The GAATN Network

Austin's own information superhighway serving governmental entities since 1993

What is GAATN?

- Formed in 1993 by an interlocal agreement
- Consortium of seven government and education entities collaborating on a fiber network including data, voice, and video services
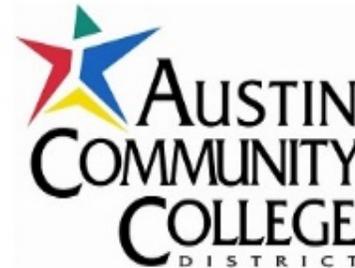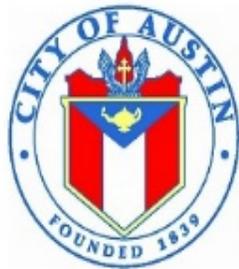
Purpose and Usage

- Governmental and proprietary uses by a municipality or other governmental entity
- "Valid governmental purpose"
- Not to be a common carrier or public utility
- Provides alternate cost savings to the respected members
- Electronic communication services

GAATN Membership

- Participants are limited to those governmental entities with valid governmental purpose

- No private individuals, associations, corporations, or any other non-governmental entity may be included

- Addition of members requires unanimous approval of current members

History of GAATN

- In the 80s, Austin ISD and City of Austin were experiencing rising telecommunications costs

- Engineering study on cost savings solutions recommended construction of a private network

- In 1990, AISD approached COA about sharing cost and ownership of a fiber network

- In 1993, AISD, COA, Travis County, and ACC executed interlocal agreement

- In 1994, DIR, UT, and LCRA joined

- Original construction costs were approximately $14.2 million

GAATN Network

- Approximately 500 miles of fiber optic cable in 11 rings around the Austin area

- More than 550 partner sites—schools, emergency facilities, and government buildings

- Can be expanded at Board discretion

- Resilient to disasters such as cable cuts, which can disable commercial networks

Structure

- A Board of Directors is responsible for setting policies and making financial decisions for the network; directors appointed every two years

- GAATN Technical Subcommittee plans design, reviews projects, and makes technical recommendations to the Board

- City of Austin serves as the network management provider

- Austin ISD serves as the fiscal agent

GAATN's Budget

- GAATN's annual operating budget averages $1.8 million.

- Costs are shared based on each participant's percentage of network rights.

- Individual participant's costs and percent of network rights are directly related to each ring and are based on three basic factors:

1) Participant's presence on a ring

2) Participant's number of sites on a ring

3) Participant's number of fibers on a ring

NETWORK RIGHTS

LCRA, 5.31%
AISD, 29.30%
UT, 5.42%
DIR, 12.84%
TC, 12.86%
ACC, 12.73%
COA, 21.53%

AISD COA ACC TC DIR UT LCRA
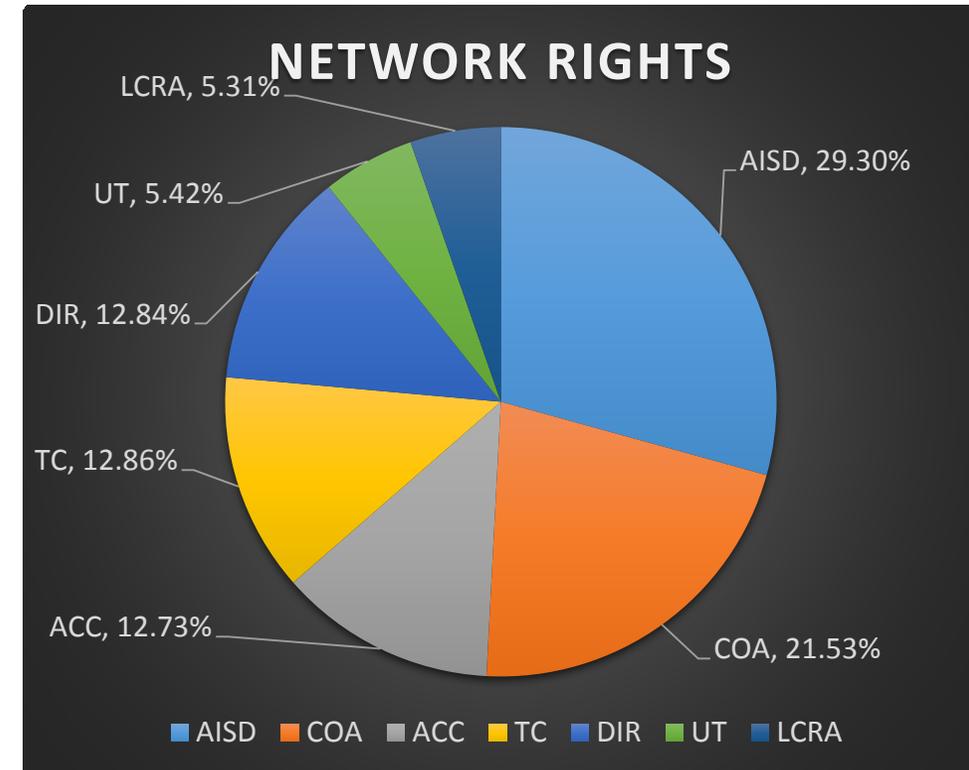
Cost Savings to Participants

- In FY17, GAATN partners realized a combined savings of $29 million on their $1.8 million operating cost

- In FY17, the City of Austin achieved $6.58 million in cost avoidance by use of GAATN

More Information?

GAATN Website: www.GAATN.org

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