MEETING SUMMARY

David Perkins led the focus area discussions by explaining that the YMPO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is updated every four years, and this update is for the period 2014 to 2037. Following Federal policy, the RTP is a multimodal plan and cost-constrained. He stated that public and stakeholder input to the RTP is an important part of the process. Today we are looking for input on 5 focus areas and their relationship to regional transportation.

- Economic Development/Trade
- Community Development
- Public / Emergency Services
- Tourism
- Federal/State/Environmental

Dave Perkins invited the group to discuss transportation needs/solutions and how they relate to the key focus areas above. The following comments were recorded.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / TRADE

- Arizona is ranked 14th out of 50 states for bicyclists, Yuma is considered last in the state.
- More bicycling means better health
- 5th Ave, 6th St. to 15th St. – good roads for bicyclists but bicycle amenities are not consistent over long distances on these roads
- Bike education is important
- 24th St. needs bicycle improvement
- Bike paths exist near the Arizona Western College
- YCAT bicyclists use racks on buses, but they say streets not safe for bicyclists. Bicyclists ride part way, and then take the bus.
- Bicycle facilities affect other modes of transportation
- Aviation considerations:
  - Support defense complex - support aviation contractors – close 4th Avenue. Extension for growth needed– another artery Ave A to 40th St.
  - Future aircraft manufacturers.
  - Rolle Field access needs improvement to Avenue E alignment
  - They are working with Arizona Department of Commerce to support unmanned aerial systems
  - Lease hanger at Rolle Field to University of Arizona
  - Perhaps ground systems can use unmanned systems to support agriculture, e.g. John Deere, Honeywell.
  - Ave E alignment. Working with San Luis to build fire station/emergency service
  - Ave D to Rolle Field -- gravel road -- needs paving -- essential
  - Need at Yuma International Airport for parallel taxiways
  - FAA has a property issue with respect to the co-location with the Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS)
  - $20M is needed for safety improvements e.g. a parallel runway; however FAA funds are only $1M/year
- Strong agriculture industry – how to add value/employment/transportation.
- Yuma is losing the economic benefits of the Dove Hunt because of citrus to housing conversion
- Persons with developmental disabilities - more transit services would help reach employment. Issues are communication, schedule issues. Now there is one 5310 program bus which serves 16 work pickups
- People are moving out of town, e.g. to Wellton.
- Border considerations -- safety, ability to move quickly back and forth through the port of entry
- Transit at the port of entry is a major issue
- People sometimes have to wait hours to commute from Mexico to the U.S.
- Farm labor workers stay the night in San Luis because otherwise they have to leave Mexico at 3a.m. to 4 a.m. to cross the border
- The road to the Fun Factory – Ave 3E to Araby Road and 24th St has congestion from trucks, farm workers, and a mix of vehicles.
- On 16th St, the access road to freeway – gets congested because of winter visitors, mixed use vehicles.
- ADOT does not use the peak season traffic for roadway design
- Consider construction zones during winter
- Araby traffic interchange – buses/school traffic
- Ave 3E/Araby Road interchanges have high traffic during agricultural peak season
ADOT upcoming projects:
- San Luis Port of Entry – 8 month project (March 2014 – Oct 2014)
- South Frontage Road project – 2014
- ADOT will plan construction schedules to minimize impacts, e.g. night construction.

ADOT funding constraints: ADOT 5 - Year Plan – will be voted on. ADOT is looking at a $250M cut in next year. There are three options for programming transportation improvements:
- Focus on road preservation
- Expanding roads, including capacity improvements
- A mix of (1) and (2)

We need freight friendly corridors
City, cities, town basically doing road maintenance
Transit funding currently through 5310 and 5311 programs
Is U.S. 95 part of the Canamex Corridor? No, but it should be identified as a freight corridor.
Unfinished roads need to be improved: Mesa Ave.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- Support bicycle improvements for safety, health and better quality of life
- Limited bicycle signage
- Increase bicycle usage to improve safety
- Friendlier roadway design is needed for bicycles (24th St, 8th, 16th, 5th Ave)
- Consider including bike amenities in new roadway development
- Avenue E access road to Rolle Field needed
- Provide better access for the disabled to the bus system
- Border access to buses to jobs, shopping, and commuting
- South Frontage Road problems – e.g. no pedestrian safety areas and bicycle lanes.
- 24th Street (Avenue 3E to Araby Rd) needs improvement
- Do construction in winter months
- Need freight friendly design
- Unfinished roadways in foothills area
- Arizona Avenue has two schools. There is a need for more turn lanes, walk paths, alternate modes amenities to get to school and back. Concentrate on areas near, but not adjacent to schools to provide more walking/biking opportunities
- In San Luis, 10th Avenue only has sidewalks on one side. There is a need for sidewalks and bike lanes

PUBLIC / EMERGENCY SERVICES
- Bike thefts are an issue near the border
- Arizona Avenue needs congestion relief such as left turn lanes. During bell time – drivers / students / buses exit same time
- Biking / walking paths are insufficient in San Luis. 10th Ave one sidewalk – the rest are dirt paths
- Budgeting / funding limitations create problems
- YCAA – working with City of San Luis to build new fire/police station next to airfield
- Rolle Airfield access – 3 miles of dirt road
- $20M needed to assure safety net for Aviation, FAA only provides $1M yearly
- Farm workers need better access to US in San Luis
TOURISM
- Bicycle tourism and events for Winter visitors needed for Yuma
- Transportation to and from work needs improvement
- Bicycle events encourage visitors
- Typical auto travel distance is 8 miles, bicycles can be used for many of these trips
- Arizona is ranked 14th out of 50 states for bicyclists, Yuma is considered last in the state
- Growth patterns impact activities such as the Dove Hunt.
- Border improvements needed to facilitate vehicle flows northbound and southbound
- POV / PED delays an issue at the port of entry
- Design roads for inter visitors
- Consider seasonal events relative to scheduling construction
- Consider international drivers with respect to design

FEDERAL /STATE / ENVIRONMENTAL
- Help reduce traffic
- Move people on bicycles
- Consider economic impacts of development, e.g. Dove Hunt
- Development and growth – e.g. converting citrus groves to houses – look at economic costs
- Solar industry impacts were unanticipated

OTHER SUGGESTED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS
- Need left turn arrow for traffic to turn left onto E 24th Street off of Araby Road
- Paint center lines and fog lines on all county roads
- Move power pole at 4th Ave Junior High School
- Surface of Hwy 95 deteriorated in the vicinity of Avenue G
- Dune Buggy traffic makes it hazardous for pedestrians to walk and bike along the streets in the area around San Luis High School
- Intersection needs upgrading to allow safe easy access from Engler Ave onto 16th Street
- 25 MPH flashing school signs needed for Gila Ridge High School
- Pedestrian foot bridge needed across E 24th Street at College Ave
- A means to keep traffic from blocking the intersection of Avenue 7 E and 24th Street when dropping students off at the school in the mornings
- Center turn lanes needed for the entire length of North and South Frontage Roads
- Open 5th Street at 4th Ave Junior High School for through traffic at the school’s dismissal times
- Need traffic lights on Avenue 9 E at North and South Frontage Roads
- Need traffic lights an Avenue 10 E at North and South Frontage Roads
- Need left turn arrow for traffic light traveling west on W 3rd Street to turn left onto S 4th Ave