

EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Local Governments and Citizens Working Together

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2022 1:30 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

Chairman Martin Porchas called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He called on members to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance and Declaration of Votes

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chair	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Vice-Chair	Gary Knight, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Matias Rosales, Councilmember, City of San Luis "
Member	Gerardo Anaya, Mayor, City of Somerton "
Member	Bruce Fenske, Southwest District Administrator, ADOT ^
Member	Leslie McClendon, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma "

^ Attended in person.

" Attended virtually.

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent:

Secretary/Treasurer	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton *
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma +
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County *
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
Paul Ward	Principal Engineer

Charles Gutierrez Senior Planning Manager
Jesus R. Aguilar, Jr. Mobility Manager
Blenda Dale Accountant II/ Executive Assistant

Declaration of Votes: Councilmember (and Vice-Chair) Gary Knight declared that he would exercise proxy for Councilmember Watts for a total of four votes and Deputy Mayor McClendon would have one vote.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public

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

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the August 25, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for August 2022

A copy of the draft minutes of the Regular Board meeting from August 25, 2022, accompanied the agenda and the August 2022 financial report was also provided for review.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight moved to approve the Consent Agenda packet, items A and B, to include the August 25, 2022, regular meeting minutes, as written, and to accept the YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for August 2022, as published. Councilmember Matias Rosales seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Alignment Study - Update

The YMPO Senior Planner Charles Gutierrez updated the board on the YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Study conceptual railway alignment alternatives based on data-driven information. Areas considered looked at routes in North, North Central, South Central, and South Yuma, AZ. The screening processes utilized to identify the alignment alternatives were land use, road system, environmental factors, construction, and political feasibility. He also stated that there is the possibility that the study may reveal no feasible alternative. Mr. Gutierrez stated that ten possible alignments were identified, and based on their research, stakeholder and public input, three alignments came to the forefront. The three alignments selected for further research started near the San Luis Port of Entry II and follow and veered east and north with connection to the UPRR line.

He then reviewed how the study arrived at these three possible alignment alternatives. The study looked at current land use, such as the number of residents within a quarter mile of the alignment. It also considered the land and structures that would need to be acquired in order to build the rail. Including, the

Transportation issues such as the number of assumed roadway closures and ease of connection to the existing UPRR lines were evaluated. The study looked at environmental impacts that would or could occur such as the impact on wetlands and Title VI. A cost analysis was created to show what the right-of-way and construction costs could potentially be. From this information, a matrix was created. The matrix was used to assign a point system to determine the best possible alignment if the rail line was decided to be built. The points system ranked alignment C, with 49 points, as the best option, followed by Option A, at 45 and then Option B, at 43 points. Even though Option C was the most expensive, it had the least restrictions and issues associated with it.

Councilmember Rosales then asked Mr. Gutierrez to show the slide showing the three alignment routes for clarification. Councilmember Knight then asked how many houses would need to be acquired to use the Option C alignment. Mr. Gutierrez stated 827 homes. Mr. Knight reiterated that Option A had only 283 homes that would be affected. Mr. Gutierrez replied that the matrix considered all the evaluation criteria to arrive at a recommendation. The Chair reminded the board that this is only a study, not a decision on where to build the rail line. Mr. Knight said the residential communities do not want the rail at all; however, the rail would benefit the agricultural community, and the agriculture community might be more open to compromise than homeowners.

On September 8, 2022, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended Alignment Option C with language that would include mitigating issues and other issues to address in the future should it be decided to take the steps in seeking further a heavy freight rail line. Mr. Gutierrez explained that the next steps in the study were to finalize working paper #2 before the October TAC and Executive Board meetings so that it could be reviewed and commented on by their members. In addition, a working paper #3 will focus on developing the economic analysis part of the study. It is estimated this paper would be completed by late November or early December this year. The goal is to have the paper completed before the December 2022 TAC and Executive Board meetings. A future public meeting will be held to discuss the study findings. At the beginning of next year, 2023, the TAC will make their recommendation in a final report to the Executive Board, where the Executive Board will make the final decision regarding the study.

Councilmember Knight commented that the preferred alignment option C, which follows County Road 14 North and goes through housing subdivisions should not be a viable option as it would be too expensive to purchase the houses. The Chair replied that it is only a recommendation. The farmers were not interested in having the rail go through their lands. Mr. Gutierrez reassured the board that if the study is finished earlier than expected the Executive Board will be notified, however, it appears the study will be finalized in December.

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

The YMPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa reported that the DCIP Grant Program effort has been going on for a couple of months. YMPO worked on this endeavor with ADOT staff, the Yuma Proving Ground Commander, and his staff. The DCIP Grant process consisted of two phases; YMPO assisted in the grant writing portion of the proposal, and ADOT submitted a formal application for the Department of Defense funding. The proposal was for approximately \$13.3 million, and YMPO staff is awaiting possible approval by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. Ms. Figueroa stated an anticipated decision by tomorrow, September 23, 2022. If the DOD accepts the application, funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022.

She informed the Board that the project was advertised and there were four bidders. One of those bidders came in at just over six percent above the ADOT estimated project cost. The State Transportation Board did approve the bid and awarded the project last week, September 16, 2022, to Fisher Sand and Gravel Company. We know the project will commence approximately in November. The road segment this project pertains explicitly to is the US/SR 95 northwards from Rifle Range Road to the Wellton-Mohawk Canal Bridge, which is approximately three miles long. She concluded that she would let the Executive Board know as soon as the DOD decides.

7. FY 2023-2026 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4.

Mr. Gutierrez reported there were two requests, one from the City of Yuma and the other from Yuma County. The first request came from Yuma County for the South Gila Canal Bridge: Avenue 7E Design in fiscal year 22 and construction in 2024. Yuma County identified that the bridge in question was not owned by the County but rather by the Bureau of Land Reclamation and, therefore, will not be completed. The second request was the Yuma County project, County Road 11th Street at Avenue G. They are moving an additional \$230,000 from the construction phase to the design phase of this project.

Mr. Bruce Fenske, Southwest District Administrator, asked for clarification on the numbers presented and noticed the local and total project totals were incorrect in the table shown. Mr. Gutierrez rectified the numbers given for the County 11 St at Ave G: design right of way project.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight moved to approve the FY 2023-2026 (TIP) Amendment #4. Councilmember Rosales seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) Request for Proposal (RFP) Update.

Mr. Aguilar reported that on August 24, 2022, the RCP was re-distributed to the public a second time, and several questions from the proposers were received and answered. Mr. Aguilar mentioned two consulting firms submitted proposals and were forwarded to the YMPO Technical Advisory Committee for review and scoring. Mr. Aguilar expects to have a recommendation of a preferred selected consultant from the TAC by October 13, 2022. He expressed how excited he was to get started on the project.

9. 2023 Arizona Rural Transportation Summit (AZRTS) Planning.

The YMPO Accountant Ms. Dale reported that the 23rd annual AZRTS was held last week in Maricopa at the Ak-Chin Casino and Resort and was well attended. She stated that the Summit is a signature event for rural Arizona agencies, in which elected and appointed local government officials, transportation professionals, legislators, and other guests engage in solutions to improve and enhance transportation in Greater Arizona. Ms. Dale added that YMPO and the Western Association of Governments (WACOG) would be hosting the conference next year. The Board was presented with a save-the-date postcard for the 24th Annual AZRTS for October 18-19, 2023. Ms. Dale reported that contract review and possible negotiation with the Hilton Garden Inn Yuma Pivot Point was currently underway and that the next step would be to generate a draft agenda for the event. She mentioned that YMPO staff will update board members on the planning for the 2023 AZRTS as it progresses.

Councilmember Rosales commented that he had just attended two conferences at the same venue. One in June and one in September, and the air conditioning was not working properly. He suggested that YMPO staff get some guarantee that the air conditioning is repaired, updated before the event, or include a clause in the contract. Ms. Figueroa asked if the venue offered any compensation for the inconvenience. Mr. Rosales was not aware of any mitigation but stated the conference's executive director was going to address the issue with the venue.

10. Possible Formation of a Population Technical Advisory Committee.

Figueroa stated that the possible formation of a Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) effort had previously been presented to the Executive Board. She mentioned that in the past, YMPO had not had a formal role in assisting with the decennial US Census process. She had suggested that the region might benefit from YMPO planning assistance with the next Census. Ms. Figueroa received feedback from one of the TAC members interested in the idea of partnering with YMPO as a planning agency and developing a possible local Yuma County POPTAC. As such, Ms. Figueroa has been in contact with individuals currently gathering population data, such as WACOG Director and Transportation Program Manager, who reports data to the State Demographer and member agencies regarding the effort. In addition, she said that she plans to contact the

Maricopa Agency of Governments as they have an existing Population Technical Advisory Committee for guidance. She will report on future activities of this endeavor to the Executive Board as it progresses.

The Chair suggested Ms. Figueroa reach out to Alejandro Figueroa, Yuma County Director of Economic Development & Intergovernmental Affairs, regarding the undercount issue. Ms. Figueroa said she was aware of the undercount appeals effort currently underway by some member agencies and planned to contact Jennifer Albers regarding the matter.

Ward stated he has been discussing offline with the two agencies undercounted the most, the City of San Luis and the City of Somerton. He advised that one of the main reasons for the undercount is that they don't have mail delivered directly to their homes but rather post-office boxes. Mr. Ward believes this makes a significant difference when attempting to gather US Census information. He suggested that home delivery may bring up the census counts. The Chair said that for the 2020 Census, the Census decided they would not send anything by mail but rather collect data by phone electronically. He stated that not everyone has a phone, which could have contributed to the undercount. The Census later changed its mind and sent the Census by mail, but it was too late.

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 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.

Councilmember Knight reported that the State Transportation Board awarded the bid for phase two of US-95 to Fisher Sand and Gravel Company for \$23,867,530.90 and the work was likely to start in November. He mentioned the bid was only six percent above the state's estimate.

Ms. Figueroa announced that Mr. Ward would be retiring at the end of September and thanked him for his hard work and commitment to the organization and the YMPO Region.

12. 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. DCIP Update.
- B. HSIP Application Update.
- C. POPTAC.
- D. 2022-2025 Performance Targets

13. Progress Reports

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

- a. Aug 29 - CITAN Crash Demo (CG)
- b. Aug 29 - Rural Transportation Summit Planning (CF, CG, BD, NC)
- c. Aug 30 - ADOT Freight Plan TAC (CG)
- d. Aug 31 - ADOT Planning to Programming (P2P) (CF, CG)
- e. Aug 31 - Yuma County Regional Economic Development Meeting (CF)
- f. Sept 1-2 - RTS Planning Meeting (CF)
- g. Sept 1 - COG/MPO Director's telemeeting at League Conf. (CF, PW)
- h. Sept 1 - How to Use QuickBooks Webinar (NC)
- i. Sept 7 - ASRS Employer Conference 2022 (NC)
- j. Sept 7 - Aflac Presentation with Carlos Jacquez (NC, BD, JR, CF, RA)
- k. Sept 7 - San Luis Infrastructure Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting (CF)
- l. Sept 8 - TAC meeting (CG, JR, NC, BD)
- m. Sept 8 - Yuma Regional Bicycle Committee (YRBC) Meeting (PW, JR)
- n. Sept 8 - STSP Lane Departure Emphasis Area Team Meeting (CG).
- o. Sept 9 - Yuma County + Arizona Economic Recovery Center (CF)
- p. Sept 9 - AZ STSP Intersections EA Meeting (CG, CF)
- q. Sept 12 - Staff Meeting (All)
- r. Sept 12 - Cyber Security Training with YC IT (All)
- s. Sept 12 - 5310 RMC Meeting (JR)
- t. Sept 14-16 - Arizona RTS Conference (CF, CG, BD, JA, PW)
- u. Sept 16 - Arizona State Transportation Board (CF)
- v. Sept 19 - CTS Meeting (CF, CG)
- w. Sept 20 - Yuma PM10 SIP Update Call (CF, CG)
- x. Sept 20 - ASRS Employer Conference (BD)
- y. Sept 20 - Age Friendly Arizona Conference (JR)
- z. Sept 21 - Carbon Reduction Program Overview (CF, CG)
- aa. Sept 21 - Nationwide Presentation (BD, CF, CG, JR)
- bb. Sept 22 - Executive Board Meeting (All staff)

14. Adjournment.

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 monthly meetings will be combined and will occur on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

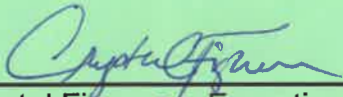
Minutes prepared by:



Blenda Dale, Accountant II/
Executive Admin Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
October 27, 2022



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Supervisor Martin Porchas,
Chairman, YMPO Executive Board