



YMPO EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 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 (YMPO) Chairwoman, Cocopah Indian Tribe Councilmember, Wynnie Ortega, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and asked Ms. McCollough, to lead, and the Board to join her, in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance and Declaration of Votes.
YMPO Regional Mobility Manager, JR Aguilar, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chairwoman	Wynnie Ortega, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe ^
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Councilmember, Town of Wellton ^
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Carol Smith, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Karen Watts, 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.

YMPO Board Members Absent:

Vice-Chair	Lorena Delgadillo, Councilmember, City of Somerton *
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County #
Member	Maria Cecilia Cruz, Councilmember, City of San Luis *
Member	Sam Elters, State Transportation Board, AZ STB/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:

Veronica Shorr, Western Council of Governments (WACOG)
Chris Joannes, Kimley-Horn
Ryan McKell, Kimley-Horn

YMPO Staff Present:

Crystal Figueroa Executive Director
Fernando Villegas Senior Transportation Planner
Jesus Aguilar, Jr Regional Mobility Manager
Jeffrey Heinrichs IT Manager/Associate Planner
Lucia Zamudio Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

YMPO Executive Director, Crystal Figueroa, informed the Board that a new appointment letter had been received for the City of Somerton. She stated that Juan Castillo, Vice Mayor, would serve as the next representative for the City of Somerton and Councilmember Lorena Delgadillo as an alternate.

Declaration of Votes

Councilmember Carol Smith declared three (3) votes, and Councilmember Karen Watts declared two (2) votes for the City of Yuma.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

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

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

At 3:36 p.m. Veronica Shorr, Executive Director of the Western Council of Governments, announced her arrival, virtually.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of February 26, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for February 2026.

MOTION: Supervisor Porchas, moved to approve both Items A and B on the consent agenda. Councilmember Watts, seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Roads of Regional Significance Study (RORS) Final Report

Chris Joannes of Kimley-Horn presented the draft final report for the Roads of Regional Significance (RORS) Study, summarizing the identification of key regional corridors based on travel impact, connectivity, and roadway classification. He noted that the study incorporated existing plans, identified priority projects, and

evaluated high-level environmental, right-of-way, and funding considerations to support implementation.

Mr. Villegas stated that the final draft report had been presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which recommended approval.

MOTION: Chairwoman Ortega moved to approve the Roads of Regional Significance Study (RORS) Final report. Councilmember McCollough seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

It is noted that at 3:39 p.m., City of Yuma Councilmember, Mark Martinez, joined the meeting virtually.

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

YMPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa presented the item to confirm YMPO Subcommittee appointments previously voted on at the February 26 Board meeting, noting that some nominees had not been present at that time.

She reviewed the Audit Committee structure, noting that the Secretary/Treasurer automatically serves as Chair. Councilmember Watts had self-nominated and was confirmed. With Councilmember Galindo no longer serving on the Board, an additional member was required. Councilmember Smith then self-nominated to serve on the Audit Committee.

Ms. Figueroa reviewed the Bylaws and Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee, noting self-nominations by Chairwoman Ortega and Councilmember Martinez, and a nomination for Supervisor Porchas, who accepted.

She reviewed the Executive Director Performance Evaluation Committee, noting the Chairwoman serves automatically, Councilmember Martinez had self-nominated, and Councilmember McCollough accepted the prior nomination.

Ms. Figueroa then stated that, for the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) Board, an official representative and alternate were required. Councilmember Cruz had self-nominated and was confirmed, and Councilmember McCollough agreed to continue serving.

MOTION: Councilmember McCollough moved to approve the Election of YMPO Subcommittee Members and designation of official representative and alternate members for attending RTAC meetings for the calendar year 2026 as presented. Supervisor Porchas seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. FY 2026 – 20230 YMPO TIP Amendment #4

YMPO Senior Transportation Planner Fernando Villegas reported that the amendment included the addition of five new Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects and one revision to an existing project in the City of San Luis, noting a reduction in project length and corresponding name change. He stated that the newly funded projects had originally submitted during the 2026-2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan update and has since received funding.

He summarized the five projects, which included roadway, signal, and pedestrian safety improvements within Yuma County and the City of Yuma. He noted that all projects included design and construction phases, with some also requiring right-of-way acquisition. He further stated that construction was anticipated in FY 2029, with total federal funding of approximately \$13.6 million; some projects will require a local match.

Ms. Figueroa highlighted the return on local investment, stating that a small local contribution leveraged significant federal funding for the region.

Mr. Villegas also informed the Board that a new call for HSIP projects is expected, and staff will be prepared to support future applications.

MOTION: Councilmember McCollough moved to approve FY 2026-2030 YMPO TIP Amendment #4. Councilmember Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Short-Range Transit Plan Request for Proposals

YMPO Regional Mobility Manager Jesus Aguilar provided an update on the Short-Range Transit Plan, stating that \$180,000 in funding, originally applied for back in January 2026, had been awarded for the project. He reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) was scheduled for release on March 30, 2026, with proposals due by April 30, 2026.

He further stated that the project timeline anticipated bringing a recommended firm to the Executive Board for approval at the May meeting. Mr. Aguilar noted that YMPO is working in conjunction with YCIPTA on the development of this plan, which will guide transit services and investments over the next several years.

Ms. Figueroa thanked Mr. Aguilar for his presentation and noted that the anticipated timeline would need to be adjusted due to the release of a major project RFP, the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which required full staff focus. She added that the Short-Range Transit Plan RFP would follow as the next priority.

9. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program

Mr. Heinrichs provided an update on the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program, noting it supports smaller-scale transportation projects and that the FY27 call for projects would close on April 3. He reported that approximately \$11.1 million in funding was available statewide, with projects to be funded across fiscal years 2027 through 2029.

He stated that applications require a letter of support from YMPO and reminded the Board that the Executive Director had been authorized to issue such letters due to tight timelines. He reported that YMPO had received three requests for letters of support, including projects from Yuma County for the construction for the Ferguson Lateral Canal Multi-Use Pathway from West Main Canal to 5th Street, Crane School District in partnership with the City of Yuma for sponsorship of a HAWK beacon signal at 30th Street and 21st Drive supporting the Gary Knox Elementary, and the City of San Luis for the Eastmain Canal Multi-Use Pathway from County Ave G to Urtuzuastegui, with additional requests anticipated by the City of Yuma.

Ms. Figueroa noted that these were valuable funding opportunities for the region and emphasized that most of the proposed projects were identified in existing planning documents, making their support appropriate.

10. Letters of Support – Congressional Directed Spending

Ms. Figueroa presented three letters of support requests from Yuma County, including the Avenue E-D Corridor project and two multi-use pathway projects along the Ferguson Lateral Canal. She noted that two of the projects were included in YMPO transportation planning documents and have previously received Board support.

She further explained that one of the projects is also being submitted under the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program to maximize funding opportunities.

11. FY 2026-27 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #3

Ms. Figueroa presented amendment #3 to the UPWP, which included the awarded Section 5305(e) CPG funding of \$180,000 for the Short-Range Transit Plan. She noted that the amendment formally incorporates the funding into the program to support the project's implementation.

MOTION: Councilmember McCollough moved to approve the FY 2026-27 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #3. Councilmember Martinez seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

12. Title VI Update, Training and Guidance

Mr. Aguilar presented the FY 2026 Title VI Update and provided training to the Board, noting that YMPO completes annual updates to ensure compliance with non-discrimination requirements. He stated that an updated Title VI Plan was in development and would include a compliance framework to guide planning, public involvement, and program activities.

He highlighted key components of the program, including regular training, public participation efforts, and ongoing updates to reflect organizational changes. Mr. Aguilar noted that the final plan would be presented to the Board for approval prior to the August deadline and that the item was for information and discussion.

He informed the Board that YMPO had been selected for a Title VI audit by ADOT scheduled for the following month.

13. 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 (AzTA, 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.

Ms. Figueroa reminded the Board of the upcoming Transportation Policy Summit, scheduled for October 2026, and stated that calendar invitations would be forwarded to them. She encouraged Board members to attend, noting the conference provides an opportunity to engage in transportation policy discussions. She also informed the Board of the upcoming AzTA Conference taking place next month in April.

14. 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. AZ SMART Fund
- C. Transportation Alternatives Program
- D. Arizona Sun Cloud
- E. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) Update
- F. BASICS ACT

15. Progress Reports.

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

- a. Mar 3 – Staff Meeting (PW, FV, JH, JR, LL, LZ)
- b. Mar 3 – YMPO CSCS – Monthly Check-In (CF, FV, JH)
- c. Mar 3 – CTAA Leadership Academy (JR)
- d. Mar 4 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update – PMT Meeting (CF, FV, JH)
- e. Mar 4 – CTAA Leadership Academy (JR)
- f. Mar 5 – CTAA Leadership Academy (JR)
- g. Mar 6 – CTAA Leadership Academy (JR)
- h. Mar 6 – Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-In (FV, JH)
- i. Mar 7 – CTAA Leadership Academy (JR)
- j. Mar 10 – ADDOT/YMPO Coordination Meeting (CF, FV, JH)
- k. Mar 10 – Regional Mobility Committee (JR)
- l. Mar 13– YMPO Technical Advisory Council Meeting (FV, JH, JR, LZ)
- m. Mar 13 – YMPO Monthly Update (JR)
- n. Mar 18 – Yuma MPO LRTP Update – PMT Meetings (CF, FV, JH)
- o. Mar 18 – Yuma PM-10 SIP Update Meeting (CF, FV, JH)
- p. Mar 20 – Yuma TMP Bi-Weekly Check-in (FV, JH)
- q. Mar 26 – YMPO Executive Board Meeting (ALL)

16. Adjournment.

Having no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Ortega adjourned the meeting at 4:32 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 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 April 30, 2026, and May 28, 2026.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

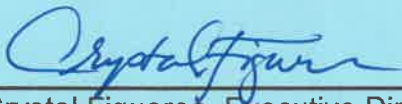
Minutes prepared by:



Lulu Lopez Accountant II/Executive Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
April 30, 2026



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Councilmember WynnTimer Ortega,
Chairwoman, YMPO Executive Board