

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments and Citizens Working Together

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 25, 2024
3:30 P.M.

The Meeting was held In-Person and/or using GoToMeeting by Video and/or Teleconference from the Main Conference Room at the YMPO Offices at 230 West Morrison Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364

1. Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance

The Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Vice-Chair, Councilmember Maria Cruz, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. as the Chair, Vice-Mayor Cecilia McCollough was attending virtually. Vice-Chair Cruz then asked the Board to join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance

The YMPO Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant, Lourdes Lopez, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chair	Cecilia McCollough, Vice-Mayor, Town of Wellton ~
Vice-Chair	Maria Cecilia Cruz, Councilmember, City of San Luis ^
Secretary/Treasurer	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe ~
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Jon Fell, Acting Southwest District Administrator, ADOT ^
Member	Art Morales, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

As six of the seven-member agencies were present, the quorum requirement was met.

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent

Member	Michael Shelton, Councilmember, City of Yuma #
Member	Luis Galindo, Vice-Mayor, City of Somerton *

Not present but was represented by proxy by another member.

* Not present, and not represented by proxy by another member.

YMPO Staff Present:

Crystal Figueroa	Executive Director
Lourdes Lopez	Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant
Jesus R. Aguilar, Jr.	Mobility Manager
Jeff Heinrichs	IT Manager/ Associate Planner
Fernando Villegas	Senior Transportation Planner

Declaration of Votes

Councilmember Art Morales declared he would exercise all proxy votes, for a total of five votes for the City of Yuma.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public

YMPO Mobility Manager Jesus R. Aguilar, Jr. read Title VI obligations. No members of the public addressed the Board.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the March 28, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for March 2024

MOTION: Councilmember Art Morales motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Supervisor Martin Porchas seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. In memory of YMPO Board Member Gary Knight (Councilman City of Yuma)

YMPO Executive Director, Crystal Figueroa said that everyone was saddened by the news that Councilmember Gary Knight passed away on April 14, 2024. Condolences were sent to his wife, Bonnie Knight, and plans for his services were underway. In honor of Mr. Knight, a presentation was made to recognize his accomplishments over the past ten years.

Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi, Yuma County arrived at the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Ms. Figueroa reviewed Councilmember Knight's personal and professional accomplishments as a City of Yuma Councilmember, member of the YMPO Executive Board, State Transportation Board (STB) representing various counties, and the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC).

He was elected to the City of Yuma's City Council in 2013 for a four-year term and re-elected in 2017 and 2021. He served as Deputy Mayor from 2017-2019. He was selected to the YMPO Executive Board in 2014 where he served for ten years. During this time, he was the YMPO Executive Board chairman in 2017 and 2023. Mr. Kight was involved in the Highway Safety Improvement Program, which yielded

millions of dollars for the region. Ms. Figueroa mentioned he was passionate about his community and wanted to see things done.

She highlighted key projects he promoted, such as the City of San Luis Cesar Chavez Boulevard, the Yuma County extension of Avenue E and D, and the planned transportation hub at Hotel Del Sol in the City of Yuma. He supported the widening of US 95 up to Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG), where he was instrumental in acquiring funding through the AZ SMART fund and DCIP Grant. He worked with Representative Tim Dunn to improve the safety of residents traveling around the YPG and Martinez Lake area by advocating for funding.

Governor Ducey appointed him to the State Transportation Board (STB) for a six-year term in 2018, and in 2023, he served as Chairman of the STB. As an STB member, he supported and voted on AZ SMART funding for Yuma region projects. As a result of his support, more than \$10 million was awarded.

As an RTAC Board member, he supported and advocated for the Regional Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) led Regional Priority Projects for state funds, recommended by the Greater Arizona Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Councils of Governments. He served as the RTAC Board Chair in 2023.

In FY 2024, House Bill 2543 awarded \$33.3 million for US 95 construction funds and \$5.9 million for US-95 corridor pavement Phase One. House Bill 2412, currently in process at the State Legislature, could provide another \$49 million for the Greater Arizona region.

In closing, she mentioned that Councilmember Knight made a huge difference in the region with his 10-year involvement with YMPO, but also his involvement with other organizations such as the Greater Yuma Port Authority. To honor him, YMPO Staff presented a heartfelt memorial slideshow that shared memories of his time with YMPO.

Councilmember Art Morales suggested a plaque be created and presented to Bonnie Knight, honoring his service to the community.

Councilmember Cruz added he was an amazing man and mentor. He was dedicated and fought for Yuma County and the State.

Ms. Figueroa said a ceremony would be held in his honor on May 3, 2024, at the Yuma Historic Theater at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow.

6. FY 2022-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #14
YMPO Senior Transportation Planner, Fernando Villegas presented the FY 2022-26 TIP Amendment #14. He reviewed three changes: The first change was for FY 2024, for the US 95 County 20 1/2 to County 22nd Street's project total amount. It should be \$476,700 with \$449,528 in federal funding and \$27,172 in local match. The second change was to move Yuma County's project, Avenue 3E Bridge over "A" Canal construction phase from FY2025 to FY2024 and change the HURF exchange amount from \$1,031,194 to \$1,015,863, for a total project amount of \$1,215,863. The last change was to add a construction project for US 95: Imperial Dam Road to Aberdeen Road in FY 2025. He concluded his presentation and offered to answer any questions.

MOTION: Supervisor Martin Porchas motioned to approve FY 2022-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #14 as presented. Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. FY 2024-25 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #4
Ms. Figueroa explained that the FY 2024-25 UPWP had been amended three times, and additional changes were needed. She said that the change was necessary as the Complete Streets Study (CSS) funding was needed to advance the Yuma County construction project Avenue 3E Bridge over "A" Canal from FY 2025 to FY 2024, using the Obligation Authority available apportionment.

She mentioned that the type of change presented is not the norm; however, it would allow Yuma County to purchase materials needed for construction during the fall. If the construction materials were ordered before the scheduled funding, the cost of these materials would not be federally reimbursable.

She said the YMPO recommended using the \$10,000 allocated for the GIS Traffic County Map and the \$25,799 for the Safety Plan Update to replace some of the funds currently being used for the Yuma County project for the Complete Streets Study.

She explained that the GIS Traffic Count Map would be completed as part of the Longe-Range Transportation Plan, so the funds were no longer needed there. Since YMPO was highly likely to be successful with a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant, these funds could be used to replace the Complete Streets funds.

To supplement the remainder of costs for the CSS in FY 2025, an existing STBG loan of \$104,356, initially designated for the same Yuma County project, would be allocated to the CSS, basically switching the funds from the Yuma County project to the CSS.

She mentioned that since the change needed was noticed after the last meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the TAC would be advised of the change during its May meeting.

MOTION: Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi motioned to approve FY 2024-25 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #4. Councilmember Art Morales seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Update

YMPO IT Manager and Associate Transportation Planner, Jeff Heinrichs explained that the next round of applications/call for projects was expected to be released at the end of May or the beginning of June. The TAC had been made aware of the upcoming opportunity, and its members were looking for potential projects.

He explained the types of projects eligible for TA programming funds. These included: Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, Safe routes to school projects, Recreational trails, Environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity, Vulnerable road user safety assessments, Historic preservation and vegetation management, and Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

He said the types of activities eligible for the TA Program included: Planning/Scoping, Design & Construction (Requires 30% plans), Educational Programming.

He reviewed that the local match requirement was 5.7%. Projects that require right-of-way acquisition are not eligible. The project's total duration, including all phases, should be no more than four years. He concluded by saying that all thirty of the past TA applications were awarded funds, and last year's available funds statewide totaled \$18 million for Greater Arizona.

9. Summary of Current Events/Board Member Reports/Executive Director's Report & Comments by Other Participants

- A. Staff Reports - Future Meetings
- B. TAC Minutes
- C. Conference Updates (AZTA, AZRTS, and Roads and Streets)
- D. MPO/COG Director/Planner Meetings
- E. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council activities
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation
- G. Status Report on AZ Smart Fund

Ms. Figueroa announced she was expecting a child in September of this year. She mentioned that she was developing an operations plan for her absence and would be presenting it to the board in a future meeting.

She reported that YMPO staff had attended the Arizona Transit Association conference earlier in the month. The Rural Transportation Summit's 25th annual conference will be held in Prescott, on October 16-18, 2024. This conference was hosted by the YMPO last year. She invited Executive Board members to attend the conference as YMPO's guests and explained the YMPO would pay for the costs associated with attending the conference.

She reported that Governor Hobbs signed Arizona House Bill 2318: Arizona State Match Advantage for Rural Transportation (SMART) Fund reform bill into law on April 19, 2024. This bill assists greater Arizona communities in pursuing and using federal transportation competitive grant funding. The reform now allows tribes, Council of Governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Regional Transit Organizations to compete for this funding opportunity. It allows ADOT to rebalance the funds periodically between the different funding buckets. She thanked Yuma Representative Tim Dunn for sponsoring the bill. YMPO intends to apply for this fund to help provide the local match needed for the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant.

Supervisor Pancrazi added that Tim Dunn is running for the Senate and has a primary coming soon. She urged residents in his district to get out and vote.

10. Possible Future Agenda Items

- A. Title VI Plan
- B. DCIP Grant
- C. Complete Streets Study

Ms. Figueroa stated in addition to the items listed above, there would need to be an agenda item to address the appointment of an Executive Board representative for the Arizona State Transportation Board (STB) and Regional Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) as the primary Executive Board member assigned was Councilman Gary Knight. In addition, the City of Yuma would be appointing a replacement for Councilman Knight on the YMPO Executive Board.

Councilmember Morales said the City of Yuma was in the process of appointing a replacement for Councilmember Knight on the City Council, as Councilmember Knight had two years left of his term. This replacement would serve the remainder of the term.

Ms. Figueroa informed the Board that Bruce Fenske, Southwest District Administrator, ADOT, officially retired on April 19, 2024, after eighteen years of service. The State Transportation Board will soon advise YMPO who will be the new representative for District 6. This representative will serve a six-year term.

11. Progress Reports

- a. Apr 1 – Staff Meeting (CF, JH, FV, BD, JR, LL)
- b. Apr 1 – YMPO-ADOT MPO Audit Chat (BD, CF)
- c. Apr 2 – Technical Working Group YMPO LRPT (JH, CF, FV)
- d. Apr 2 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update – PMT Meetings (JH, CF, FV)
- e. Apr 4 – YC New Hire Workplace Harassment (LL)
- f. Apr 4 – Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (JH, CF, FV)
- g. Apr 8 – Arizona Mobility Managers Meeting (JR, LL)
- h. Apr 8-10 – AZTA Meeting Phoenix (CF, BD, LL, FV, JH, JR)
- i. Apr 11 – ATSAP TAC Meeting 3 (JH, CF, FV)
- j. Apr 11 – YMPO TAC Meeting (CF, BD, LL, JH, FV, JR)
- k. Apr 12 – COG/MPO Planners Meeting (JR, JH, CF, FV)
- l. Apr 15 – ADOT/YMPO Monthly Coordination Meeting (JH, CF, FV)
- m. Apr 15 – RTAC Advisory Committee Meeting (CF, FV)
- n. Apr 16 – Yuma PM10 SIP Update Meeting (CF, FV)
- o. Apr 17 – Training Federal Reimbursement (LL, BD)
- p. Apr 18 – YUMA TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (JH, CF, FV)
- q. Apr 19 – AZ State Transportation Board Meeting (CF)
- r. Apr 22 – RTAC Board Meeting (CF, FV)
- s. Apr 22 – 5310 YMPO Site Visit w/Rise Services (JR)
- t. Apr 23 – 5310 YMPO Site Visit w/Saguaro Foundation (JR)
- u. Apr 24 – YC Colors Class (LL)
- v. Apr 24 – 5310 YMPO Site Visit w/Horizon Health (JR)
- w. Apr 25 - 5310 YMPO Site Visit w/HOPE Inc. (JR)
- x. Apr 25 – Executive Board Meeting (CF, LL, JH, FV, JR)

Ms. Figueroa said as presented.

12. Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Vice-Chairwoman Cruz adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Notice: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, YMPO does not discriminate on the basis of disability, in the admission of, or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, activities, or services. If you have any questions regarding YMPO programs, activities, or services, please contact Crystal Figueroa at 928-783-8911.

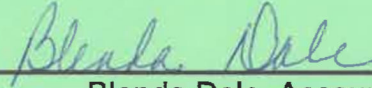
Anticipated Future 2024 Meeting Locations.

All future meetings will continue to be held at the YMPO office at 230 West Morrison Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364. Members may participate in person, OR they may participate electronically by computer, and/or telephone (or both), using

the GoToMeeting portal. The next two meetings will occur on Thursday, May 30, 2024, and Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

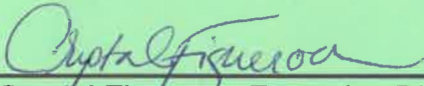
Minutes prepared by:



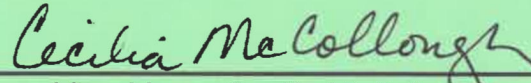
Blenda Dale, Accountant II/
Executive Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
May 30, 2024



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Vice-Mayor Cecilia McCollough,
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board