



YMPO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 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 3:31 p.m. and asked Supervisor Porchas 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 ^
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Councilmember, Town of Wellton ~
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Darren Simmons, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Arturo Morales, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Sam Elters, Arizona State Transportation Board, ADOT ~

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent

Vice-Chair	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe *
Secretary/Treasurer	Luis Galindo, Councilmember, City of Somerton *
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma #
Member	Carol Smith, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma #

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

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

YMPO Staff Present:

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

Declaration of Votes

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

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public

The Chairwoman called on Jesus Aguilar, Jr., YMPO Mobility Manager, who read the YMPO Title VI obligations.

No members of the public were present to address the Board.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of August 28, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for August 2025.

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

5. STBG Call for Projects

Fernando Villegas, YMPO Senior Transportation Planner, informed the Board that while the overall FY2026-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) had received approval on July 31, 2025, Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) projects had not yet been programmed for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2030. For that reason, a call for projects had been initiated in May 2025 to identify and program new eligible projects.

Mr. Villegas reported that three Mini Design Concept Reports (DCRs) had been submitted for consideration. The City of San Luis submitted for the Union Street and 4th Avenue Intersection Improvements project. The project would include the installation of new traffic signals, right and left turn lanes, six-foot bike lanes, curb and gutter, ADA-compliant sidewalks, and ramps to improve pedestrian access. The total estimated cost was for \$2,077,459, with a request for \$1,022,077 in STBG funding, representing the maximum amount available for Fiscal Year 2027.

The City of Yuma had submitted the second project for the 32nd Street Pavement Rehabilitation Project from Catalina Drive to Avenue 81/2E, which was divided into

three phases, with funding requests submitted for Phases 2 and 3 only. Phase 2, scheduled for Fiscal Year 2028, would rehabilitate 32nd Street from Avenue 6E to 81/2 E, with a construction cost of \$5,670,000. The request for STBG funds totaled \$1,022,077, and the City planned to contribute \$4,750,000 in local funding. Phase 3, scheduled for Fiscal Year 2029, would rehabilitate 32nd Street from Catalina Drive to Ave 3E, with a construction cost of \$4,498,000. The requested STBG amount again totaled \$1,022,077, with \$2.5 million in local matching funds committed by the City of Yuma.

Mr. Villegas stated that no projects had yet been submitted for Fiscal Year 2030, and STBG funding remained available for that year. He added that, now that the TIP had been formally approved, a formal amendment, Amendment No. 1, would be presented at the next Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Board meetings to initiate the official programming process for these projects. He concluded his presentation.

Mr. Villegas also informed the Board that the City of Yuma had initially intended to begin Phase 1 of the project, which extended from Avenue 3E to Avenue 6E and included Yuma County participation. However, because the City of San Luis had requested funding for Fiscal Year 2027, the City of Yuma had agreed to advance Phases 2 and 3 instead, allowing San Luis to receive the earlier year's funding. As a result, Yuma County was no longer involved in Phases 2 and 3 of the 32nd Street Rehabilitation Project.

Crystal Figueroa, YMPO Executive Director, confirmed that the modification had been coordinated among the jurisdictions and reflected a cooperative approach to project scheduling and funding. Chairwoman Cruz commended the agencies for working collaboratively and adapting their plans. She inquired whether the City of Somerton or the Town of Wellton had submitted any projects.

Mr. Villegas responded that the Town of Wellton already had a project programmed for Fiscal Year 2026 and therefore had not submitted an additional project during this cycle. He added that YMPO had been awaiting another Mini DCR from the City of Somerton, but none had yet been received.

Ms. Figueroa stated that the City of Somerton anticipated submitting a Mini DCR for potential improvements along Main Street, though the scope had not yet been confirmed. Mr. Villegas agreed and noted that the City was likely considering Main Street improvements for submission, but details were still pending.

6. Executive Board Meetings

Ms. Figueroa explained that this item had been brought back following the previous Executive Board discussion regarding a possible change to meeting times. A poll

had been distributed to members, and results showed that while preferences varied, the majority favored a 3:30 p.m. start time.

Councilmember Morales noted that although meetings had traditionally been held at 1:30 p.m. for many years, times had changed, and the Board now consisted of members with different schedules and family obligations, which was the reason for the change to 3:30 p.m. He suggested that, in the future, YMPO might consider lunchtime or early evening meetings, similar to other boards, if participation trends warranted.

Ms. Figueroa responded that such a change would mean staff staying later, to which Councilmember Morales replied that scheduling adjustments could be managed by shifting hours as needed.

Ms. Figueroa confirmed that 3:30 p.m. was the most convenient option for now, based on the poll, with 1:30 p.m. as the runner-up. Councilmember Morales added that meetings at 3:30 p.m. typically conclude around 4:45 or 5:00 p.m., which worked well. Supervisor Simmons stated that any of the proposed times were acceptable and that he would adjust his schedule accordingly.

Ms. Figueroa concluded that no formal action was required as time remained the same and noted that 3:30 p.m. was the preferred meeting time for most members.

7. 2025 Transportation Policy Summit

YMPO Administrative Assistant, Lucia Zamudio, reported that the long-standing Arizona Rural Transportation Summit had been renamed the Arizona Transportation Policy Summit, scheduled for October 15–17 at the Sierra Vista Area Community Innovation Center. She explained that lodging dates varied based on golf tournament participation.

Councilmember Morales confirmed that check-in was on the 14th and the golf tournament was on the 15th. Ms. Zamudio confirmed and added that she would send hotel details and confirmation numbers closer to the date.

Ms. Figueroa noted that the conference would conclude on Thursday, October 16, with a closing reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and that attendees were not expected to drive back that night. Councilmember Morales asked about event details or itineraries, and Ms. Figueroa stated that all information would be provided. She also mentioned that the State Transportation Board meeting would be held Friday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m. at the Sierra Vista Council Chambers.

8. 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

9. Possible Future Agenda Items

- A. Transportation Alternatives Program
- B. Gary Knight Memorial Highway
- C. FY 2026-2027 UPWP Amendment #1
- D. Travel Policy Update
- E. YMPO AZ SMART Application - Status

Ms. Figueroa stated that, as a future agenda item, YMPO would have the AZ SMART Fund application scheduled for possible State Transportation Board approval that Friday. She noted that she would be speaking on behalf of the region to advocate \$100,000 in funding for the Safe Streets for All projects, emphasizing that this funding would allow YMPO to proceed without using general funds.

10. Progress Report

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

- A. Jun 27 – Daily 2025 US-95 DCIP Proposal Updates Meeting (CF, JH)
- B. Aug 04 – YMPO Staff Meeting (CF, JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- C. Aug 04 – YMPO RORS Monthly Check-In (CF, FV)
- D. Aug 05 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update – PMT Meeting (JH, FV)
- E. Aug 05 – YMPO Presentation to Somerton City Council (CF)
- F. Aug 05 – Roads & Streets YMPO Booth Brainstorming Session (JH, JR, FV)
- G. Aug 06 – Yuma County Resource Guide Advisory Committee (JR)
- H. Aug 06 – Priority Planning Advisory Committee (PPAC) (CF)
- I. Aug 06 – Docusign Connect (CF, LL, JH)
- J. Aug 07 – ADOT Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Training (CF, LL, FV, JH, JR, LZ)
- K. Aug 07 – Yuma TMP Biweekly meeting (JH, FV)
- L. Aug 08 – COG/MPO Planners Meeting (CF, JR, JH, FV)
- M. Aug 11 – Yuma Region Bicycle Coalition (JR)
- N. Aug 12 – ADOT/YMPO Coordination Meeting (CF, JH, FV)
- O. Aug 12 – YMPO/Docusign DEMO (CF, LL, JH)
- P. Aug 13 – Project Delivery Academy – Mod2 Federal Auth & Acct (LL)
- Q. Aug 13 – Site visit with Achieve Cathy Myers (JR)
- R. Aug 14 – YMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (CF, JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- S. Aug 14 – Mobility Manager Meeting (JR)
- T. Aug 14 – MPO/COG Directors Meeting (CF)

- U. Aug 15 – Arizona State Transportation Board Meeting - Graham County (virtual) (CF)
- V. Aug 18 – Tour De Fields (JR)
- W. Aug 18 – RTAC Advisory Committee (CF)
- X. Aug 19 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update (JH, FV)
- Y. Aug 19 – Site visit with RISE Inc Aracely Ochoa (JR)
- Z. Aug 19 – Yuma PM 10 SIP Update Meeting (CF, FV)
- AA. Aug 20 – Site visit with Horizon William Moore (JR)
- BB. Aug 21 – Arizona Incoming Planner Information Exchange (JR, JH, FV)
- CC. Aug 21 – Networking for Community Resources Meeting (JR)
- DD. Aug 21 – Yuma TMP Bi-weekly meeting (FV, JH)
- EE. Aug 25 – RTAC Board Meeting (CF, FV)
- FF. Aug 25 – Traffic Count BKM Meeting (JH)
- Aug 28 – YMPO Executive Board Meeting (CF, JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)

11. Adjournment.

Having no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Cruz adjourned the meeting at 3:5 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 held on the last Thursday of each month. This month's meeting was moved up by a week to take into consideration the Roads and Streets Conference. The next two meetings are tentatively scheduled for October 30, 2025, and the combined year-end meeting on December 11, 2025.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



Lulu Lopez, Accountant II/Executive
Assistant

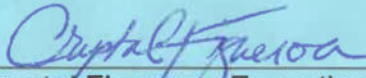
Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on

~~September 18, 2025~~

October 30, 2025

LL
CF



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Councilmember Maria Cecilia Cruz,
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board