

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments and Citizens Working Together

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2022
1:36 P.M.

The Meeting was held In-Person and 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

In the absence of Chairman Porchas, the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Vice Chairman, Councilmember Gary Knight called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. He called on members to join him, in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance and Declaration of Votes

The YMPO Accountant II/Executive Assistant, Blenda Dale, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Vice-Chair	Gary Knight, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Secretary/Treasurer	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton ^
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Bruce Fenske, Southwest District Administrator, ADOT ^
Member	Leslie McClendon, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma ~ "

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

" Arrived after the roll call.

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent:

Chair	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County #
Member	Matias Rosales, Councilmember, City of San Luis *
Member	Gerardo Anaya, Mayor, City of Somerton *
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma #
Member	Cocopah Indian Tribe - not currently identified *

Not present but represented by proxy by another member.

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

YMPO Staff Present:

Crystal Figueroa	Executive Director
Charles Gutierrez	Senior Planning Manager
Jesus R. Aguilar, Jr.	Mobility Manager
Blenda Dale	Accountant II/ Executive Assistant
Norma Chavez	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Declaration of Votes:

Councilmember Gary Knight declared that he would exercise proxies for Councilmember Watts and Deputy Mayor McClendon and would therefore wield all five votes for the City of Yuma. Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi declared she would exercise proxy for Supervisor Porchas, Yuma County.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public

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

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the September 22, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for September 2022

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to approve the Consent Agenda packet, items A and B, to include the September 22, 2022, regular meeting minutes as written, and to accept the YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for September 2022 as published. Mayor McClendon seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Alignment Study - Update

Senior Planning Manager, Charles Gutierrez presented on working paper two along with the progress of the study thus far including the candidate analysis recap, candidate alignment alternatives, discussion and recommendations. In addition, he reviewed the Evaluation of Inspection and Intermodal facilities, potential future project phases, and next steps.

Mr. Gutierrez mentioned that derived from the data matrix, some discussion had already occurred about the three alternative alignment routes consisting of some pieces of alternative A and B working better than some pieces of Alternative C. He mentioned that based on the data-driven matrix; the preferred alternative resulted in alternative C. Therefore, during the September 8th TAC meeting, the committee approved alignment C to the Board as the preferred alignment with no feasible option. However, it is considered the recommended alternative with specific conditions to mitigate major stakeholder concerns before moving forward in the

project implementation process if interest ever arises. Councilmember Knight commented that the TAC, not the Executive Board, recommended Alternative Alignment C. Mr. Gutierrez agreed to document that the TAC recommended alignment C specifically, and the Executive Board did not at the time and would be taking comments back to the TAC.

Mr. Gutierrez continued with the inspection facility evaluation for the recommended alternative mainline and mentioned that additional infrastructure and land would be required for a border-related inspection facility. He also noted that Rail cars from Mexico would require inspection within the first 35 miles of the US/Mexico border. However, most intermodal facilities are located within 10 miles of the border.

The study included an evaluation for an Intermodal Facility. Three areas were identified: Area 1 - the area south of UPRR surrounding the connection point between the Recommended Alternative route and UPRR. Area 2 - the area south of UPRR between I-8 and the Agua Viva Water Treatment Facility. Area 3 - is a location in Wellton north of I-8 and the UPRR and just west of Avenue 45E.

Mr. Gutierrez continued and identified the Potential Future Project Phases as planning, right-of-way preservation, and potential future feasibility studies, which he identified as the current phase. The next phase was the design: engineering, funding, and final design. Next, the construction consists of approvals, and operation consists of ongoing maintenance and operation of the system.

Mr. Gutierrez stated Working Paper 3, which is the Economic Impact Analysis, has been completed and will be presented to the TAC and Executive Board the following week. He asked the Executive Board if the desire was to move forward with a final public engagement meeting in late November or early December similar to prior study engagements.

Councilmember Knight said he felt any more public meetings regarding this subject would not be of benefit, based on the negative comments he received from the public on working paper two. In addition, Mr. Knight said he felt further public meetings would make the public feel their concerns were not considered based on the options. Mr. Knight mentioned that the objections were made clear by the general public, the agriculture community, and the military and that the routes didn't solve any of their concerns. Mr. Gutierrez responded that in favor of transportation, the planning process consists of feasibility studies to plan for future growth for development. Mr. Knight mentioned he understands that planning process, but at the moment the Board was asked if there should be a final public engagement and he reiterated that in his opinion due to not having a viable alternative there shouldn't be one.

Deputy Mayor Leslie McClendon arrived at the meeting at 1:55p.m. and was announced by Councilmember Knight at 2:00 p.m.

Planning Director for Cocopah Indian Tribe and TAC member, Mr. Eric Holland suggested offering the affected residents near the rail line compensation in the form of sound mitigating structures or perhaps some other desired amenity for their community. Mr. Knight commented that based on the number of homes that would need to be displaced with alignment C, he doesn't see a change in the community responses so far.

Executive Director Crystal Figueroa suggested that if we did not have a public meeting to explain the study findings, it would be considered inconclusive. Mr. Knight said we should not have another public meeting until the railway project is ready to take the steps towards building. He suggested that because there is no investor currently to build, concluding the study with the three alternatives is probably best. However, suppose interest arises to build rail and more interest from Mexico, including Union Pacific. In that case, it could be taken from there and returned to the public for comment.

Mr. Gutierrez mentioned that based on the discussion, he would go back to the TAC and mention that guidance from the Executive Board is to not conduct another public engagement. It would be re-engaged if an investor or the study were to move forward for some reason, and it would be a recommendation of alignment C within another feasibility study." Councilmember Knight asked if any other board members had a different view. Supervisor Pancrazi stated she felt if the rail moved forward, it should go to the people to vote on whether or not to construct the rail. She suggested the rail would have detrimental impacts on their communities such as crime and environmental concerns.

Mr. Gutierrez said there were only a handful of the public attending the public meetings favored a new rail and more than 90% disapproved. Councilmember Knight reiterated his view that the study should not conduct any further public meetings unless the Rail were to move forward and if moving forward, what concessions are they willing to provide the public. Ms. Figueroa asked if any mitigation had been identified in the study. Mr. Gutierrez said yes, the military dump site, Bureau Of Reclamation areas and right of way areas were identified. The identified mitigation would need to be resolved before moving forward. Mr. Gutierrez will take these comments to the TAC on behalf of the board.

6. Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program Grant Success

Ms. Figueroa explained The DCIP Program was a success. The application was approved and the FY2022 DCIP Grant agreement, including \$13,283,100 from the

Department of Defense, was executed by the Arizona Department of Transportation and the (OLDCC). The only pending items of the grant is the NEPA environmental portion and legal review. The items are expected to be completed within the next week or two.

Everyone on the Executive Board should have received an email invitation for the Project Kick Off on November 3rd. The DCIP grant funding is specifically for the US-95 widening effort segment between Rifle Range Road to just north of the Wellton-Mohawk Canal, approximately 3 miles. The project is being funded with DCIP, FHWA and state funds. Mr. Gutierrez suggested that women not wear heels to the Kickoff event since it will be in the dirt field to the side of the road. YMPO will have staff available to offer assistance to anyone who needs help walking to the site. Ms. Figueroa mentioned the various people presenting at the kickoff event to include members from YMPO, Yuma Proving Grounds, ADOT, DOD, FHWA, and Councilmember Knight from the City of Yuma.

7. 2022-2025 Transportation Performance Measures (Targets)

Mr. Gutierrez explained The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations either develop and adopt their own Transportation Performance Measures (TPMs) or adopt the State's existing performance measures within 180 days of the State target establishment.

National transportation system goals include safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement, and economic vitality and environmental sustainability. YMPO agrees with all the existing performance targets and will therefore be presenting this to the TAC. The TAC will either agree with these targets or a consultant will be hired to set up the criteria based on FHWA measures. Traditionally, YMPO has adopted the state's performance measures.

Mr. Gutierrez provided the actual state safety performance targets, which YMPO wish to follow. It was mentioned that the item is expected to be brought back for recommendation to adopt the new identified targets during the next Board meeting.

8. FY 2023-2026 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4, Clarification

Mr. Gutierrez explained he wished to review the FY 2023-2026 YMPO TIP Amendment #4, which was approved by the Executive Board during their last meeting. At that time, the numbers on the presentation were incorrect and therefor verbally advised during that meeting. He showed the correct figures for the amendment for clarity purposes only.

9. Regional Coordination Plan (RCP)– Approval of Preferred Consultant

Mr. Aguilar updated the progress of the Regional Coordination Plan. He explained the process moving forward to complete the proposal process. On August 24, 2022, YMPO released the RFP a second time, and two submissions were received. During the last Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on October 13, 2022, the YMPO (TAC) reviewed and scored the proposals. The TAC recommended one of the two companies as the preferred company to award the contract.

Ms. Figueroa gave an update on contract negotiations with LSC. She stated the proposal given was within the proposed budget. She asked the Executive Board for an action to approve providing LSC with the Notice to Proceed letter.

Mr. Gutierrez thanked the Executive Board for their time on this endeavor and was excited to proceed.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to approve providing LSC with the Notice to Proceed letter. Mayor McCullough seconded, and the motion passed.

10. 2023 Arizona Rural Transportation Summit (AZRTS) Planning - Update

Ms. Figueroa advised that the next Rural Transportation Summit would be held October 18 -19, 2023 in Yuma, organized by YMPO and WACOG. She explained the purpose of the event as providing opportunities to connect with rural AZ transportation decision-makers, networking with others to improve and enhance transportation needs, provide FHWA, FTA, ADOT and Tribal updates and provide opportunities to share MPO & COG transportation projects and needs to Legislators.

Figueroa stated the Hilton Pivot Point was the preferred venue for the conference; however, the room prices were prohibitive. Based on this, YMPO staff looked for another option, consisting of the City of Yuma Civic Center, as a possible venue at a more reasonable price; however, they posed the inconvenience of not having a hotel attached, and the room rates vary at hotel options. She stated that a challenge that hotels faced is that the State rate has not been updated to reflect inflation; as a result, fewer rooms are offered at the State or Federal rates. Ms. Figueroa continued and said earlier that morning she negotiated with the Hilton venue to lower their rate by \$30 to \$179/night. This will make the conference more affordable for attendees. Additionally, Ms. Figueroa spoke with Mark Hoffman at ADOT and confirmed the room rate of \$179 would be honored as the conference rate and be eligible for reimbursement as long it's mentioned in the conference program.

Southwest District Administrator, Bruce Fenske, asked what WACOG thought of the rate. Ms. Figueroa stated that the WACOG Director prefers the Hilton over the Civic Center due to the convenience for attendees and proximity to downtown.

Supervisor Pancrazi asked if there were any alternative hotels able to accommodate the conference. Mr. Gutierrez said there were no other hotels in the area that could accommodate. After much discussion, Ms. Figueroa asked for action to approve the venue for the 2023 RTS conference.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to approve the Hilton Pivot Point as the venue for the 2023 Rural Transportation Summit. Mayor McClendon seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

11. YMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Change of Chairman

Mr. Gutierrez advised that the City of Yuma and Yuma County have requested to change their nominated attendees at the TAC meetings to ensure that no one entity has the chair position on the TAC *and* Executive Board at the same time. City Engineer, Dave Wostenberg will be the TAC Chairperson through the end of the calendar year. Then, Vice-Chair, Eulogio Vera (San Luis Public Works Director) will become the TAC Chairperson.

Councilmember Knight asked if this was a written rule or just in practice, to which Mr. Gutierrez advised it was in practice only to ensure no conflict of interest.

12. 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 an attached Information Summary.

- 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

Ms. Figueroa advised that in a recent RTAC meeting, there was a discussion about the current layout of the project priority list to improve the form.

RTAC Liaison, Kevin Adams, said they would keep the layout of the project priority list the same; however, map specs would be more explicit and designate the jurisdiction and legislative district region the project is located within. Mr. Adams said they only wish to improve the product produced from last year.

13. Possible Future Agenda Items.

The following items will be heard at a future meeting. Members are encouraged to suggest topics for discussion at a future Board meeting:

- A. US-95 Kick-Off Ceremony
- B. HSIP Application Update
- C. FY 2022 Audit Update
- D. POPTAC
- E. 2022-2025 Performance Targets

Mr. Gutierrez said the ADOT Traffic Safety Section will hold a meeting on December 8, discussing the HSIP applications. An update to the Executive Board will occur during the January or February board meeting.

Supervisor Pancrazi asked if the Hwy 95 construction next to agricultural land had been completed yet? Southwest District Administrator Fenske said they are close to completing that area and construction should not significantly impact agricultural business.

14. Progress Reports

Members and staff will update the Board on the progress of ongoing projects and other recent events. Ms. Figueroa stated as presented.

- A. Sep 26 - ADOT/YMPO Monthly Coordination meeting (CF, PW, CG)
- B. Sep 28-30 - Roads and Streets Conference (All staff)
- C. Oct 3-6 - Accountant Firm (The Pun Group) Onsite Field Work (CF, BD)
- D. Oct 4 - YMPO/KH Discussion on Roads of Regional Significance and Complete Street Plans (CF)
- E. Oct 4-5 - ADOT Transit Implementation Workshop-5310 Overview (JR)
- F. Oct 5 - ADOT Transit Implementation Workshop-Civil Rights Title VI and ADA (JR)
- G. Oct 6 - Arizona State Transportation Study Session (CF)
- H. Oct 8 - Public Outreach at Saguaro Fall Festival-5310 Program (JR)
- I. Oct 10 - Staff Meeting (All)
- J. Oct 10 - Virtual RTAC Advisory Committee Meeting (CF, BD)
- K. Oct 10 - ADOT/YMPO Monthly Coordination Meeting (CF, CG)
- L. Oct 11 - Mobility Managers Meeting-5310 Funding (CG)
- M. Oct 11 - Transportation Meeting (CF, CG)
- N. Oct 11 - Yuma and Census (CF)
- O. Oct 11 - San Luis Recognition for Senator Otondo & Representative Fernandez (CF)
- P. Oct 12 - 5310 Meeting with Achieve (JR)
- Q. Oct 12 - COG/MPO Director's Meeting (CF)
- R. Oct 12 - Avenue E/D Industrial Corridor Project - Working Group Mtg (CF, CG)
- S. Oct 12 - Arizona STSP - Pedestrians EA Meeting (CG)

- T. Oct 12 - Maintenance Forum October 2022 (JR)
- U. Oct 13 - TAC Meeting (CF, CG, NC, JR)
- V. Oct 13 - DOT's Thriving Communities Program (CF)
- W. Oct 13 - Audit Preparation Status Call with The Pun Group (CF, BD)
- X. Oct 13 - YRBC Meeting (JR)
- Y. Oct 13 - Coordinated Council Meeting (JR)
- Z. Oct 14 - COG/MPO Planners Meeting (CG)
- AA. Oct 17 - Possible 2023 RTS Venue Walkthrough at Cocopah Conference Center (CF, BD)
- BB. Oct 17 - Possible 2023 RTS Venue Civic Center Walkthrough (CF, BD)
- CC. Oct 17 - ADOT/YMPO Monthly Coordination Meeting (CF, CG)
- DD. Oct 18 - Yuma MPO Regional Coordination Plan Meeting (CF, CG, JR)
- EE. Oct 18 - Yuma PM10 SIP Update Call (CF, CG)
- FF. Oct 18 - Meaningful Public Involvement Guidance Webinar (CG)
- GG. Oct 18 - RTS YMPO Contract (CF, BD)
- HH. Oct 19 - Arizona-Sonora Border Infrastructure Master Plan-PAC/TWG Kick-Off Meeting (CF, CG)
- II. Oct 19 - Statewide Rest Areas Study TAC and Stakeholder Meeting #2 (CG)
- JJ. Oct 19 - How to Make the Most Out of Your Paratransit Fleet (JR)
- KK. Oct 20 - Networking for Community Resources Meeting (JR)
- LL. Oct 20 - Audit Preparation Status Call with The Pun Group (CF, BD)
- MM. Oct 20-21 - Arizona's Women Leading Governments (CF)
- NN. Oct 21 - Arizona Transportation Board Meeting (CF)
- OO. Oct 24 - RTAC Board Meeting (CF, CG)
- PP. Oct 24 - CTS Meeting (CF, CG)
- QQ. Oct 25 - Public Mtg Statewide Network of EV Charging Stations (CG)
- RR. Oct 26 - RTAC Priority Project Booklet (CF, CG)

Vice Chair Knight said the next State Transportation Board meeting will be held on November 18 in Wickenburg, AZ.

Ms. Figueroa wished to remind board members that the next Executive Board meetings will be held on December 8, 2022, and January 26, 2023.

Mr. Gutierrez asked the board member's preference for future meeting email requests. Vice Chair Knight suggested to send one email with all the calendar year's meetings on it.

15. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 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 or Charles Gutierrez at 928-783-8911.

Anticipated Future 2022 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, December 8, 2022., and the combined November/December meeting will occur on January 26, 2023.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

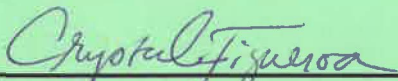
Minutes prepared by:



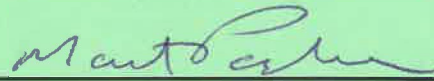
Blenda Dale, Accountant II/
Executive Admin Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
December 8, 2022



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Supervisor Martin Porchas,
Chairman, YMPO Executive Board