



YMPO EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 30, 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, Town of Wellton Councilmember, Cecilia McCollough, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and asked Mr. Morales to lead, and the Board to join him, 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	Cecilia McCollough, Councilmember, Town of Wellton ^
Vice-Chair	Maria Cecilia Cruz, Councilmember, City of San Luis ~
Member	Darren Simmons, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Art Morales, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Luis Galindo, Councilmember, City of Somerton ^
Member	Carol Smith, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma ~
Member	Paul Patane, Southwest District Administrator for Sam Elters^

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent

Secretary/Treasurer	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe *
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County *
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma *
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:

RTAC Kevin Adams

YMPO Staff Present:

Crystal Figueroa	Executive Director ^.
Paul Ward	Principal Engineer ^.
Fernando Villegas	Senior Transportation Planner ^.
Jesus Aguilar, Jr	Mobility Manager ^.
Lourdes Lopez	Accountant II/Executive Assistant ^.
Jeffery Heinrichs	IT Manager/Associate Planner

Chairwoman, Cecillia McCollough welcomed three new members of the YMPO Executive Board:

- Yuma County Board of Supervisors, Darren Simmons
- City of Yuma Deputy Mayor, Carol Smith
- City of Yuma Councilmember, Karen Watts

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. Annual Declaration of Votes for Calendar Year 2025

As required by YMPO By-Laws, Councilmember Art Morales declared the annual votes for the City of Yuma for the calendar year 2025 as follows: two votes for himself, two votes for Councilmember Karen Watts, and one vote for Deputy Mayor Carol Smith, for a total of five votes for the City of Yuma.

5. Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of December 12, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for November-December 2024

MOTION: Councilmember Morales moved to approve the consent agenda Deputy Mayor Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. RTAC Legislative Update on Priority Projects and AZ SMART

Crystal Figueroa, YMPO Executive Director, provided a quick summary of the past steps that have occurred with Priority Projects and AZ SMART Funds. She then passed the floor to Kevin Adam, RTAC Liaison, and continued by stating that the Legislature was a few weeks into session, it has typically been the case of substantial structural challenges as far as efforts to address the level of underinvestment in transportation infrastructure. Namely, for the state to increase revenues in any manner requires a two-thirds legislative vote or 60% voter

approval via ballot. He mentioned that as it's been the case, that's incredibly difficult to accomplish. So, efforts to push to increase the revenues continue; in the interim, the focus has been on potential short-term revenue sources such as priority project legislation. This is the fourth year that a bill with priorities from across greater Arizona has been selected by each region, including YMPO. He said the thought is that if lawmakers aren't willing to increase the gas tax or take other measures to increase the permanent revenue streams that feed into the Highway User Revenue Fund which is the main transportation infrastructure funding source, not only for ADOT, but for local governments across the state. Due to the one-time funding scenario, projects were prioritized, including local projects and other activities, such as statewide projects for funding. He noted relative success in the effort in prior years, and it was attributed to a substantial amount of one-time COVID relief funding available. He noted that three years ago, there was \$1 billion; two years ago, \$650 million; and there was no funding last year due to a budget deficit and had to make about a \$1.3 billion in adjustments to accomplish a balance budget for this year. This year, approximately \$600 million may be available for projects.

Mr. Adam reported that House Bill 2304, containing greater Arizona regional projects, will be pursued and moved through the legislative process, keeping in mind that other bills also request funding from the general fund. The legislative representatives evaluate bills based on support generated by interested parties when developing the budget for potential available revenue. He mentioned that he anticipates some funding to be directed to projects.

Mr. Adam continued Legislative Process & Advocacy by stating that project selection is very much up to each legislator. Legislators typically get provided a funding amount they must work with and are asked to provide their top three or four priorities, whether it's a transportation project or directing it towards a tax cut of some sort of education program. He emphasized that local advocacy is extremely important and acknowledged that YMPO staff has proactively briefed legislators about Yuma projects and encouraged continued communication with lawmakers.

He also mentioned the efforts of the Arizona Smart Fund (HB 2101), a state assistance program for rural areas to secure federal transportation grants administered by ADOT. Established about three years ago, it has provided approximately \$49 million to rural communities across the state and resulted in about \$150 million in federal grant awards, a tremendous return on investment. Mr. Adam stated that the current balance is \$18M and will be most likely be depleted in 8-9 months. In order to keep it going, we need another \$16 million to get through the next fiscal year. He reported that lawmakers will at least appropriate to that level; however, they are confident, due to the demand and return in federal dollars that were received, that the ask can be as high as \$35

million. Vice Chair of the House Transportation Committee introduced HB 2101 which would appropriate \$10 million and is open to higher negotiation of funding level.

Chairwoman McCollough asked Mr. Adams for the bill numbers for both efforts, and Mr. Admas responded with HB 2304 for Regional Project Legislation and HB 2101 for the AZ SMART Fund.

Supervisor Simmons asked if there is any discussion on taxing EV charging stations. Mr. Adam mentioned that if there is any sort of increase that is politically viable at the Capitol, it's probably on electric vehicle charging for fuel source. He stated that in prior years, owners of electric vehicles were heavily discounted on the vehicle license tax, and it has now been phased out. Mr. Adam mentioned that the Chair of the House Transportation Committee, Leo Biasucci, is looking at the charging stations on the revenue they generate and where it is going; he mentioned that it is probable to the State general fund. The question is, should it be redirected to transportation? Currently, electric vehicles are charging basically for free. Mr. Adam reported there has been consideration of assessing an annual fee to EVs that would be comparable to what the average vehicle pays in gas taxes every year. The bill proposed last year would have generated \$9 million but did not get a supermajority (two-thirds vote).

After much discussion on efforts, Ms. Figueroa presented a list of the three regional priority transportation projects: ADOT - US 95, Wellton-Mohawk Canal to Aberdeen; Yuma County - US 95 Corridor: Phase II (Co. 17th to Avenue D, and City of Somerton - Main Street (US 95) Improvements Downtown Redevelopment Phase 1.

Paul Patane, Southwest District Administrator, ADOT, addressed the Board to discuss the ongoing and planned projects along US-95, emphasizing its regional significance. The efforts include widening sections of the road, with completed and near-completed work extending from Avenue 9E to the Wellton-Mohawk Canal. The next phase focuses on the corridor from the Wellton-Mohawk Canal to Aberdeen Road. The total project cost is approximately \$183 million, with a funding request of \$48 million, primarily for the northern section from Imperial Dam Road Main Entrance to YPG to go Northward to Aberdeen, a nearly four-mile stretch estimated at \$75.8 million. The goal is to continue widening efforts throughout Aberdeen.

Mr. Patane continued by providing the final two project updates; for Yuma County, it consists of a multi-phase project, it's an 18-mile-long segment of pavement rehabilitation due to road degrading over time, and this suggests investment to maintain and upgrade the existing pavement condition. The total

project cost is \$20.2 million, and the funding request as part of the legislative package is \$8.3 million.

The City of Somerton Phase II (Co. 17th to Avenue D) involves upgrading the Somerton Main Street intersection areas and sidewalk ramps and minor pavement improvements. Funding request is a little over 1.6 million.

7. Proposal for the Gary Knight Memorial Highway – Status

Jeff Heinrich, YMPO IT Manager/Associate Planner, updated Board members about the YMPO proposal for the naming of the US 95 Highway to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (ASBGHN) in December of 2024. He explained that the designation is a multi-stage process, and every proposal receives thorough research and opportunities for community stakeholders to provide feedback to the ASBGHNs in its consideration. Feedback can be provided with letters of support and by using the Proposed Name Response Form online. Mr. Heinrichs mentioned that an updated link to the response form had recently been provided and also displayed the information for Board members to see response form fields.

Mr. Heinrichs also presented the draft Letter of Support to the members for their approval.

MOTION: Mr. Morales moved to approve the Letter of Support and Ms. Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Update

Mr. Heinrichs informed the Board that the TA Program is a set aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. It is a competitive program that can be used for a variety of smaller-scale alternative-mode transportation activity-related projects such as studies, scoping, planning, design, and construction. These can include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, multimodal pathways, safe routes to school projects, historic preservation, and vegetation management projects. Mr. Heinrichs continued by mentioning that the program is open to locals, tribal governments, transit agencies, schools and school districts, and non-profit organizations. These can partner with an eligible public entity and apply for the TA program as project sponsors for the non-profits.

He reported that the call for projects for the next round of TA applications was expected to open in January; however, it didn't seem this was happening, as only one day remains in January. So, it is most probable that a call for projects will be announced in February.

Mr. Heinrichs mentioned that for those wishing to apply, the time was now to pull together project information, letters of support, scoping, project descriptions,

design, construction schedules, cost estimates, and other project-related information. He pointed out one valuable resource as the TA Program Guidebook available in the information packet and on the ADOT website. He reiterated that it is important for those wanting to submit a project to confirm their eligibility to apply and what the requirements are for the type of project they are interested in.

Mr. Heinrichs provided the Board members with a tentative schedule of deliverables and deadlines for the TA applications and informed the Board that the Arizona State Transportation Board approves project awards.

Ms. Figueroa addressed the Board by noting that this was the second round of Call for Projects and various projects were awarded during round one. Mr. Heinrichs noted the three multimodal transportation projects:

- A. Path to the Eastside Wetlands (City of Yuma)
- B. Ave B to C Canal Bike Project (Yuma County)
- C. 32nd Multi-Modal Project (3E to 7E)

Mr. Heinrichs added that the Crane School District received funds under this program for their 21st Drive and 30th Street Project for a possible light or pedestrian hybrid beacon.

9. Revised 2025 Pavement Target

Fernando Villegas, YMPO Senior Transportation Planner informed the Board that in 2022, ADOT set performance targets for 2022-2025 per federal legislation Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21). He stated that ADOT exceeded its poor pavement condition targets of 2.0% for interstate pavement and 6% for non-interstate pavement. ADOT revised the poor payment condition targets to 4.5% for interstates and 10% for non-interstate national highway system. Mr. Villegas stated that one of the reasons ADOT wasn't able to meet the targets were due to weather conditions in 2022-2023 in the northern parts of the state and limited funding to upkeep and meet targets

ADOT requested MPOs submit a letter within 180 days of the effective date, November 22, 2024, indicating MPOs support of ADOT revised pavement targets or identifying MPO targets. Per TAC recommendation, a draft letter supporting ADOT's revised 2025 pavement targets is attached for Executive Board possible approval.

Councilmember Morales asked if ADOT has not met minimum requirements. ADOT Southwest District Administrator Mr. Patane responded that ADOT is required by federal regulations to have targets for the types of roadways such as interstates and non-interstates on the national highway system. The targets do affect eligibility for federal funding. He further mentioned that it was a fairly newer performance-based type of process where ADOT started establishing percentage

targets and after ADOT annual review of pavement conditions they discovered being over the targeted ranges. As a result, ADOT opted to increase targets to have more flexibility, he believed originally target had been set to low. He added that based on the federal dollars invested, they weren't going to be able to meet the original established percent targets. Mr. Patane added that ADOT is strictly measuring pavement conditions that include road smoothness and cracking.

MOTION: Supervisor Simmons motioned to approve the adoption of the revised ADOT performance targets. Councilmember Galindo seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

10. Possible Future Studies for YMPO

Principal Engineer Paul D. Ward informed the Board that this item had been presented before with a series of study outlines developed for possible projects or studies that could be done in the Yuma region and included in the Unified Planning Work Program. He clarified that these were projects in addition to federal guideline requirements, which are also noted in the YMPO By-Laws, such as carrying out a Long-Range Transportation Plan, a Transportation Improvement Program, and an annual Audit. In addition to those, YMPO can do a variety of other studies and has done so in prior years. For example, he mentioned a Pavement Management study and a Traffic Count study.

Recently, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and prioritized proposed studies for future inclusion into the next two-year program. The first ranked study was a Transportation Management Area (TMA); he added that any metropolitan area that is greater than 200,000 people in the urbanized area, as defined by the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in conjunction with the US Census Bureau, basically gets additional funds off the top directly from the FHWA. He stated the funding is not direct, it does still come through ADOT, but ADOT does not have the discretion as to whether they give the money, in this particular case, to the two TMAs in Arizona is the MAG and PAG regions.

Mr. Ward stated that we have over 200,000 people in Yuma County, but in the urbanized area, we have about 175,000. Almost certainly, by the next census in 2030, we'll have over 200,000 in the urbanized area. He stated that he didn't have precise numbers, but approximately 85,000 to 100,000 snowboards come yearly for about five to seven months. He continued and mentioned that we have 25,000 to 30,000 daily visitors coming across the border working within Yuma County, and as a result, can build a very good case to be recognized as a transportation management area. If successful, one of the main benefits is an increase of about \$4 million dollars in Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds from the current received \$1 million, with the possibility of up to \$5 million. When the new infrastructure bill comes in, most likely at the end of 2026, the amount will certainly increase and is dependent on the federal government. The TMA study is estimated

at a cost of about \$55,000 and would explore how we would go through a TMA upgrade and why we would bother to do such a study in retrospect to funding.

The second-ranked study was a Regional Sales Tax Study for approximately \$125,000, and in this particular case, not necessarily all local dollars but also federal funds for some of the items. Mr. Ward mentioned that four counties in the State of Arizona already have a regional sales tax specifically for transportation purposes, including Maricopa and Pinal in Phoenix, Pima County in Tucson, and Cochise County. Something that is not generally understood is that it covers 85-89% of the population of the State of Arizona. Of the remaining 11-15%, guess who's the largest county? Yes, that is Yuma County; Mr. Ward mentioned that he understands that a discussion will occur regarding this matter with County supervisors and the City of Yuma for a combined meeting and stated that he finds it extremely exciting.

He reported that the main reason for such conversation is that the gasoline tax established that everyone pays has not increased in over 30 years, and it's an important concept to understand. The reality is that the state as a whole isn't going to bang the drum and is going to have to increase the gas tax because 85% of the state already has a separate tax to handle their transportation. He added that that is part of the reason why the MAG and PAG regions have sufficient funds for doing particular projects, such as artwork in their freeways.

Mr. Ward emphasized how a Regional Sales tax would it happen, should we have it happen, and then we would have to work with member agencies to carry it out and basically make it legal. Supervisor Simmons asked if sales tax funds can be used as matching funds for federal or state grants. Mr. Ward reaffirmed that this can be done, and the reason why is because he worked with the MAG for twelve years in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The third-ranked study was an I-8 Improvements Study. He mentioned that a Roads of Regional Significance Study will soon commence. Still, we also heard the City of Yuma was specifically looking for and also supported to some degree by ADOT. He stated that it is appropriate for the regional planning organizations to look at what improvements will likely be needed in the Yuma region and effectively for the first 15 to 16 miles within the next 20 to 40 years. He mentioned we have a 20-year long-range transportation plan in the process; however, it doesn't necessarily focus on individual routes in detail.

The fourth-ranked study suggested assisting the City of San Luis in this particular case by looking at the border crossers who come across every day. He further explained that government agencies have to provide transportation and parking for the daily workers who come across and work in our county. It's appropriate to

find out how many and how we can help them; this study won't fund the money to help them but the research to find out exactly what's going on.

The final item concerns the fact that every member agency has some form of bicycle and a pedestrian facility map showing what facilities are available. What we're looking to do is effectively combine all of those maps and show gaps in the system. He stated that this study is merely a suggestion, and the TAC effectively ranked the list of studies with the highest ranked TMA Upgrade and Regional Sales Tax.

Mr. Ward mentioned that three other studies at the top of the list, which include a recently request for proposal Roads of Regional Significance Study. A Short-Range Transit Plan Update, that we don't officially have in our Unified Planning Program or our budget, but it's an item that is regarded as best practice at the state level. The final item is a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan funded with a Safe Streets for All grant of \$400,000, with a \$100,000 local match possibly funded with a state grant or already committed local funds if the grant is unsuccessful.

He informed the Board that staff, with the direction of TAC and approval of the Executive Board, will develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) over the next two to three months. On April 2nd, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and ADOT will be presented with potential studies that were going to be carried out as part of the next two-year FY 2026-27 UPWP. The final prioritization and study outlines will be reviewed by these federal and state authorities in April. At that point if there are any objections to any of the studies, it will be addressed then as necessary.

Ms. Figueroa added that this item is on the agenda to approve these studies to be included in the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2026-2027 as funding allows.

Mr. Patane asked Mr. Ward if the Safety Action Plan already had an included list of projects.

Mr. Ward answered that the Safety Action Plan does not require it, and the YMPO will not include a list of projects but a demonstration of activity. He added that as part of the long-range transportation plan, there will be a list of projects for potential safety funds

Mr. Villegas added that this demonstration activity will identify 20 locations in Yuma County that need safety improvements and will be part of the study.

Mr. Patane stated that he wanted to make sure that jurisdictions knew that the Safety Action Plan would include a list of potential future projects for which each

entity can apply for federal funds.

Ms. Figueroa added that the grant process's implementation phase is handled by member jurisdictions, who apply for implementation funds after completing the comprehensive safety action fund.

MOTION: Councilmember Cruz motioned to approve the list of prioritized projects and ADOT Administrator Mr. Patane seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

11. Railroad Crossing Elimination Program and Regional Letter of Support

Ms. Figueroa informed the Board that the Yuma County Railroad Crossroad elimination grant was selected to examine viable options and develop design concepts for eliminating the three crossings over the Union Pacific tracks at Avenue 9E, Fortuna Road, and County 29E. This was a collaborative effort between the City of Yuma, the Town of Wellton, and Yuma County. The grant award was for \$640,000 and is expected to improve safety and mobility at railroad crossings.

Supervisor Simmons added that involving YPG personnel would be beneficial, as they were highly supportive, especially regarding Fortuna Crossing, which causes significant traffic delays for the YPG. He mentioned that trains frequently block the intersection, hindering regular traffic and emergency response vehicles from the Foothills to the YPG area.

Ms. Figueroa informed the Board that the local match associated with the grant and responsibility was divided between the three collaborative partners and that the AZ SMART Program fund is an option to pursue reimbursement of local match funds. The opportunity was relayed to Yuma County Engineer Frank Sanchez.

Ms. Figueroa also presented the Board with a draft regional letter of support for Yuma County's 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure and Sustainability RAISE Grant, supporting the extension of Avenue E to D, which connects State Route 195 to US Highway 95. If successful, the proposed project would establish a vital north/south connection linking the commercial port of entry and the cities of Somerton and Yuma County communities. She concluded by stating that the deadline for the application was before the Board meeting; as a result, under her authority, she provided a letter of support, considering that the Board had approved of the project in the past.

12. Election of Executive Board Officers - Calendar Year 2025

Ms. Figueroa informed the Board that YMPO By-Laws require the election of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer, who serve one-year terms without compensation. Officers rotate, with the Vice Chair becoming Chair and the

Secretary-Treasurer becoming Vice Chair, while a new Secretary-Treasurer is elected in February. Officers must represent different jurisdictions, and at least one must be from the Cities of Somerton and San Luis, the Town of Wellton, or the Cocopah Indian Tribe. It is anticipated that Councilmember Maria Cecilia Cruz to become the Chair, Winnie Ortega the Vice Chair, and a new Secretary-Treasurer must be elected, likely Vice-Mayor Luis Galindo. Nominations can be submitted before or during the meeting.

Ms. Figueroa provided the Board members with a rotation chart of the members' jurisdictions and their assignments for several years.

13. Election of YMPO Subcommittee Members and Identification of Officials for Attending AZSTB and RTAC meetings - Calendar Year 2025

Ms. Figueroa stated that the YMPO has three subcommittees: the Audit Committee consisting of three members of the Executive Board and required by the YMPO By-Laws to be chaired by the Secretary/Treasurer. The second is the By-Laws Committee, formed to review policy changes such as By-Laws and Personnel Policies and Procedures. Third, the Executive Director's Evaluation Committee calls for three Board members from different agencies, one of who is the Chair. The Committee is tasked with assessing the Director's performance.

Additionally, the YMPO Chair appoints representatives and alternates to two statewide councils: the Arizona State Transportation Board (AZSTB), which oversees transportation planning, and the Rural Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC), which advocates for rural transportation needs.

Ms. Figueroa informed the Board that Councilmember Cruz nominated herself to remain the RTAC representative, and an alternative would need to be selected. Other Appointments for the roles are expected at the February 27, 2025, Executive Board meeting.

Mr. Ward mentioned that regarding the incoming Secretary/Treasurer, the By-Laws state that YMPO staff are allowed to take responsibility for most of the role's duties with the one exception, which is to Chair the audit.

14. In-Kind Match Forms - Annual Reminder for Executive Board Members

Lulu Lopez, YMPO Accountant II/Executive Assistant, reminded Board members to complete an In-Kind form every time they work for YMPO, such as reading, commenting on agendas, or attending meetings, either in person or virtual, or conferences. She informed the Board that YMPO is able to capture their time as a soft match for federal grants funding YMPO activities. Ms. Lopez stated that the effort is an excellent way to lower the cash match our member agencies need to contribute.

15. Entity Dues from Member Agencies

Ms. Lopez presented the Board of the updated Non-In-Kind matching funds (Entity Dues) required from member agencies for approval. These updates reflected FY 2024-25 UPWP Amendment #7 changes and newly updated population estimates from December 2024. She reported that the actual entity dues decreased from the preliminary assessment by \$9,185, with final FY 2025 Dues totaling \$78,954 will be assessed to members upon Board approval.

MOTION: Mr. Morales motioned to approve the FY 2025 Entity Dues; Supervisor Simmons seconded and was unanimously approved.

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

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. YMPO Representative Councilmember Cruz commented on the recently attended RTAC Legislative Luncheon and mentioned it was a well-attended meeting with notable support from Legislators for the Greater Arizona transportation needs.
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation.
- G. Status Report on AZ Smart Fund.

Ms. Cruz addressed the Board and stated that after her attendance at the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council, along with Ms. Figueroa, she was proud to announce that there was a great deal of support from legislatures for transportation needs for rural Arizona.

17. 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. YMPO Accounting Manual, Employee Manual, and Procurement Updates.
- B. Election of Executive Board Officers – Calendar Year 2025
- C. Election of Subcommittee Members
- D. AZ SMART Fund

E. Transportation Alternatives Program

F. FY 2026 and 2027 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Patane asked for information regarding the upcoming Arizona State Transportation Board Meeting that will be held in Yuma.

Ms. Figueroa answered that the State Transportation Board is scheduled to visit Yuma for its March 21, 2025, meeting, typically held on the third Friday of the month. Plans are being made to host them, possibly with a dinner or breakfast in collaboration with the City of Yuma. The event will highlight regional priorities, particularly U.S. 95, with potential input from YPG to emphasize its importance for continued funding.

Mr. Ward commented that The State Transportation Board meeting is a valuable opportunity to engage with board members statewide. While district administrators influence programs, final approval of the Five-Year Facilities Construction Program rests with the State Transportation Board.

18. Progress Report

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

- a. Dec 13 - COG/MPO Planners Meeting (FV, JR)
- b. Dec 16 - RTAC Board Meeting (CF, FV)
- c. Dec 16 - YMPO Audit Exit Conference with ADOT (CF, LL)
- d. Dec 17 - Yuma PM-10 SIP Update (FV, PW)
- e. Dec 17 - 2024 Traffic Count Labor (JH, CF)
- f. Dec 18 - Transportation Alternatives TAC (JH)
- g. Dec 19 - Yuma Engineering Community Annual Dinner Presentation (CF)
- h. Dec 20 - AZ State Transportation Board Meeting – Virtual Sierra Vista (CF, Supervisor Pancrazi, Councilmember Morales participated)
- i. Dec 23 - Website content/design review (JH, LL, CF, PW)
- j. Dec 24 - AZ SMART Fund Meeting with Town of Wellton (FV, CF, PW)
- k. Dec 24 - Yuma MPO LRTP Update - PMT Meeting (FV, JH)
- l. Dec 26 - Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (FV, JH)
- m. Dec 31 - 1099 Training - Virtual (LL)
- n. Jan 6 - Staff Meeting (All)
- o. Jan 6 - YMPO CSCS - Monthly Check-In (CF, PW, FV, JH)
- p. Jan 7 - Yuma MPO LRTP Update - PMT Meetings (CF, PW, FV, JH)
- q. Jan 7 - Psychological Safety: Building Trust and Empowering Teams (CF)
- r. Jan 9 - YMPO TAC Meeting (CF, FV, JH, JR, LL)
- s. Jan 9 - Transportation Sales Tax Meeting (CF)
- t. Jan 9 - Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (FV, JH)
- u. Jan 10 - Arizona Names Board Discussion (CF)
- v. Jan 13 - Regional Mobility Committee (JR)

- w. Jan 13 - Legislative Coordination Meeting with Yuma County (CF)
- x. Jan 13 - ADOT/YMPO Coordination Meeting (CF, FV, JH, PW)
- y. Jan 14 - YMPO LRTP Update - PMT (CF, FV, JH)
- z. Jan 14 - Roads of Regional Significance (RORS) RFP review – (CF, FV)
- aa. Jan 15 - Yuma Region Transportation Projects with Representative Nick Kupper LD 25 (CF)
- bb. Jan 15 - Rural Summit Discussion with MetroPlan and SEAGO (CF)
- cc. Jan 16 - Yuma Region Transportation Projects YMPO/ADOT/RTAC with Senator Tim Dunn (CF, FV, JH)
- dd. Jan 16 - RORS Debrief – Wilson & Company (CF, JH, FV, PW)
- ee. Jan 21 - RTAC Advisory Committee (CF)
- ff. Jan 21 - Yuma PM10 SIP Update Meeting (FV)
- gg. Jan 21 - Yuma MPO LRTP Update - PMT Meetings (CF, FV, JH)
- hh. Jan 22 - 5310 Application Workshop – In person (JR)
- ii. Jan 22 - ADOT Redesignation of Critical Freight Corridors -TAC Meeting1(CF)
- jj. Jan 23 - Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (FV, JH)
- kk. Jan 23 - Yuma Region Transportation Projects with LD 23 Representatives Brian Fernandez and Michele Pena (CF, FV, Councilmember Ramos)
- ll. Jan 23 - Executive Board New Member Orientation – Supervisor Darren Simmons (CF)
- mm. Jan 27 - Board Meeting and Legislator Lunch at League of Arizona Cities and Towns Building (CF, Councilmember Ramos)
- nn. Jan 28 - Rural Transportation Summit Planning Session – Virtual (CF)
- oo. Jan 28 - YMPO LRTP PMT (CF, FV, JH)
- pp. Jan 30 - CTAA Legislative Fly in Webinar (JR)
- qq. Jan 30 - YMPO Executive Board Meeting (All)

Ms. Figueroa thanked Mr. Ward for assisting YMPO staff with his 30 years of transportation planning experience. His guidance was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Ward answered: "I've been in transportation planning pushing 30 years now, all of it in Arizona. I did transportation planning before coming here, and from that point of view, I am excited about Yuma's possibilities. Yuma's growing up, and it's growing up very fast. I spent many years in the Phoenix metropolitan area, and I considered Yuma to be where I stopped and filled up on my way to San Diego. I'm sorry, but many people in the Phoenix metropolitan area probably still think of us that way and in Tucson. But I'm feeling a change, I really am, and have done so over the past eight years I've been here. I'm seeing the change, and I'm delighted to report that what I'm seeing is a very positive change in how things are going. Thank you all for supporting the region the way you do and for the opportunity to serve."

16. 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 at 928-783-8911.

Anticipated Future 2025 Meetings and Locations.

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 February 27, and March 27, 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
February 27, 2025



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Councilmember Cecilia McCollough,
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board