure was installed at the old prices. Jaime said EUFAP pricing should stand alone, and though he doesn't disagree with the methodology for the calculation, UT wouldn't have been able to afford purchasing the last strands they did through this policy. Jaime pointed out that as members acquire more fiber, it shifts the network rights and possibly lowers the others yearly contributions. Carlos said he agrees with Jaime and management was simply fulfilling the request to review the pricing. Carlos said also this pricing does not include any buildout of any super nodes or installation of pathway. He believes the EUFAP prices should stay at \$3 per foot for current members. Dain asked if it was Carlos's recommendation to have two sets of pricing, one for existing and one for new members; Carlos said yes and the EUFAP policy states that the pricing is for current members only and that new member pricing would have to be determined by the Board. Jaime said he thinks pricing for new members should be evaluated on a case by case basis. Gary asked how the EUFAP pricing will change once GAATN gets a ring fully built out and allocated at 192 count. Carlos said the allocations for A1N, A2N, SRN, and SRS were based on network rights at the time of calculation. Carlos said on most of the other seven rings, there are unallocated fibers that are available for purchase through EUFAP. Carlos showed the allocations for the transport rings as approved in 2020; the four transport rings were approved to be fully allocated between the seven entities once they are built out at 192 based on their network rights in 2020. Currently, there are unallocated strands on A2N (12), SRN (6), and SRS (12). Gary said so there is nothing to sell on the four transport rings. Jaime said the EUFAP would not apply to these four rings; Dain said the EUFAP would still apply to those four rings if one member sells to another member. Jaime said members don't have to use this pricing when selling to other members; Dain said that is why the Board wanted this policy, to maintain some consistency in pricing. Carlos said management's recommendation is to maintain the original EUFAP pricing for current members. Dain said the Board needs to decide whether it is open to allowing new members to join and, that if the Board is, then it needs to reconsider fully allocating the transport rings because there is no room for any new members. It will also need to consider if pricing remains the same for current members and whether there should be two sets of pricing – one for current and one for new members. Dain said the next step is for the Board to discuss adding new members. Jaime asked Carlos to send the calculations to the Tech committee members and then we can address questions about the calculations at the next Technical meeting. Steve asked if a new member joined GAATN, would all existing members cost increase; Jaime said it should in theory decrease because they are redistributing the network rights and should make existing members network rights and contributions go down.

### **D. Seeking recommendation for Travis County C2S - Mansfield Dam Park Travis County New site on C2S western expansion entity-specific project at no cost to GAATN**

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This agenda item was reviewed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181 and 551.089. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the Travis County C2S - Mansfield Dam Park Travis County new site on C2S western expansion entity-specific project at no cost to GAATN; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**E. Seeking recommendation for C1N TxDOT Capitol Extension IH-35 North N Hwy 183 from SH71 to North SH-45 GAATN-funded TxDOT 100% reimbursable project to be funded by the FY24 GAATN MAC budget at a cost not to exceed \$629k**

This agenda item was reviewed in executive session under Texas Government Codes 418.181 and 551.089. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the C1N TxDOT Capitol Extension IH-35 North N Hwy 183 from SH71 to North SH-45 GAATN-funded TxDOT 100% reimbursable project to be funded by the FY24 GAATN MAC budget at a cost not to exceed \$629k. Gary asked about the budget impact of this project; Frank said management will bring a forecast to the Board meeting to show how it will impact the next few years but it is 100% reimbursable. Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 7. Executive Session:** At 2:33 p.m., Jaime Guerra adjourned the GAATN Technical Subcommittee 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 6D and 6E.

At 2:48 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session. Agenda Items 6D and 6E were the only items discussed in executive session. Any further discussion held or action taken in open session on agenda items discussed during 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 after executive session and all members who announced as present in the initial roll call announced as present at the updated roll call. Dain Herbat joined the meeting after the initial roll call and announced as present at the updated roll call. A quorum was re-established upon reconvening in open session.

- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as February 21, 2023 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 2:56 p.m.