



## YMPO EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 29, 2026,  
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) Vice-Chair, Cocopah Indian Tribe Councilmember, Wynnie Ortega, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 3:41 p.m., and asked the Board to join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance and Declaration of Votes.

YMPO Accountant II/Executive Assistant, Lulu Lopez, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Vice-Chair	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe ^
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Councilmember, Town of Wellton ~
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Carol Smith, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Mark Martinez, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

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

During roll call, Ms. Smith, representing the City of Yuma, stated that her title had changed from Vice Mayor to Councilmember, and the record was updated accordingly. She also stated that, for this meeting, she would wield four votes for the City of Yuma (hers and those of Councilmember Watts), and that Councilmember Martinez would have one vote.

YMPO Board Members Absent:

Chairwoman	Maria Cecilia Cruz, Councilmember, City of San Luis #
Secretary/Treasurer	Luis Galindo, Councilmember, City of Somerton *
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County #
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma #
Member	Sam Elters, 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:

Kevin Adams, Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) ~

YMPO Staff Present:

Jesus Aguilar, Jr	Mobility Manager
Lourdes Lopez	Accountant II/Executive Assistant
Jeffrey Heinrichs	IT Manager/Associate Planner
Paul Ward	Principal Engineer

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

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

There were no members of the public present to address the Board.

4. Annual Declaration of Votes for Calendar Year 2026

Ms. Smith asked how many votes she should declare on behalf of the City of Yuma representatives. Ms. Lopez responded that her understanding was that, currently, Ms. Smith had two votes, Ms. Watts had two votes, and the newly appointed representative, Mr. Martinez, had one vote. Ms. Smith agreed with this allocation.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of December 11, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Reports for November and December 2025.

Mr. Ward informed the Chair and Executive Board that there was an issue with the consent agenda, specifically Item B, regarding the Income and Expenditure Reports for November and December. He explained that the November Income and Expenditure Report had not been included in the original meeting packet. He noted that a copy of the November report was available at the dais and stated that it was at the discretion of the Board whether to briefly review the report and include it with the current action item or to defer consideration until the next meeting, at which time it could be presented alongside the January report.

Mr. Ward added that, based on his review, expenditures were approximately 30 percent through the end of November and 35 percent through the end of December, indicating that spending was progressing as expected, for the time of year. He stated that he had no concerns with the reports.

MOTION: Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi moved to approve both Items A and B on the consent agenda, as written. Councilmember Smith seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. RTAC Legislative Update on Possible Priority Projects

Mr. Ward explained that RTAC had identified a list of transportation priority projects under House Bill 2304. He stated that the bill included significant funding requests for rural counties, including approximately \$58 million for Yuma County, but noted that the total statewide request would likely be reduced during the legislative process.

Supervisor Pancrazi asked whether YMPO's projects had been formally prioritized, in the event of funding cuts. Mr. Ward indicated he was unsure of the current prioritization and would confirm following further review and after reviewing the YMPO Technical Advisory Committee actions. He stated that staff would provide updates to the Board and, if necessary, bring back a recommendation to formally prioritize the projects.

At 4:11 p.m., the Board returned to Item 6 to receive an update from RTAC Director, Kevin Adam, who joined the meeting by teleconference, following RTAC's Lunch with Legislators Day at the Capitol.

Mr. Adam reported that the legislative session was underway, and that securing long-term transportation revenue remained challenging, particularly given the requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to increase statewide transportation taxes. He provided an overview of pending legislation, including proposals to establish annual fees for alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles and efforts to dedicate electric vehicle charging station sales tax revenues to the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF). He noted that, while these measures could generate some revenue, the projected amounts would not significantly address the state's overall transportation funding gap.

Mr. Adam stated that RTAC's primary strategy continued to focus on advocating for the use of one-time surplus state revenues to support transportation infrastructure. He reported that the RTAC priority project legislation, which includes projects submitted by YMPO for the region, as well as legislation to provide additional funding to the Arizona Smart Fund, were anticipated to be heard in committee at the State Legislature, on February 18.

Supervisor Pancrazi engaged in discussion regarding potential local transportation revenue options and raised concerns about the regressive nature of sales taxes, particularly in communities with higher poverty levels. She inquired whether legislation could be pursued to allow counties to seek voter approval for a local fuel tax.

Mr. Adam explained that while such authority could be explored, it could also present risks to existing state revenue-sharing structures and would require careful consideration to ensure current HURF distributions to local governments were not reduced. Supervisor Pancrazi expressed interest in continuing such discussions and exploring long-term options to address transportation funding challenges.

Mr. Adam concluded by announcing that he had accepted a new position and would be transitioning from RTAC after 19 years of service. He stated that transition planning was underway to ensure continuity during the remainder of the legislative session.

7. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Update

Mr. Heinrichs presented an update on the federally funded Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program, explaining that it supports community-based projects focused on safety, connectivity, and quality of life. He reported that during the previous cycle, two regional projects were advanced.

The first project was Yuma County's East Main Canal multi-use path, which was awarded \$183,885 in FY26 for scoping. The second project was the City of Yuma shared-use pathway along Avenue 6E, connecting 32nd Street to East Mesa Community Park at 36th Street. He stated that the project would receive \$424,350 in FY 2027 for design and \$1.2 million in FY 2029 for construction.

Mr. Heinrichs noted that the next TA cycle was anticipated in late February and that program updates were expected to streamline the application process. He encouraged local agencies to review the ADOT TA website for eligibility and application information.

Supervisor Pancrazi requested clarification on the funding amount for the City of Yuma project, and Mr. Heinrichs confirmed the design and construction funding amounts.

8. Railroad Crossing Elimination Program and Regional Letter of Support

Mr. Ward reported that, during a prior Board meeting, Supervisor Darren Simmons had raised concerns regarding ongoing issues at the Fortuna Road railroad crossing. He explained that electrical malfunctions, reportedly related to drainage issues, had resulted in closures at the crossing. He noted that further concerns existed at this and at two other additional crossings in Wellton and that a broader study was underway. He further reported that the Yuma County Board of Supervisors had approved a resolution on January 5 requesting further corrective action.

Mr. Ward asked whether the Board wished for YMPO to issue a letter of support or adopt a resolution in support of the County's action. Board members discussed

the matter and expressed interest in pursuing both a Letter of Support and a resolution. Staff was directed to prepare and send a Letter of Support and to draft a resolution, for possible consideration and/or approval at a future meeting.

At 4:11 p.m., the Board returned to Item 6 to receive a legislative update from RTAC Representative Kevin Adam, who had joined the meeting virtually following the earlier discussion. This update is included as shown in Item 6.

9. Election of Executive Board Officers - Calendar Year 2026

Mr. Ward reviewed the YMPO Bylaws regarding officer rotation and explained that the three Executive Board officers serve on a rotating basis. He stated that at the next meeting in February, the current Vice Chair would move into the Chair position, the Secretary/Treasurer would move into the Vice Chair position, and the Board would need to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer. He noted that while action could be taken at the current meeting, officer confirmations are typically finalized at the following meeting.

Mr. Ward further explained that historically the rotation had followed representation by jurisdiction and that it was Yuma County's turn to fill that position.

Councilmember Smith tentatively nominated Supervisor Pancrazi for YMPO Secretary/Treasurer and Supervisor Pancrazi accepted the nomination. Brief discussion followed regarding the timing of formal action, and Mr. Ward recommended confirming the appointment at the next meeting, to allow staff to prepare accordingly. No final action was taken at this time.

10. Election of YMPO Subcommittee Members and Identification of Officials for Attending AZSTB and RTAC meetings - Calendar Year 2026

Mr. Ward reviewed the structure of YMPO subcommittees and statewide board representation. He explained that YMPO maintains three subcommittees: the Audit Subcommittee, the Bylaws Subcommittee, and the Evaluation Subcommittee, as well as representation at certain statewide transportation boards.

Regarding the Audit Subcommittee, Mr. Ward stated that the incoming Secretary/Treasurer would traditionally serve as Chair of the Audit Subcommittee and that two additional Board members would need to be identified to serve on that committee.

Mr. Ward explained that the Bylaws Subcommittee is convened only when updates to the Bylaws are necessary. He noted that the Bylaws had not been updated since 2015 but that no legislative changes currently required revisions. Supervisor Pancrazi inquired whether any recent legislative changes required updates to the Bylaws, and Mr. Ward responded that no substantive changes were needed, aside

from a minor correction previously made. He suggested that appointment to the Bylaws Subcommittee could be deferred until revisions were necessary.

Mr. Ward further stated that the Evaluation Subcommittee is traditionally chaired by the incoming Executive Board Chair and is responsible for conducting the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. Supervisor Pancrazi confirmed that the evaluation pertains to the Executive Director.

Mr. Ward then discussed representation related to the State Transportation Board. He explained that State Transportation Board members are appointed by the Governor, are confirmed by the State Senate, with six-year terms assigned by district. He noted that District 6 includes four counties and operates on a rotational cycle, and that Yuma County would not be eligible for appointment for many years. While YMPO would not be selecting an official State Transportation Board member, he indicated that the Board typically identifies representatives to attend State Transportation Board meetings to monitor discussions and advocate on behalf of regional interests.

Mr. Ward clarified that the item was presented for discussion and possible direction, and no formal appointments were made at this time.

11. FY 2026-30 YMPO TIP Amendment #3

Mr. Ward reported that the FY 2026-2030 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved in July 2025, and has already been amended twice since then. It currently requires a third amendment, to incorporate the two recently awarded Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program funded projects from item 7. He explained that three entries would be added to the TIP, occurring in FY 2026, FY 2027, and FY 2029, as outlined in the agenda information summary.

He stated that the FY 2026 addition included Yuma County's East Main Canal multi-use path project for scoping activities, or preliminary design. The project totaled approximately \$183,885 in TA funding, with an estimated \$11,000 local match to be provided by Yuma County. The FY 2027 and FY 2029 additions comprised the design and construction phases of the City of Yuma's shared-use pathway project along Avenue 6E: 32nd Street to East Mesa Community Park at 36th Street.

He noted that because the projects are federally funded, they must be formally incorporated into the TIP and, upon approval, would be forwarded to ADOT for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

MOTION: Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi moved to approve FY 2026-30 YMPO TIP Amendment #3. Councilmember Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Ms. Lopez reminded the Board that any time spent by member agencies or staff conducting work on behalf of YMPO, including reviewing materials, providing comments, or attending meetings, in person or virtually, may be documented as in-kind contributions toward the YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She explained that these documented efforts are used as soft match and help reduce the required cash match from member agencies.

Ms. Lopez stated that the in-kind reporting form was included in the agenda information summary and encouraged members to contact her or the Administrative Assistant with any questions regarding completion or submission of the form.

13. Entity Dues from Member Agencies

Ms. Lopez reviewed the policy and procedure for calculating matching funds within the YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), originally approved by the Executive Board in May 2018. She explained that the UPWP is developed between January and May and is reviewed and approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Executive Board, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

She further noted that in February 2023, the Board approved a revision to the local dues calculation methodology to incorporate previously programmed local planning expenditures over a three-year period to help stabilize the general fund and avoid unexpected fluctuations in member assessments.

Ms. Lopez stated that preliminary entity dues assessments were mailed to member agencies in February 2025 for planning purposes. Since that time, final dues were recalculated to reflect the approved FY 2026-2027 UPWP Amendment One and updated official population estimates released by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity in December 2025. She reported that the final assessments had been mailed to member agencies and that several payments had already been received.

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that total entity dues decreased by \$5,154 from the preliminary estimate, resulting in a revised total of approximately \$80,000. She reiterated that dues are calculated using the Board-approved methodology, factoring in required in-kind matching funds for newly awarded grants and previously programmed planning expenditures to maintain the general fund over time.

MOTION: Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi moved to approve the FY 2026 Final Entity Dues from Member Agencies. Councilmember Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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.

15. 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 2026
- C. Election of Subcommittee Members
- D. AZ SMART Fund
- E. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program
- F. FY 2026 and 2027 YMPO Unified Planning Work Programs
- G. Accounting and Auditing Services for FY 2026 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Vice-Chair Ortega stated that the Fortuna Railroad Crossing topic should be added to this list. Mr. Ward agreed and stated that it will be added for the next meeting.

Mr. Ward added that the item was intended to provide Board members the opportunity to request future agenda topics or raise questions of interest to their respective agencies or YMPO staff. He encouraged members to identify subjects they would like staff to provide updates on, particularly in light of ongoing statewide discussions related to RTAC activities and the state budget, which could significantly impact member agencies.

He noted that potential future topics could include the status of the YMPO's regional traffic counting program, transit activities, intelligent transportation systems, or other regional planning efforts. He also briefly referenced coordination occurring at the MPO/COG director level, including matters such as census-related planning efforts that could influence future regional designation and funding.

During discussion, Supervisor Pancrazi inquired whether YMPO was involved in coordination efforts related to the 16th Street widening and traffic signal synchronization, particularly at 16th Street and Avenue B, which she noted as a high-accident area within her district. Mr. Heinrichs responded that the City of

Yuma's team was currently involved in the project. Supervisor Pancrazi emphasized the importance of the issue to the region.

15. Progress Reports.

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

- A. Dec 11 - YMPO TAC Meeting (JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- B. Dec 11 - YMPO Holiday Luncheon (JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- C. Dec 11 - YMPO Executive Board Meeting (JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- D. Dec 12 - COG/MPO Planners Meeting (CF, JH, FV)
- E. Dec 15 - Procurement Policy Work (LL)
- F. Dec 15 - Organizational Structure Discussion (CF, LL)
- G. Dec 15 - RTAC Board Meeting (CF, FV)
- H. Dec 16 - Yuma PM10 SIP Update Meeting (CF, FV)
- I. Dec 17 - Yuma Road Safety Action Plan TAC Meeting 2 (FV)
- J. Dec 17 - 2025 Annual Governmental GAAP Update Encore (LL)
- K. Dec 17 - Independent Contractor Discussion (CF)
- L. Dec 18 - WACOG-Networking for Community Resources (JR)
- M. Dec 18 - Arizona Incoming Planner Information Exchange (JH, FV)
- N. Dec 18 - Roof Style/Material Meeting (CF, FV, LL, LZ)
- O. Dec 18 - Tour de Fields (JR)
- P. Dec 18 - 2019 Ford Explorer - Tires Replacement (JR)
- Q. Dec 19 - Arizona State Transportation Board Meeting - Queen Creek (CF)
- R. Dec 22 - Website and BikeReg Update Meeting (JR, JH)
- S. Dec 22 - 5311 2026 Webinar (JR)
- T. Dec 22 - YMPO Holiday Breakfast (CF, JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- U. Dec 22 - Wells Fargo Bank Appointment (CF, FV)
- V. Dec 23 - DSR Roofing - Quote (CF, FV, LZ)
- W. Dec 24 - TAC Member Orientation (CF, FV)
- X. Dec 29 - Yuma Region Bicycle Coalition-Board Meeting (JR)
- Y. Dec 31 - YMPO/ ADOT 5310 Quarter Report OCT - DEC (JR)
- Z. Jan 05 - YMPO RORS Monthly Check-In (CF, JH, FV)
- AA. Jan 06 - Staff Meeting (CF, PW, JR, JH, FV, LL, LZ)
- BB. Jan 06 - TA TAC Voting Members Leadership Election (CF, JH)
- CC. Jan 07 - Auditing and Accounting RFP Schedule (CF, PW, LL)
- DD. Jan 07 - YMPO Ledgers & Financial Statements Training (CF, FV, LL)
- EE. Jan 08 - YMPO TAC Meeting (CF, PW, JR, JH, FV, LZ)
- FF. Jan 08 - PASS Training Site Visit (JR)
- GG. Jan 08 - 5310 meeting w/ Amity Medical Transport (JR)
- HH. Jan 09 - PASS Training (JR)
- II. Jan 12 - Regional Mobility Committee (JR)
- JJ. Jan 12 - ADOT/YMPO Monthly Coordination Meeting (PW, JH, FV)
- KK. Jan 13 - Mobility Management and Community Outreach Webinar (JR)
- LL. Jan 13 - NHI Training: Connection between HPMS and TPM (JH)

- MM. Jan 14 - Auditing and Accounting Services RFP Review (LL)
- NN. Jan 15 - Arizona Incoming Planner Information Exchange (FV)
- OO. Jan 15 - Future I-8 Corridor Study (FV)
- PP. Jan 20 - Yuma PM10 SIP Update (PW, FV)
- QQ. Jan 22 - Yuma SAP: Strategies and Countermeasures (PW, FV)

16. Adjournment.

Having no further business to discuss, Chairwoman ~~Cruz~~ <sup>Ortega</sup> adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

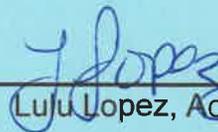
*Notice: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, YMPO does not discriminate on the basis of disability, in the admission of, or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, activities, or services. If you have any questions regarding YMPO programs, activities, or services, please contact Crystal Figueroa, or Paul Ward, at 928-783-8911.*

Anticipated Future 2026 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, and the next two meetings are scheduled for February 26, 2026, and March 26, 2026.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

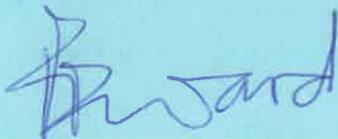
Minutes prepared by:



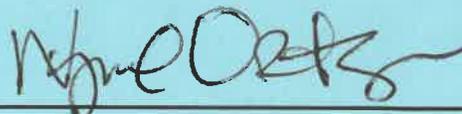
Lulu Lopez, Accountant II/Executive Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on  
February 26, 2026



Paul Ward, Principal Engineer,  
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Councilmember Wynnie Ortega,  
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board