



YMPO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 26, 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 3:32 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	Maria Cecilia Cruz, Councilmember, City of San Luis ^
Vice-Chair	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe ~
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Councilmember, Town of Wellton ~
Member	Darren Simmons, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Arturo Morales, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Carol Smith, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma ^
Member	Sam Elters, Arizona State Transportation Board, ADOT ~
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent

Secretary/Treasurer	Luis Galindo, Councilmember, City of Somerton *
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County *

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:

Paul Patane, Southwest District Administrator, ADOT
Chris Joannes – Kimley Horn
Ryan McKell – Kimley Horn
Vamshi Yellisetty – Kittelson & Associates
Kevin Adam, RTAC Liaison, RTAC

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

As all three designated representatives from the City of Yuma were present, the annual declaration of votes stands as affirmed, with the following allocation: Councilmember Art Morales with two (2) votes, Deputy Mayor Carol Smith with two votes, and Councilmember Karen Watts with one vote, for a total of five votes representing 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 May 29, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for May 2025.

MOTION: Supervisor Darren Simmons motioned to approve both Item A and B of the consent agenda. Councilmember Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

YMPO Executive Director, Crystal Figueroa, informed the board that the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) project was nearing completion and had entered its third and final public outreach phase. This outreach was being conducted jointly with the City of Yuma's Transportation Master Plan in a co-branded effort. She noted that all related documents, including the LRTP, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Air Quality Conformity Analysis, were available at www.greateryumamoves.com. Ms. Figueroa then

introduced Mr. Vamshi Yellisetty from Kittelson & Associates to provide a project update.

Mr. Vamshi Yellisetty confirmed that the draft final report was complete and currently available for public review through July 12. He stated that the documents had been made accessible and user-friendly, with technical details contained in supporting appendices. The Air Quality Conformity Report was under review by the EPA, ADEQ, and other Interagency Consultation members. He explained that Phase 3 of public outreach began on June 13 and included press releases, social media, and newspaper advertisements to increase public engagement. As of the meeting date, about 400 users had visited the project site, and 10 written comments had been submitted. Mr. Yellisetty concluded by stating that final approval of the LRTP, TIP, and conformity documents was anticipated at the July 31 Executive Board meeting, following TAC review and incorporation of public comments.

Ms. Figueroa added that flyers were available for those who wished to help share the link and public comment period dates.

6. Complete Streets Concept Study (CSC)

Ms. Crystal Figueroa introduced the next agenda item by welcoming the consulting team from Kimley-Horn and noting that Mr. Chris Joannes was online to present the update on the Complete Streets Concept Study.

Mr. Chris Joannes, representing Kimley-Horn, shared his screen and presented the findings from the Complete Streets Concept Study. He noted that it had been some time since the team last reported to the Board and explained that the study was now nearing completion. He walked the Board through the study's five main objectives, including identifying the benefits of complete streets for member agencies, defining goals and strategies, developing sample plans for street typologies and bus pullouts, and creating a prioritization process for implementation. He referenced several slides during his presentation, highlighting key visual tools such as matrices, design typologies, and sample street cross-sections intended to guide member agency staff during roadway planning and design phases.

Mr. Joannes noted that the final draft report was currently available for public review and had already been reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The final steps included wrapping up the public outreach period and incorporating any remaining feedback before finalizing the document for Executive Board approval.

Mr. Ryan McKell of Kimley-Horn continued the presentation by discussing the bus pullout analysis. He explained that the team evaluated bus stops across the region,

using criteria such as route coverage, ridership, traffic volume, and crash history, with double weighting given to annual bus boardings. He highlighted several changes made to the top 20 priority bus stops based on TAC input and presented sample plans developed for those locations using standards from YCIPTA, Phoenix, and Las Vegas.

Mr. McKell also reviewed the implementation strategy, outlining near-term, medium-term, and long-term steps for applying Complete Streets recommendations throughout the YMPO region. These included updates to planning and design standards, as well as phased construction of priority improvements.

Mr. Joannes concluded by noting that public comments would be accepted through July 12 and that the final report would be returned to the Executive Board for approval the following month. He offered to answer questions from the Board.

Councilmember Arturo Morales asked for the public comment website. Ms. Figueroa responded that flyers with the website information were available and distributed during the meeting.

7. Roads of Regional Significance Study (RORS) Kick-Off

Ms. Crystal Figueroa introduced the next agenda item, noting that while two projects were nearing completion, YMPO had officially commenced the Roads of Regional Significance project. She explained that the estimated project timeline was approximately 10 months, and that Kimley-Horn & Associates had been contracted to lead the effort. She welcomed Mr. Chris Joannes to present the project kickoff to the Board.

Mr. Chris Joannes, representing Kimley-Horn, shared a visual presentation with the Board and outlined the project's primary objectives. He explained that the first task involved developing a definition for "roads of regional significance" specific to the YMPO region, a draft of which had already been prepared and was under review by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The next step would involve identifying transportation improvements needed along these designated corridors over the next 25 years, ensuring that they continue to function effectively as regional routes. The team would also examine high-level environmental and right-of-way considerations, explore potential funding sources, and develop an implementation strategy to phase the recommended improvements.

Mr. Joannes reviewed task 10 of the scope of work, referencing several slides as he summarized key milestones. He described early project management coordination, confirmation of scope, and the decision to schedule public involvement later in the process, citing previous outreach conducted through the LRTP, the City of Yuma Transportation Master Plan, and the Complete Streets

Study. The consultant noted that engagement efforts would occur once draft project recommendations were developed, likely using a combination of virtual tools and in-person opportunities.

He emphasized that a major portion of the project would involve identifying and prioritizing needed improvements along regionally significant routes, including planning-level cost estimates and funding strategies. Mr. Joannes also highlighted plans to evaluate case studies from other regions to inform YMPO's approach and mentioned regular coordination with the TAC and Executive Board throughout the project timeline. Three Executive Board presentations were planned, this kickoff, one midway through the project (around October), and a final presentation in February 2026 to present the final draft report.

Chairwoman Cecilia Cruz asked about federal lands in the City of San Luis, specifically a large vacant strip from 10th Avenue to Avenue E. She inquired whether there were updates regarding the possible sale or lease of these lands, noting the significant impact such development could have on future transportation planning.

Mr. Joannes responded that he had only seen a high-level map of the areas under consideration and that the proposal to sell or lease federal lands appeared to be in its early stages. He acknowledged that if these parcels became available for development, it would likely shift transportation needs significantly, particularly since the city is currently divided by that federal land. He stated that additional information would be necessary to assess the full implications, but the YMPO team would incorporate any updates into the planning process as the project moved forward.

8. Approval of the YMPO Travel Policy

Ms. Crystal Figueroa informed the Board that, as part of the newly executed Joint Project Agreement (JPA) with ADOT for the FY 2026–2027 Work Program, all MPOs are required to formally adopt a travel policy aligned with the JPA and compliant with state policies. She noted that a draft of the travel policy had been presented at the previous Executive Board meeting, during which only one clarifying comment was received from ADOT. That comment was incorporated into the final draft. Ms. Figueroa explained that the policy closely follows the State of Arizona's travel policy, and while YMPO has long adhered to state guidelines, formal adoption is now required. She presented the final draft to the Board for approval.

MOTION: Supervisor Simmons motioned to approve the YMPO Travel Policy. Councilmember Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. Government Finance Office Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement & FY 2025 Audit Schedule

Ms. Crystal Figueroa announced that YMPO had once again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). She explained that this is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and reflects YMPO's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability. She noted that YMPO has received this recognition for five consecutive years.

Ms. Figueroa took a moment to highlight the role of YMPO's Accountant/Executive Assistant, Ms. Lourdes "Lulu" Lopez, as a central contributor to the preparation of the award-winning financial report. During the presentation of this item, the Executive Board and YMPO staff presented Ms. Lopez with a framed certificate in recognition of her achievement.

Chairwoman Cecilia Cruz formally read the GFOA's statement of recognition, congratulating Ms. Lopez on behalf of the Board and commending her outstanding work. She expressed pride in her contributions to YMPO's success.

Ms. Figueroa added that Ms. Lopez had taken the lead on the financial report while she was on maternity leave and praised her for quickly learning and executing the responsibilities with great attention to detail. She then introduced Ms. Lopez to provide an update on the upcoming audit.

Ms. Lopez thanked the Board, Ms. Figueroa, and YMPO staff for their support, noting that the preparation of the financial report was a team effort. She stated that the FY 2025 audit process had already begun, with the auditors initiating the test of control selections as part of the preliminary review. She provided the Board with an audit schedule outlining key tasks and timelines that help ensure continued eligibility for the GFOA award and offered to answer any questions at any point during the audit.

Ms. Figueroa concluded by reminding the Board that an audit committee had been appointed earlier in the calendar year. This committee would be involved in the final phase of the audit process and would receive a detailed presentation from the auditors before the final results are presented to the Executive Board.

10. Gary Knight Memorial Highway Update

Ms. Crystal Figueroa informed the Board that on August 22, 2024, the YMPO Executive Board had approved a resolution to formally recommend to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names the designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 95, from milepost 31 to 48, as the "Gary Knight Memorial Highway". The proposal was submitted to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names in December 2024, and while an initial vote by the Board was

expected in April 2025, it was postponed to July 22, 2025, to allow for further review. Ms. Figueroa stated that final efforts were underway to gather support ahead of the formal vote.

She noted that letters of support had already been submitted through the state's official response link, with all member jurisdictions participating. Additional outreach was conducted via social media and the local newspaper, Yuma Sun, including a segment on KYMA, to encourage public awareness and support. Ms. Figueroa encouraged Board members to continue spreading the word.

Chairwoman Cecilia Cruz asked whether there were other nominations being considered. Ms. Figueroa confirmed that other highway naming proposals were scheduled for review on the same day, but clarified that it was not a competitive process.

Councilmember Karen Watts inquired whether a specific number of public comments was required. Ms. Figueroa responded that while the total number of comments was not the deciding factor, strong support from key stakeholders such as member jurisdictions, Yuma Proving Ground, and the Knight family, carried the most weight.

11. YMPO Rebranding: Website

Mr. Jeff Heinrichs, YMPO IT Manager, presented an update on the ongoing YMPO rebranding initiative. He reminded the Board that the Executive Board had approved an updated Mission Statement in May 2022, marking the first step in the rebranding effort. This was followed by the Board's approval of the new Vision and Values statements and the redesigned YMPO logo in September 2024.

Mr. Heinrichs then showcased a preview of the redesigned YMPO website, noting that it represented a major improvement from the previous, text-heavy layout. He described the new site as visual and block-based, with easier navigation and updated imagery. He pointed out key sections such as Transportation Planning, Active Projects, Studies and Reports, Title VI Program, and Bylaws, as well as a new homepage slider with regional images. The site retained drop-down menus while enhancing accessibility through block links.

Chairwoman Cruz inquired whether the GFOA Certificate of Achievement was displayed on the site. Ms. Crystal Figueroa responded that it was not currently featured but confirmed that enhancing YMPO's digital presence, including on Facebook and other platforms, was part of the broader rebranding effort. Ms. Figueroa also added that the rebranding effort encompassed not only the website but also updated pamphlets and public outreach materials.

Councilmember Art Morales asked about the content of the “Get Involved” tab. Mr. Heinrichs explained that it included public engagement opportunities, job postings, and external resources such as guides on navigating roundabouts.

Mr. Morales further suggested that the website could benefit from more intuitive, public-facing prompts to encourage interaction, such as inviting feedback from cyclists, pedestrians, and other local users beyond specific planning windows. Mr. Heinrichs agreed and noted that public engagement would increasingly be driven through YMPO’s social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram. He also mentioned that the website included a translation feature that allowed users to view content in multiple languages.

Chairwoman Cruz asked if Spanish version was available, to which Mr. Heinrichs confirmed it was.

12. RTAC Regional Priority Project Funding for 2026 Legislation

Ms. Crystal Figueroa provided an informational update on the current 2025 RTAC Priority Project Legislation process. YMPO submitted three projects for consideration: (1) U.S. 95 – Welton Mohawk Canal to Aberdeen, (2) U.S. 95 Pavement Rehabilitation Phase 2 between County 17 and Avenue D, and (3) Somerton Main Street Improvements.

Ms. Figueroa noted that the 2025 round had received a 20% inflation adjustment, but the overall state legislative outlook remained uncertain. While over \$600 million in revenue was available, the Legislative Finance Advisory Committee recommended a conservative cap of \$277 million. As of June 19, 2025, state budget negotiations were ongoing, and none of the 2025 YMPO’s submitted projects were included in the proposed funding list. A Yuma County project, the Somerton Avenue bridge replacement, was listed under both House and Senate Bills, and was currently listed under Yuma County.

Ms. Figueroa reported that the RTAC Board continues to focus efforts on one-time transportation funding, considering funding challenges across the state in response to the lack of fuel tax increase. As such, they approved funding allocations on May 19, 2025, for the 2026 RTAC cycle. YMPO’s estimated share decreased by \$243,984 to \$57,992.78 compared to the 2025 cycle.

She further explained that the decrease was primarily due to the formation of the Bullhead City MPO. TAC and Executive Board members would need to evaluate whether to maintain current priority projects and update their fact sheets accordingly. The item was presented for discussion and will be brought back to the Board in a future Board meeting. She then noted that a Legislative update would be provided by RTAC Liaison Kevin Adams at a later time during the meeting.

13. 2025 Transportation Policy Summit

Ms. Lucia Zamudio, Administrative Assistant, extended an invitation to Executive Board members to attend the upcoming Arizona Transportation Policy Summit, formerly known as the Arizona Rural Transportation Summit. She explained that the name change reflects the broader statewide scope of transportation policy discussions that occur during the event, while still maintaining a focus on rural transportation needs.

The 25th annual summit is scheduled for October 15–17, 2025, at the Sierra Vista Air Community Innovation Center and will be hosted by the Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization. Ms. Zamudio encouraged board members to attend and requested that those interested contact her for registration and travel arrangements. She noted that early bird registration closes on July 31, with registrations beginning July 1.

Councilmember Art Morales inquired who had already registered, and Ms. Zamudio responded that Chairwoman Cruz was the only member who had requested her registration.

Ms. Crystal Figueroa added that YMPO typically coordinates a dinner during the summit with legislators and elected officials to discuss regional priorities, particularly related to RTAC project legislation.

Ms. Lourdes “Lulu” Lopez mentioned that if a board member is unable to attend, travel accommodations could be reassigned to an alternate representative in their place.

14. 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

Mr. Kevin Adam, RTAC Liaison, provided a legislative update on the status of the Arizona state budget and its implications for transportation funding. He noted that, with only days remaining before the start of the new fiscal year, the State of Arizona had yet to pass a budget, an unprecedented situation. He explained the

complexities arising from split partisan control, which have led to competing budget proposals from the House and Senate, including a “skinny budget” alternative supported by the House. Governor Hobbs vetoed the House proposals, and negotiations among legislative leaders and the governor were ongoing.

Mr. Adam explained that the budget gap between the proposals was relatively small, ranging from \$17 billion to \$17.6 billion, but the final outcome would significantly impact funding for transportation projects. Both the House and Senate versions included over \$100 million in one-time funding for transportation, with the Somerton Avenue bridge replacement (\$1.3 million) appearing in both versions, though none of YMPO’s three RTAC-prioritized projects were included.

He also addressed the potential economic impact of federal tariffs, noting that increased tariffs could suppress economic activity, reduce state revenues, and increase demand for public services, all factors influencing the Legislature’s cautious approach. He added that the Arizona SMART Fund was not included in the current proposals, and at the current pace of awards, it would be depleted within six months.

Chairwoman Cruz asked about the role of tariffs in state revenue, and Mr. Adam clarified that while tariffs do not fund transportation directly, they can weaken the overall economy and reduce tax collections.

Ms. Crystal Figueroa shared that she had sent a final letter of support for YMPO’s projects to District 25 legislators, hoping to influence the remaining stages of the budget process. Mr. Adam responded that such outreach was helpful in showing awareness and advocacy, even if resources were limited, and encouraged continued engagement to represent the region’s needs effectively.

15. Possible Future Agenda Items

- A. FY 2026-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Resolution Adoption
- B. FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Resolution Adoption
- C. 2025 Air Quality Conformity Analysis
- D. Transportation Alternatives Program
- E. RTAC Legislative Update
- F. Gary Knight Memorial Highway
- G. YMPO Executive Director’s Evaluation

16. Progress Report

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

- a. Jun 1-5 – CTAA and CALACT 2025 Expo (JR)

- b. Jun 3 – Staff Meeting (CF, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- c. Jun 4 – YMPO CSCS and RORS Monthly Check-In Meeting (CF, JH, JR)
- d. Jun 5 – Arizona State Transportation Board Meeting (CF)
- e. Jun 9 – ADOT/YMPO Coordination Meeting (CF, JH, FV)
- f. Jun 9 – Transportation Alternatives TAC Meeting #2 (CF, JH)
- g. Jun 9 – Yuma Region Bicycle Coalition (JR)
- h. Jun 10 – YMPO CSCS Monthly Check-In Meeting (FV)
- i. Jun 10 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update - PMT Meeting (CF, JH, FV)
- j. Jun 12 – YMPO TAC Meeting (CF, JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- k. Jun 12 – Asset Management Plan - Local NHS Assets Meeting (FV)
- l. Jun 12 – AZ Mobility Managers Meeting (JR)
- m. Jun 12 – SHRM FMLA Qualifying Reasons & Facts (LL)
- n. Jun 12 – MPO/COG Director's Meeting (CF)
- o. Jun 13 – COG/MPO Planner's Meeting (FV, CF, JH)
- p. Jun 13 – Title VI Training Information COG/MPO Agencies (JR)
- q. Jun 16 – Consensus on DCIP Proposal (CF, JH)
- r. Jun 16 – FY 2026 STBG Funds and other Authorization Requests Meeting w/ADOT Finance (LL, CF)
- s. Jun 16 – RTAC Advisory Committee Meeting (CF)
- t. Jun 17 – YMPO Social Media & Online Engagement Policy Meeting (LL, CF, JH, LZ)
- u. Jun 17 – Yuma PM10 SIP Update Meeting (CF, FV)
- v. Jun 18 – 2025 US-95 DCIP Proposal Meeting (CF, JH, JR)
- w. Jun 19 – Brown & Brown Insurance Services Quotes for FY26 (LL, CF)
- x. Jun 19 – Arizona Incoming Planner Information (JH, FV)
- y. Jun 19 – Networking for Community Resources (JR)
- z. Jun 20 – Arizona State Transportation Board Meeting (CF)
- aa. Jun 23 – RTAC Board Meeting (CF, FV)
- bb. Jun 23 – Transportation Alternatives TAC Meeting #2 (CF, JH)
- cc. Jun 23 – Traffic count BKM Meeting (JH)
- dd. Jun 24 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update Meeting (CF, FV, JH)
- ee. Jun 25 – Procurement Workshop Federal Gov't Purchasing (LL)
- ff. Jun 25 – 2025 US-95 DCIP Proposal Meeting (CF, FV, JH, JR)
- gg. Jun 26 – YMPO Executive Board Meeting (ALL)

17. Adjournment.

Having no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Cruz adjourned the meeting at 4:49 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 July 31, 2025, and August 28, 2025

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



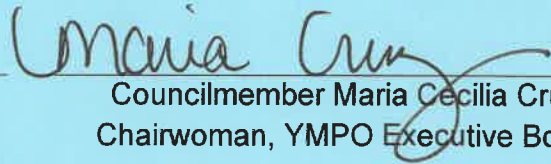
Lulu Lopez, Accountant II/Executive Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
July 31, 2025



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Councilmember Maria Cecilia Cruz,
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board