



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Yuma Metropolitan
Planning Organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Regular Meeting & Executive Session
Thursday, May 26, 2011
1:30 PM

COCOPAH RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
15268 S. Avenue B
Somerton, AZ

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman	Martin Porchas, Mayor, City of Somerton
Vice-Chairman	Paul Johnson, Councilmember, City of Yuma
Secretary/Treasurer	Greg Ferguson, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County
Member	Cody Beeson, Councilmember, City of Yuma
Member	Paul Soto, Cocopah Indian Tribe
Member	James Deermer, Mayor, Town of Wellton
Member	Al Krieger, Mayor, City of Yuma
Member	Alvin Stump for Scott Omer, ADOT
Member	Casey Prochaska, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member	Gerardo Sanchez, Councilmember, City of San Luis
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YMPO STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director	Charlene FitzGerald
Sr. Transportation Planner	Paul Patane
Accountant II	Shelly Kreger
Traffic Data Mgmt. Supervisor	Charles Gutierrez

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

YMPO Legal Counsel	Wayne Benesch
GYEDC	Stephany Turner
WACOG	Elisa Davis
WACOG	Brian Babiars
Yuma County Administrator	Robert Pickels
First Transit, Inc.	Don Kilner
First Transit, Inc.	Eric Estell
KYMA	Rebecca Buchanon
MCAS	Paula Backs
MCAS	John Poehler
FTA Technical Review Committee	
Citizen	Lucy Shipp

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin Porchas called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Paul Soto of the Cocopah Indian Tribe.

II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Charlene FitzGerald introduced the guests from DMS/RMSW that is currently at the YMPO office doing a financial management oversight review on behalf of the FTA.

III. MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 2011 MEETING

MOTION

Supervisor Ferguson moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2011 meeting as presented. Mayor Krieger seconded the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

IV. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Charlene FitzGerald explained the MOU and IGAs:

- a. Transportation Services/WACOC – MOU
- b. Bus Wash Facility/City of Yuma – IGA
- c. Transit Director & Contract Administrator Positions/Yuma County – IGA

After the explanations, the following motion was made:

MOTION

Supervisor Prochaska presented a motion to approve the WACOG MOU and the Yuma County IGA. Mayor Deermer seconded the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Casey Prochaska asked how long the IGA with the City would be, and whether or not it was renewable. Charlene FitzGerald explained that the term is for one year, with a possibility to renew for four additional one-year terms. It has been signed and executed by the City of Yuma, with an effective date of July 1, 2011.

MOTION

Mayor James Deermer made a motion to approve the IGA with the City of Yuma for utilization of the Bus Wash facility. Supervisor Prochaska seconded the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

V. DESIGNATE YCIPTA AS AN ADVISORY BOARD TO THE YMPO FOR TRANSIT ISSUES.

Robert Pickels explained why the YMPO should designate the YCIPTA as an advisory board for transit issues.

MOTION

Supervisor Casey Prochaska moved to designate the YCIPTA as an advisory board to the YMPO Executive Board, in place of the transit subcommittee, for transit issues. Mayor Al Krieger seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Greg Ferguson asked about the subcommittee – has this gone away or will there be two committees now? Robert Pickels replied that the subcommittee was formed a year ago, but would like to dissolve and defer all transit issues to the YCIPTA Board of Directors. Martin Porchas added that the previous subcommittee can be dissolved.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

VI. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Charlene FitzGerald made a presentation of the following items, all of which were presented at the YCIPTA meeting on Monday, May 24, 2011, by Jess Segovia and herself. Greg Ferguson stated that because these items are listed as consent items, they cannot be discussed. Therefore, he suggested that they be pulled off of the consent agenda.

A. APPROVAL OF STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

i. AWARD AND AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRANSIT PROVIDER

RFP's were received by three agencies and were reviewed and scored as follows:

First Transit, Inc. – 95.25%

Ride Rite, LLC – 85.75%

MV Transportation – 85.25%.

Casey Prochaska commented that on a County consent agenda, the Board sees the questions asked of each providers, who was on the review/selection committee, how they were ranked and how they came in, and why they were chosen. Charlene FitzGerald replied that there was a score sheet on qualifications, maintenance/non-maintenance issues, technical qualifications, safety review, etc. The ranking sheet can be provided if requested. The ranking committee consisted of: Charlene FitzGerald, Martin Porchas, Jess Segovia, and Maria Noriega. The cost proposal was separate from the qualifications proposals and Ms. FitzGerald and Shelly Kreger were the only two provided with the cost information. Ms. Prochaska asked if all RFPs were turned in on time, and Ms. FitzGerald replied that they were all submitted by the due date. Casey Prochaska stated that it is good to be as transparent as possible, and if something is on the consent agenda, backup needs to be provided to the Board as well.

MOTION

Supervisor Prochaska moved to award and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with First Transit, Inc. as the transit provider. Supervisor Ferguson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Greg Ferguson asked if this was a 5-year contract and Ms. FitzGerald replied that it is a 3-year contract with the option to extend for two years. Al Krieger asked where the safeguards were, the checks and balances, so that YMPO does not end up where they previously were, and who oversees the contract. Ms. FitzGerald replied that YMPO will oversee the contract until the Transit Director and Contract Administrator have taken it over.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Alvin Stump – abstained and the motion carried.

ii. Fare Structure

a. Day Passes

Charlene FitzGerald explained that fare structures have always been approved by the Executive Board as it is in the by-laws. SmartCards are now in place and transfers are currently being used. It is YMPO's wish to do away with the transfers and allow the general public to utilize YCAT all day for \$3.50 per day. The benefit is to improve ridership as well as be more competitive with the taxis and other transportation providers, support community involvement and vitality. Disabled and elderly passengers will be able to ride all day for \$1.75/day. Paul Johnson asked about the current fares and Charlene FitzGerald replied that inside City of Yuma is \$1.50, and outlying areas are \$3.50. Cody Beeson asked if there are any plans for weekly or monthly passes, and Ms. FitzGerald replied that options are being researched for more user friendly transit services. Al Krieger asked how YMPO is going to move forward with solving challenges for seniors, and how this will work financially for the bus system. Ms. FitzGerald replied that she is seeking approval to research further solutions.

Mr. Krieger asked if this item has been discussed with the YCIPTA and Ms. FitzGerald replied that all of these items presented were discussed with the YCIPTA and everything was approved. Paul Johnson stated that there is no justification on giving half-price discounts because individuals are elderly and/or disabled. Cody Beeson stated that he disagrees with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Krieger on the half-price discounts as they are very common in the area and thinks it is a great idea. He also asked about the possibility of a military discount, and Ms. FitzGerald replied that this can be researched. Ms. FitzGerald introduced Don Kilner, General Manager of First Transit, Inc. Mr. Kilner explained the purpose of the day passes, and added that it has been proven to increase ridership in other areas that utilize the same program. After a discussion on the benefits and concerns

of the day passes, Al Krieger asked that this be continued at the next meeting as concerns needs to be addressed and program details need to be more definitive. The following motion was then made:

MOTION

Supervisor Ferguson moved to approve Item ii.a. as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Deermer.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Ayes – 7 Nays – Al Krieger and Paul Johnson, Motion carried.

b. SmartCard System for Educational Facilities

Charlene FitzGerald explained that this is currently offered to AWC, and would like to offer it to YPIC, Aztec High School, and other educational facilities for \$175.00 per semester as well. This system will encourage ridership and allow the students to utilize transit for more than just going to and from school. After a short discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION

Supervisor Prochaska moved to approve the Smart Card system, and to offer it to educational facilities. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Beeson.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

iii. Other Transit-related Items

a. Commuter Express Routes - \$5-\$7 per person/monthly pass

• **GM**

GM has 26 employees and has asked for a commuter route to be provided from Yuma to YPG/GM plant. However, services can only be offered to the day shift as current hours of operation are 6AM - 6PM.

• **YPG**

YPG employees have expressed an interest in a Park-and-Ride and this is being looked at as a long-term project. Yuma County has some land in the Foothills that can possibly be utilized, and the City has locations that may also be utilized as well. The parking lot at AWC can possibly be used also in the short term for the 26 employees of GM; however, if the program grows it would not be feasible.

• **Direct Route – San Luis to AWC**

AWC has requested this, and would be utilized by not only AWC students, but the general public as well. This is a topic that has been discussed at several transit subcommittee meetings and requested by the Mayor's of San Luis and Somerton, and County Board of Supervisor Casey Prochaska.

• **Johnson Controls Commuter**

Johnson Controls has expressed interest in transporting 20 of their

employees from San Luis to the plant. They have 3 shifts, 20 employees each shift; however, current operating hours are 6 AM – 6 PM.

- **Yuma to Gadsden**

Teachers from the Gadsden School District have expressed interest in a commuter route that would take them from Yuma to Gadsden School.

Greg Ferguson commented that there was a bus from Yuma to YPG in the past, but it died out because people quit utilizing it. If a commuter route was provided to these areas, then riders need to utilize it every day – and the employers (GM, YPG, etc.) should be responsible for “buying the seats”. With the current situation of YCAT, Mr. Ferguson believes that services should not be extended until current issues are resolved. Paul Johnson agreed with Mr. Ferguson in that it needs to be utilized to the fullest potential; however, he also felt that it is something worth pursuing. Al Krieger suggested that this issue be further researched and asked if an audit of the transit services will be performed prior to the system being turned over to the YCIPTA. Charlene FitzGerald replied that this was discussed at the last YCIPTA meeting, and will explain after this item.

MOTION

Mayor Deermer moved to pursue the possible commuter express routes, and to report back to the Executive Board. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Prochaska.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Ayes – 7 Nays – Al Krieger and Greg Ferguson, the Motion carried.

iv. YCAT Website RFP

Current contract is up on July 1, 2011. First Transit, Inc. will be paying for the website design, and will also be monitored by the Transit Director and Contract Administrator. Mayor Al Krieger stated that no action should be taken on this as it should be assumed by the Transit Director and Contract Administrator and they should be taking care of all of this – YMPO should back out of this process. Casey Prochaska stated that these items are all brought to the YMPO Executive Board because the YCIPTA does not have any authority to go forward with these things. They would like to work on these items, but they need the Executive Board to approve the items first. Robert Pickels confirmed that the YCIPTA hasn't approved anything, nor disapproved anything. All of these items were discussed, but the YCIPTA is not in any position to make any decisions or authorizations. The YMPO is asking for an RFP to be solicited for the YCAT website, and once the RFPs are received, the recommendation will come back to the Executive Board for approval of the proposal and to award the contract.

MOTION

Supervisor Prochaska made a motion to authorize YMPO to begin the RFP process for the YCAT website. The motion was seconded by Mayor Krieger.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

VII. UPDATE ON SELECTION OF TRANSIT DIRECTOR

Robert Pickels announced that the YCIPTA has selected a Transit Director, John Andoh, from Sacramento, CA. Mr. Andoh has a wealth of experience with transit authorities and he has accepted the position. He will be here on June 13th to meet with Mr. Pickels and others, and will officially start his position on July 5, 2011.

VIII. RAIL CORRIDOR STUDY

Paul Patane gave a brief summary of the State Rail Plan that was completed a couple of months ago. Recently, the RFP for the Arizona Border Master Plan has been solicited and Mr. Patane explained the components of that study. Today, the Board is being asked to approve a rail corridor study in the Yuma region that will utilize SPR funds. A consultant will be hired to do the study, and will be done at the YMPO Executive Board's discretion. The study will take approximately 2 years, consist of 8,000 - 10,000 hours of work, with an approximate cost of \$175,000 to \$250,000. Charlene FitzGerald added that staff will work with the Board on the scope of work, as well as other agencies and TAC members. Paul Johnson commented that there is no money available to maintain or fund a rail system and feels that this is a waste of money. There was a short discussion and the following motion was made:

MOTION

Mayor Al Krieger moved to disapprove the allocation of SPR funds for a rail feasibility in the FY 2012 work program and budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Paul Johnson.

Greg Ferguson requested a roll-call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Casey Prochaska - nay
- Al Krieger - aye
- Alvin Stump - nay
- Paul Johnson - aye
- Martin Porchas - nay
- Cody Beeson - nay
- James Deermer - nay
- Paul Soto - nay
- Greg Ferguson - nay

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Motion failed with 7 nays to 2 ayes (4 votes).

A second motion was then made:

MOTION

Supervisor Prochaska made a motion to move forward with the rail corridor study and to allocate SPR funds in FY 2012. The motion was seconded by Mayor Deermer.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 2 Nays (Al Krieger and Paul Johnson)

IX. JUNE AND AUGUST MEETINGS

a. June meeting date in conflict with Groundbreaking of Courthouse

Staff recommends that the June and July meetings be combined for the meeting to be held on July 7, 2011, and will be held in Wellton. The location will be determined and the Board will be riding YCAT to the meeting (if they wish).

b. August meeting – dark in August.

MOTION

Mayor Krieger moved to approve item IX as presented on the agenda. Paul Johnson seconded the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

X. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a. CBI presentation.
- b. Border Master Plan – Rudy Perez, ADOT
- c. ADOT Presentation on PA for SL I – Juan Sanchez Blvd. & Truck Route
- d. 2012 TIP Approval
- e. Staff presentation on federal funding allocations

Al Krieger stated that he has three letters that were addressed to the City Administrator regarding the entity dues from the City of Yuma (they serve as invoices). At the bottom of the letters, it is indicated that a copy is sent to Paul Johnson. Mayor Krieger asked why a copy was sent to him. Charlene FitzGerald replied that the letters had not been updated since Mr. Johnson was Chairman and that they should be copied to Martin Porchas since he is the current chair. Mr. Krieger stated that they are not addressed to Martin, but should be copied to the Mayor Krieger and Cody Beeson. Mayor Porchas asked if these could be corrected. Ms. FitzGerald replied that she would have her staff make the corrections.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. April Financial Report.
- B. Staff Report .
- C. Conference Updates

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIII. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC MEETING (If required from executive session).

XIV. PROGRESS REPORTS

- A. **Imperial County Transit Plan Public Meeting**, May 2, 2011 / El Centro, CA. Paul Patane attended.
- B. **Wellton PARA Meeting**, May 4, 2011. Charles Gutierrez and Paul Patane participated.
- C. **COG/MPO Planner’s Meeting**, Phoenix, AZ / May 6, 2011. Paul Patane attended and Norma Lekan Participated.
- D. **Meeting with AWC regarding Smart Cards**, May 11, 2011. Charlene Fitzgerald attended.
- E. **TAC Functional Classification Subcommittee Meeting**, May 12, 2011. Charles Gutierrez, Paul Patane and Norma Lekan attended.
- F. **TAC Meeting**, May 12, 2011. Paul Patane, Charles Gutierrez, and Norma Lekan attended.
- G. **ADOT Long Range Transportation Plan COG/MPO Communication Coordination Call**, May 13, 2011. Charlene FitzGerald participated.
- H. **ADEQ Meeting**, May 17, 2011. Paul Patane attended.
- I. **AzTA Legislative Committee Meeting**, May 20, 2011. Charlene FitzGerald participated.
- J. **YCIPTA Meeting**, May 23, 2011. Charlene FitzGerald and Jess Segovia attended.
- K. **FTA Financial Management Oversight Review**, May 23-25, 2011. Charlene FitzGerald, Shelly Kreger, Charles Gutierrez, Paul Patane, Norma Lekan and Maria Noriega attended.
- L. **2011 Western Arizona Tribal Transportation Forum**, May 23-25, 2011 / Parker, AZ. Paul Patane and Charles Gutierrez attended.

XV. ADJOURN

MOTION

Mayor Al Krieger made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Beeson.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 pm.

Minutes prepared by:

Norma M. Lekan
Mobility Manager

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Charlene FitzGerald, Executive Director
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes adopted in regular session
on the 7th day of July, 2011

Martin Porchas, Chairman
YMPO Executive Board