GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

GAATN TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

October 19, 2021 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: 433 097 469#

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)
Ruben Reyes, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)
Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County (remote)
Chris Phillips, on behalf of LCRA (on site)
Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (remote)
Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College (remote)
Anthony Breckenridge, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)
Justin Slocum, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)
Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)
Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR (remote)
Robert Saddler, on behalf of LCRA (on site) – left meeting at 1:37 p.m.
Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN (remote) – left meeting at 1:55 p.m.
Carlos DeMatos, 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)
Elliott Williams, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

2. Citizen Communications

Robert Saddler from LCRA introduced Chris Phillips as a new representative for LCRA for the Technical Subcommittee.

3. Review and approve minutes from the regular Technical Subcommittee meeting of September 21, 2021

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 of A1N and SRS with 19 corrected deficiencies between the two rings. The majority of corrected deficiencies were pole transfers; he said they are finally able to start completing some of the transfers that have been pending for a while. Dain asked about over grown trees; Chris said nothing out of the ordinary that they haven't taken care of.

B. Inventory report

Chris noted the following changes to the inventory report:

- Reel 709 (114-count) – on 9/27 they used 1,566 feet for the emergency repair on C2S at West Gate and Jones Road; on 9/22 they used 1,322 feet for the emergency repair on C1N at IH35 and Rutherford which was torn down over IH35.
- Reel 706 (192-count) – on 8/26 they used 2,284 feet for the B2S emergency repair at Montopolis and Burleson (previous fire damage found on DIR strands)
- AISD Reel 2 (36-count) – on 9/7 they used 946 feet for the C1S output node repair at Menchaca Elementary

Jaime asked about the current lead time for fiber; Chris said it's 50 weeks but it fluctuates. Jaime asked if management thinks the stock levels are sufficient for future projects or emergency needs; Carlos said they are probably not adequate but management would need approval from the Board to exceed current stock levels. Carlos said there is currently close to 40k feet of stock (6,850 feet of 114 and 32,942 of 192) which is GAATN's standard emergency stock level. He said once it goes down to 30k feet, management typically orders another 10k foot reel under the network manager's spending authority to replenish the emergency stock. Dain recommended ordering more stock fiber now due to the long lead times. Carlos recommended ordering a 20k foot reel instead of a 10k foot one so GAATN's contractors can pull from that reel for certain projects as well as emergency repairs. Dain Herbat directed management to purchase one 20k foot reel of 192-count fiber for GAATN stock. Gary asked management to come to the Tech Committee if the lead times are looking far out and they feel more fiber needs to be ordered for GAATN stock. Dain said the Board should look at increasing the network manager's spending authority to cover one 20k foot reel for future orders. Gary Weseman seconded Dain's motion and it passed unanimously. Carlos said management will bring a proposal for the 20k foot reel to the Board meeting. He said that later in this meeting a discussion will be held about supply chain issues. Jaime noted that management will bring a proposal for the reel of stock fiber to the Board as well as an agenda item to discuss increasing the network manager's spending authority.

5. Network Manager's Report

A. GAATN Backup NOCC status update

Carlos said the contractors have run into supply chain issues, specifically tie buffer fiber for the Backup NOCC terminations. He said it seems like the issue has been resolved and terminations will be ongoing from November 1st through 5th. Also, the activation of certain rings going into the new NOCC will be delayed by four to six weeks; the delay is reflected in the revised schedule provided in the handouts. He said the target date for the Backup NOCC to be fully operational is now January 1, 2022. Jaime asked if Spawglass has any pending items; Carlos said Public Works is releasing the final funds for Spawglass to close their portion of the project out and management is working on a couple of items with COA's Data Center Operations (DCO) team such as generator monitoring. Dain requested that the Public Works project manager give an update at the next Board meeting.

B. Project status report

Carlos reported on the following upcoming and recently completed projects:

- SRS/LVL3/COA Tie 425 W. Riverside – scheduled to complete 10/21
- A2N 425 W. Riverside – scheduled to complete 11/7
- A1N upgrade segments 5 & 6 repairs and testing – completed 10/5. Jaime asked when Carlos estimates the A1N upgrade projects will be completed; Carlos said Frank recently requested a status update from both contractors for the remaining 6 segments which are still pending permitting. Frank will take these directly to Austin Energy to try and expedite these requests. Carlos said he doesn't have an update yet as to when they will be completed but management can bring an update to the Board. Jaime said the Tech Committee should begin discussing the next upgrade project in November.

- C2S emergency repair at West Gate & Jones Road – completed 9/27
- C1N emergency repair at IH35 and Rutherford – completed 9/22
- UT A2N Conduit installation at Block 164 – completed 10/1
- UT A1N node disconnect 3200 Red River – completed 9/28
- AISD C1S Menchaca ES node repair – completed 9/21

C. Network status report

Carlos reported that a couple of repairs came up during the weekend which were not included in the network status report:

- On Sunday, COA had an issue on a B1N tie cable for Fire Station 31 that was repaired yesterday.
- Yesterday, there was a cut on B1N at 11604 Stonehollow Drive which is the exact same location GAATN's fiber was cut in July by an unknown person. Management now believes this damage was possibly caused someone looking for copper cable. This location is behind abandoned warehouses which have now been demolished. In July, the maintenance contractor was able to move some slack and they did the same thing for this week's repair, however there will most likely be a permanent repair needed and possibly an insurance claim. Carlos said other comms were cut as well. Jaime asked if the general contractor who demolished the warehouses could be liable since they jumped their fence; Dain asked Carlos to run that by Syd.
- 10/6 - A1N Segments 5 and 6 upgrade projects – LCRA strands were damaged by a GAATN MAC contractor during splice repair and retest of these projects so the maintenance contractor was dispatched to repair the LCRA strands and the link was restored.
- 9/26 – C2S West Gate and Jones Road – a bird landed on a transformer causing it to explode and damaging GAATN fiber and a splice case so the maintenance contractor was dispatched and performed an emergency repair.
- 9/20 – C1N IH35 and Rutherford – a TxDOT contractor tore down GAATN fiber over IH35 so the maintenance contractor performed an emergency repair involving a highway crossing. A permanent repair will be brought to the November Technical meeting for recommendation to the Board. A responsible party was identified (Lone Star Paving) and GAATN is currently in pursuit of a damage claim for the cost of the emergency and permanent repairs.

D. Job budget report

Sarah noted that management is tracking 29 jobs totaling $1.4 million; 7 of those 29 jobs have been completed. For FY22, eight jobs totaling $577k have been approved from the $653k budget. The remaining jobs were carried over from previous fiscal years. Sarah also noted that GAATN has recovered $150k from project reimbursements, insurance and damage recoveries. She also noted that management expects GAATN to receive a refund from the City of Austin for the Backup NOCC project; the refund is expected to be around $340k which was the total amount of project contingency funds.

E. FY22 Cost Avoidance Report update

Sarah reported that four of the seven entities responded to the Cost Avoidance exercise by the deadline and she has reached out to the other three entities and given them to the end of the week. Once all responses are received, management will compile them all into the biennial summary report to be presented at the November Board meeting.

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

A. Seeking recommendation for A2N Palm Park relocation overhead to underground developer-funded project at no cost to GAATN

This was discussed in executive session under Texas Governments Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the A2N Palm

Park relocation overhead to underground developer-funded project at no cost to GAATN; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Seeking recommendation for LCRA Proposed Overlash to A1N between LCRA Redbud Center and LCRA Hancock Bldg. project at no cost to GAATN

This was discussed in executive session under Texas Governments Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the LCRA Proposed Overlash to A1N between LCRA Redbud Center and LCRA Hancock Bldg. project at no cost to GAATN; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Notice of D1N temporary aerial unattachment due to relocation of heritage tree

This was discussed in executive session under Texas Governments Codes 551.089 and 418.181. Upon reconvening in open session, Jaime Guerra moved to recommend for Board approval the D1N temporary aerial unattachment due to relocation of heritage tree at no cost to GAATN; Steve Pyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Agreement between City of Austin and GAATN for maintenance of the GAATN Backup NOCC

Ruben said that last week he and Frank met with Darrell Rochte, the DCO manager, and went over some of the scope of work requirements; Darrell said they should have a summary of those requirements ready for Frank and Ruben's review by the end of this week. Ruben said he and Frank are trying to get the details associated with the contract(s) such as what is covered, response times, contract terms, etc. Ruben expects these details will be ready for the Board's review by the November Board meeting.

7. Executive Session: At 2:12 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 regarding Agenda Items 6A, 6B, and 6C. At 2:29 p.m., Jaime Guerra reconvened the GAATN Technical Subcommittee in open session. Agenda Items 6A, 6B, and 6C were the only items discussed. Any action taken or further discussion held on agenda items discussed in executive session are noted in the summary for that agenda item.

8. Updated roll call upon reconvening in open session:

Upon reconvening in open session, an updated roll call was taken and the following announced as present:

Carlos DeMatos, Anthony Breckenridge, Ruben Reyes, Bo Kinsey, Chris Gonzales, Chris Phillips, Dain Herbat, Gary Weseman, Jaime Guerra, Justin Slocum, Harold Nall, and Steve Pyle. A quorum was re-established.

9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Technical Subcommittee meeting as November 16, 2021 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 2:32 p.m.