



YMPO EXECUTIVE BOARD POSTPONED MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Postponed Meeting
Thursday, April 3, 2025,
3:30 P.M.

The Meeting will be 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) Chairwoman, City of San Luis Councilmember, Maria Cecilia Cruz, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and asked Ms. McCollough to lead, and the Board to join her, in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance and Declaration of Votes.

The YMPO Accountant II/Executive Assistant, Lulu Lopez, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chairwoman	Maria Cecilia Cruz, Councilmember, City of San Luis ^
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Councilmember, Town of Wellton ^
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma ~
Member	Arturo Morales, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Paul Patane, Southwest District Administrator for Sam Elters, ADOT~

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

As four of the seven constituent member agencies were present, the quorum requirement was met.

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent

Vice-Chair	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe *
Secretary/Treasurer	Luis Galindo, Councilmember, City of Somerton *
Member	Carol Smith, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma #
Member	Darren Simmons, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County *
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County *
Member	Sam Elters, Arizona State Transportation Board, ADOT #

Not present, but was represented by proxy by another member, or attendee.

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

Other Attendees Present:

Consultant Vamshi Yellisetty, Kittleson & Associates

YMPO Staff Present:

Crystal Figueroa	Executive Director
Fernando Villegas	Senior Transportation Planner
Jesus Aguilar, Jr	Mobility Manager
Lourdes Lopez	Accountant II/Executive Assistant
Jeffery Heinrichs	IT Manager/Associate Planner
Lucia Zamudio	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Declaration of Votes

Councilmember Art Morales declared he would exercise all 5 votes for the City of Yuma.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

The Chairwoman called on Jesus Aguilar, Jr., YMPO Mobility Manager, who read the YMPO Title VI obligations. No members of the public were present to address the Board.

4. Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of February 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for February 2025.

YMPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa asked to defer the approval of the February 2025 Board meeting minutes to the April meeting. She stated that the February Income/Expenditure report was included for action.

MOTION: Councilmember Cecillia McCollough moved to defer Item A to April and to approve the remaining items as presented. Councilmember Morales seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. YMPO Staff Hiring Update

YMPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa informed the Board of a recent staff change, which led to the YMPO's advertisement for the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper position via the Yuma County Employment Opportunity site. After conducting interviews, Ms. Lucia Zamudio was selected to support YMPO operations.

6. FY 2026-50 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Project Manager Vamshi Yellisetty from Kittleson & Associates updated the Board on the progress of the LRTP project. Mr. Yellisetty presented on the project's purpose, completed, and current plan phases.

He explained the MPO's are mandated to update the plan every four years and as part of it, understand current and future transportation issues, gaps, and needs. Using the outcomes, the goal is to create a more viable, equitable, and connected multi-modal transportation plan by creating a realistic action plan to guide transportation investments in the Greater Yuma Region. He reported that the plan was developed in four phases, and existing and future conditions were evaluated, considering the Yuma area's growth and network gaps evaluation. He reported that roadway congestion concerns would increase if no changes occurred in the transportation network.

He briefed on the public outreach phases, including various distribution methods such as Facebook ads, emails, focus groups, and press releases, which were completed. A project website was created that included a survey and interactive map for public feedback. There were 415 responses and 246 map comments from across the county. The public had the opportunity to rank transportation challenges in different areas of the county.

During phase two, Mr. Yellisetty stated that they attended various public events and communities in the region between mid-October and February 2025. Mr. Yellisetty stated that during these events, they received very useful feedback from the public on regional Improvement priorities such as improving pavement surface of roads, adding shared-use paths/sidewalks/bike lanes, widening existing roads, and improving transit services. Mr. Yellisetty also presented the Board with the response to the survey question on Investment Priorities for the region. Some key elements of the responses were to improve safety, expand biking/walking/transit infrastructure, and maintain existing transportation infrastructure. Mr. Yellisetty mentioned that the order of the priorities changed when a financial constraint was present, but the priorities in general did not.

Mr. Yellisetty continued by presenting on evaluated regional projects' alternative analysis. Some projects are recommended to be moved forward, and others regarded as a need. The projects included: I-8 widen to six lanes from 16th St. to Foothills Blvd. He also mentioned as a reminder that this recommended project was not funded and that it will just be noted as a "need" in the final LRTP report. New half-diamond traffic interchange (TI) at I-8 / Pacific Ave. The suggestion was provided because 16th street and TI are very congested, especially the approach going westbound off ramp and eastbound on ramp. Mr. Yellisetty mentioned that this suggestion is still at the planning level and no engineering studies have been conducted. He also included projects they weren't suggesting but had been brought to them for analysis, and the list included the reconfiguration of I-8 / Ave 8 ½ E TI because of the odd movements. An alternative diamond configuration was

tested, and the reconfiguration did not provide many benefits and would be costly to build compared to other priorities.

Councilmember Morales challenged the statement that the Avenue 8 ½ E TI reconfiguration provides little benefit and is expensive to build. He acknowledged that high construction costs apply to most projects and noted that while the current design may have been suitable at the time of construction, it no longer meets the area's growing needs. He referenced frequent accidents and road closures near Walmart, which have caused traffic to be rerouted through adjacent roads, impacting response times from Fire Station 7. Councilmember Morales also pointed out that 9E is becoming a primary route due to nearby development and Arizona Western College traffic, with railroad crossings contributing to significant delays. He cited additional concerns over future residential and commercial developments in the area, including a new LDS temple, which will likely increase congestion. He requested a reevaluation of the reconfiguration due to existing safety issues and anticipated growth. Mr. Yellisetty agreed and stated they would do a in-depth analysis on this project and its safety concerns.

Mr. Yellisetty continued to inform the Board of other projects that they suggested and others that were not. He mentioned two key projects in the San Luis area: One was the Ave E/D Extension, since it had been included in the previous LRTP and is still active, and the other was a New Arterial/Collector Roads in East San Luis to support plan development in that area.

Councilmember Morales inquired whether Mr. Yellisetty was aware of the planned spaceport project and if it could pose any issues, given that satellites would be launched into outer space from the area. Mr. Yellisetty responded that he had not been made aware of the project but would reach out to Yuma County and the City of San Luis to gather more information, including potential roadway impacts and whether adjustments would be necessary.

With confirmation from Chairwoman Cruz, Councilmember Morales stated that the spaceport would be located on the east side of the Arizona State Prison Complex. He added that, while the launches would involve small rockets, with authorization to launch only during the evenings, it remained important to document and consider this development in planning efforts for the area. Mr. Yellisetty acknowledged the importance of the point and reiterated that he would follow up with local agencies for further details.

ADOT Southwest Administrator, Paul Patane, addressed the Board and advised that the City of Yuma is leading the Spaceport project. He confirmed the project would be located just east of the Arizona State Prison Complex, near the curve by Highway 195. While access to the site would come from Highway 195, he stated that overall roadway impacts were expected to be minimal. However, temporary

road closures would occur during rocket launches, which would be managed as operational matters. He recommended that Dave, the City of Yuma Engineer, be contacted for more detailed information.

Councilmember Morales added that while the land for the spaceport had not been officially confirmed, it was still important to keep the project on the radar. Although the location is currently projected for one area, it could shift closer to roadways included in regional project lists in the future.

Mr. Yellisetty continued to inform the Board that, in addition to regional improvements, the study reviewed needed improvements within each community. While a full list will be provided with the draft Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), he offered a brief overview. In the Somerton and Cocopah areas, Avenue D to the north of County 14th Street along SR-95 was identified as a high-crash corridor, with potential to incorporate safety improvements into an existing milling and overlay project. Somerton priorities included extending a roadway west to Avenue G and widening another to four lanes to improve school access. A key project in the unincorporated Yuma County and Wellton areas involves a new roadway connection from Avenue 29E to the Border Patrol staging area. A railroad crossing, marked as "R," was also identified as a public concern, though the region has already secured grant funding to study it and include two additional crossings.

He also informed the Board that within the next five years, the main entrance to MCAS Yuma is expected to be relocated from its current location to County 14th Street. This relocation is anticipated to significantly alter traffic patterns in the area, prompting the need for three key projects: Widening County 14th Street to four lanes, widening Avenue A from 4th Avenue to County 14th Street to four lanes, and widening Avenue 2E between County 15th and 14th Street to four lanes. These improvements were identified as necessary to accommodate the projected traffic shifts, and it was agreed that they would be placed in the second horizon (5–10-year timeframe) of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Yellisetty noted that significant progress had been made since the last LRTP, with many completed and ongoing projects in the San Luis area. The updated plan also identified and presented several new projects to the Board.

Mr. Yellisetty concluded his presentation by noting that the projects shared represented the draft portfolio for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He mentioned that the draft would be reviewed again with the public and the Executive Board before finalization. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the LRTP complies with air quality conformity requirements, as YMPO is located in a non-attainment area. All recommended projects must demonstrate no negative impact on regional air quality. The draft report will be released for a one-month public review period, with the overall project scheduled to wrap up by mid-to-late June.

Councilmember Morales commented on the congestion issues along the I-8 corridor near Foothills and questioned why the proposed widening from 16th Street to Foothills Boulevard wouldn't be coordinated with improvements at the nearby intersection 8E. He suggested that maybe combining efforts could be more efficient since construction in the area would already be underway. Mr. Yellisetty agreed and stated that a recommendation will be made to evaluate the entire I-8 corridor and its traffic interchanges (TIs) for more realistic, targeted improvements. He noted that a deeper analysis could determine whether it would be beneficial to address the Avenue 8E TI during the I-8 widening, given the expected disruption.

Mr. Patane asked Mr. Yellisetty what year the six-lane improvement project (I-8 widened to six lanes from 16th St. to Foothills Blvd) was projected for, to emphasize the importance of noting that some of the recommended improvements are long-term in nature. Mr. Yellisetty responded that the timeline was estimated between 2035 and 2050.

7. Debrief on the Arizona State Transportation Board Visit to Yuma

Ms. Figueroa reported that the State Transportation Board held its third meeting of the year on March 21, 2025, at the City of Yuma Council Chambers. Prior to the meeting, 18 participants, including a member of the State Transportation Board, ADOT staff, YMPO board members, and staff, toured the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) to understand its operations and the critical role of US 95 in its national defense. Commander Nelson gave a presentation, and the tour highlighted the importance of continued support and improvements to the highway.

A co-hosted breakfast with the City of Yuma the following day allowed YMPO Board members to engage with State Board members and reinforce regional transportation priorities. Mr. Figueroa reported that Chairwoman Cruz, Deputy Mayor Carol Smith, Colonel Nelson, and her spoke during the Call to the Public, advocating for continued widening improvements on US 95. Chairwoman Cruz emphasized the volume of artillery testing and visitors at YPG and reaffirmed regional support following the passing of advocate the late Mr. Gary Knight.

Councilmember McCollough commended the event's organization and noted the advances in technology since her last tour in 2009. Ms. Figueroa thanked staff—Jeff, Lulu, Lucia, JR, and Fernando—for their efforts in coordinating the successful visit.

8. Roads of Regional Significance Study Contract Award

Ms. Figueroa reported that on January 21st, YMPO released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop a Roads of Regional Significance Study. The deadline for submissions was February 24th, and three proposals were received from Wilson & Company, Kimley-Horn, and CivTech.

YMPO Senior Planner, Fernando Villegas stated that the proposals were reviewed and ranked by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with nine scoring sheets submitted. Based on the compiled scores, Kimley-Horn ranked highest. As per Section 13 of the RFP, the top-ranked consultant must be selected for contract negotiations.

Ms. Figueroa added that a draft agreement had already been sent in anticipation of a possible contract award. The proposed cost was within budget, eliminating the need for price negotiation.

MOTION: Councilmember Morales moved to approve the contract award recommended to the preferred consultant. Councilmember McCollough seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. FY 2022-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #21

Mr. Villegas reported that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been amended nineteen times by the Executive Board. A recent administrative change, approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), became administrative amendment twenty. As a result, the next formal amendment was renumbered as Amendment #21, despite being presented to the TAC as Amendment 20.

Amendment 21 includes three City of Yuma projects. The first involves increasing local funding for the 40th Street HURF Exchange Project to move the project forward in the current fiscal year. The other two projects—bus pull-outs on Avenue A at 16th Street, and a shared-use path from East Wetlands to Pacific Avenue—are being moved from FY 2025 to FY 2026 due to design delays. Mr. Villegas noted that ADOT must promptly be notified of projects timeframe shift and include fund loan transfer request form for CRP funds from FY 2025 to FY 2026.

Councilmember Morales asked if the 40th Street project was related to earlier discussions about the Foothills Boulevard extension. Mr. Villegas clarified that while this project is part of 40th Street improvements, it was programmed two to three years ago and covers only a portion of the corridor.

Councilmember Morales also inquired whether the funding amounts listed would align with the City of Yuma's budget. Ms. Figueroa responded that all federally funded projects must be included in the MPO's fiscally constrained TIP and that coordination with member agencies ensures alignment with local budgets.

MOTION: Councilmember McCollough moved to approve the FY 2022-2026 YMPO TIP Amendment #21. Councilmember Morales seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

10. FY 2026 and 2027 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Figueroa reported that the current two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2024–2025 was initially approved by the Executive Board on May 25, 2023. Over the past several months, staff worked to identify transportation activities for the development of the next fourth bi-annual work program. Although the current presentation was initially scheduled for the Executive Board in March, the program was reviewed during a meeting with ADOT, federal partners, and YCIPTA on April 2nd. Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and ADOT participated and received an overview of the accomplishments of FY 2024 and 2025 and proposed operational and transportation activities. Ms. Figueroa outlined and presented the Board with the ongoing and upcoming FY 2026–2027 YMPO Regional Planning Studies with anticipated cost. Ms. Figueroa also mentioned that comments received from federal partners will be incorporated into the final draft, which is scheduled for Executive Board review and approval in May.

It was at this time that Chairwoman Cruz pointed out a typo in the timeline table for the Roads of Regional Significance within Item #8 information summary. Ms. Figueroa acknowledged the error and confirmed it would be corrected.

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

This agenda item is an opportunity for members and staff to update the Board regarding recent occurrences, as shown below. If written information is available, it will be included in the attached information summary.

- A. Staff Reports - Future Meetings.
- B. TAC Minutes.
- C. Conference Updates (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 informed the Board that on March 26, a release was issued from the Offices of Senators Kelly and Gallego office regarding Fiscal Year 2026 federal appropriations and congressional-directed spending requests. The update was initially intended to be shared at the March 27 meeting. She noted that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Executive Board encouraged member jurisdictions to consider pursuing funding opportunities if they have eligible projects.

12. Possible Future Agenda Items

- A. AZ SMART Fund
- B. Transportation Alternatives Program
- C. FY 2026 and 2027 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program

- D. ADOT FY 2026-2030 Tentative Facilities Construction Program
- E. FY 2025 Title VI Update

Mr. Heinrichs informed the Board that ADOT opened the application period for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program on March 24. Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the program allocates \$16–\$17 million annually for Greater Arizona, excluding MAG and PAG regions. Eligible projects include bike/pedestrian facilities, multimodal paths, safe routes to schools, signage, planning, and education. The initial screening application deadline is May 5.

Chairwoman Cruz asked Mr. Heinrichs if schools and nonprofits are eligible. Mr. Heinrichs responded that they are, but that such applicants are encouraged to partner with a local government entity, like a city or county, to submit the application and navigate the ADOT process. He cited a past example where Crane School District partnered with the City of Yuma for a successful TA project.

Councilmember Morales highlighted a potential opportunity for a safety project near 9E, where 96 new homes and increased student crossings are expected. Chairwoman Cruz added that collaboration between cities and schools or colleges could help address such needs effectively.

13. Progress Report

Members and staff will update the Board on the progress of ongoing projects and other recent events:

- a. Mar 3 – YMPO CSCS – Monthly Check-In (CF, FV, JH)
- b. Mar 3 – YMPO LRTP Update – PMT Meetings (FV, JH)
- c. Mar 3-8 – CTAA Leadership Academy D.C (JR)
- d. Mar 4 – COG/MPO Planners Meeting (CF, FV, JH)
- e. Mar 5 – Zamudio, Lucia New Hire Orientation (LL)
- f. Mar 5 – Evaluation Meeting – RFQ-25-156 SS4A (FV, CF)
- g. Mar 6 – YMPO PL/PLSATO FFY25 ADOT Ledger Review with Katherin Koster (CF, LL)
- h. Mar 6 – Arizona Transportation Policy Summit (CF)
- i. Mar 6 – Review – Preliminary FY26 Entity Dues (CF, LL)
- j. Mar 6 – Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (FV, JH)
- k. Mar 7 – ADOT and COG/MPO Finance Workshop (CF, FV, LL)
- l. Mar 10 – ADOT/YMPO Coordination Meeting (CF, FV, JH)
- m. Mar 10 – YMPO Staff Meeting (All)
- n. Mar 10 – Regional Mobility Committee (JR)
- o. Mar 11 – Yuma TMP/YMPO LRTP Coordination Meeting (FV, JH, CF)
- p. Mar 11 – YABC COY Open Enrollment changes (CF, LL, LZ)
- q. Mar 13 – Mtg with Kristen – Office Desk Procurement (CF, LL)
- r. Mar 13 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (CF, FV, JR, LL)
- s. Mar 13 – YMPO LRTP TWG Meeting (FV, CF, JH)

- t. Mar 17 – CTS Meeting (CF, FV)
- u. Mar 17 – Traffic Count BKM Meeting (JH)
- v. Mar 18 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update PMT Meeting (FV, JH, CF)
- w. Mar 18 – Yuma PM 10 SIP Update Meeting (FV, CF)
- x. Mar 19 – Update meeting 5310 Travel Training Program under development (JR, CF)
- y. Mar 19 – Transportation Alternatives TAC Meeting (JH, CF)
- z. Mar 19 – JLUP WG Meeting (CF)
- aa. Mar 19 – Call with Mayor Nicholls for US95 advocacy (CF)
- bb. Mar 20 – PASS Wheelchair Training (JR)
- cc. Mar 20 – State Transportation Board – YPG Tour (CF, LL, JH, JR, FV)
- dd. Mar 20 – Arizona Incoming Planner Information Exchange (FV, JH, JR)
- ee. Mar 21 – State Transportation Board Hosted Breakfast by COY & YMPO (CF, FV, JR, LL)
- ff. Mar 21 – State Transportation Board Meeting in Yuma (CF)
- gg. Mar 24 – Traffic Count BKM Meeting Meeting (JH)
- hh. Mar 26 – ADOT Redesignation of Critical Freight Corridors – TAC Meeting #2 (CF)
- ii. Mar 27 – YMPO LRTP TWG Meeting (JH, FV, CF)
- jj. Mar 27 – YMPO Executive Board Meeting (ALL)

16. Adjournment.

Having no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Cruz adjourned the meeting at 4:46 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 2025 Meetings

Future meetings will continue 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. In general, meetings will be the last Thursday of each month, and the next two meetings are tentatively scheduled for April 24 and May 29, 2025.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



Lulu Lopez, Accountant II/Executive
Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
April 24, 2025



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Councilmember Maria Cecilia Cruz,
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board