



**EXECUTIVE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**Executive Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2022
1:30 P.M.**

**The Meeting was held 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.
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Chairman, Supervisor Martin Porchas, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and asked Councilmember Gary Knight to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance.
The YMPO Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper, Blenda Dale, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chairman	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Vice-Chairman	Gary Knight, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Secretary/Treasurer	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton ~
Member	Matias Rosales, Councilmember, City of San Luis ^
Member	Bruce Fenske, Southwest Asst. District Engineer, ADOT ^
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Leslie McClendon, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma ~

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

Councilmember Matias Rosales arrived 1:51pm.

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

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent:

Member Martha Garcia, Councilmember, City of Somerton *

Member Cocopah Indian Tribe - not currently identified *

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

YMPO Staff Present:

Crystal Figueroa	Executive Director
Charles Gutierrez	Senior Planning Manager
Paul Ward	Principal Engineer
Jesus R. Aguilar, Jr.	Mobility Manager
Blenda Dale	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Additional Attendees: None

Declaration of Votes: Councilmember Knight declared that he would have two votes, Councilmember Watts would have two votes and Deputy Mayor McClendon would have one vote.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public

The YMPO Mobility Manager, Jesus (J.R.) Aguilar, Jr., read the YMPO Title VI obligations. No members of the public addressed the Board.

4. Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of the March 31, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes.

B. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for March 2022.

A copy of the draft minutes of the Regular Board meeting from March 31, 2022, accompanied the agenda. Members will have the opportunity to review, report any changes, and/or approve the minutes of the March 31, 2022, Regular Board meeting. The combined March 2022 financial report is expected to be available for review at this current meeting.

MOTION: Councilmember Gary Knight moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Councilmember Karen Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Adjustment to Amendment #1 to the FY 2022-23 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Crystal Figueroa, YMPO Executive Director reminded members that, during the March 31, 2022, YMPO Executive Board meeting, the Board approved an adjustment to Amendment #1 to the FY 2022-23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She stated that ADOT staff had requested that YMPO clarify the information provided, specifically: item 2 showed that the type of brought forward funds being increased from \$143,718 to \$406,032 were actually FY 2015-18 Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds; item 3 brought forward funds were \$80,457 in FY 2015-18 State Planning and Research (SPR) funds and \$30,376 in FY 2021 SPR funds. Neither of the amounts involved had changed, just that the fund types had been clarified. In addition, Ms. Figueroa reported that, under item 11, the T-100 budget item, now individually calls out three items that exceed current \$5,000 limit: A computer server purchase of \$6,340.55 during the cyber intrusion, purchase through the County contract; \$13,927.27 for new chairs under the State

contract; and \$5,383.74 for new tables, also under the State contract. She stated that ADOT had requested a clearer description of the three items listed.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to approve and confirm the adjusted information included in the staff report memorandum for clarification. Councilmember Knight seconded, there was no further discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Status of the YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Study.

Mr. Gutierrez introduced Mr. Chris Joannes, AICP, the Project Manager for the consultant team on the study, from Kimley-Horn and Associates. He has previously worked with YMPO staff on the Traffic Count Network Study and spent time training YMPO staff in GIS techniques. Mr. Joannes spent twenty minutes updating members on the status of the Rail/Heavy Freight Study, starting with Stakeholder engagement regarding the opportunities and constraints for implementing a possible north-south connector rail line from the Mexican border and the Union Pacific Sunset line. Another part of the Study is to assess the likely economic impact of such a proposed mode of transportation.

Conducted between December 2021 and April 2022, this part of the Study provide attitudes and major comments, initially provided by YMPO member agencies who comprised the first group of stakeholders. The input included economic development agencies in the US and in Mexico, a variety of ADOT divisions, APS planners, a team from the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), and contacts with rail carriers in the US and in Mexico. Mr. Joannes provided a table of the agencies contacted and the individuals spoken with and summarized the input from each agency. Input from various other agencies were included and Mr. Joannes committed to providing a further update in due course. He suggested that the next step is to identify primary access alternative corridors.

Supervisor Pancrazi asked if the team had any contact with agriculture stakeholders and if not, to talk to them before moving forward. She also suggested contacting a Mr. Ruby, MCAS Head of Security, as well. Finally, she enquired how difficult it would be to change the zoning on State Route 195 to accommodate rail. Mr. Gutierrez agreed to provide the appropriate agriculture stakeholder contacts to Mr. Joannes for further outreach by Kimley-Horn. Mr. Joannes reported that the rail carriers contacted (on both sides of the border) were non-committal at this stage.

Mr. Joannes finished with their contacts with the City of San Luis, Rio Colorado; the State of Sonora; and the Federal Secretary of Communications and Transportation. He reported that support for this idea from the first two levels of government was primarily coming from the economic development staffs, but that the Federal support was relatively lukewarm.

This item is on the agenda for information, review and discussion only, and the Chairman thanked Mr. Joannes for his presentation.

7. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Applications for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2025 and 2026

Mr. Gutierrez reminded members that, as part of the recently completed Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), YMPO had included a requirement to update the region's safety projects. This requirement has been delayed due to ADOT's enforced delay for the submittal of applications for regional HSIP projects due to the promulgation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. YMPO has, accordingly, extended the deadline with the company concerned, Greenlight Traffic Engineering (GTE), and collaboratively all are working towards a new deadline for submitting applications for HSIP projects.

Mr. Gutierrez presented a list of the possible projects that, in GTE's opinion, have demonstrated an appropriately high benefit-cost value and would, therefore, likely compete well for the HSIP funds available. He also presented some aerial photographs showing project locations and gave a brief description about each project. He then stated that the appropriate safety staffs at member agencies are considering whether they are willing to allow YMPO to proceed with submitting applications for possible funding.

This item is on the agenda for information, review and discussion only, and the Chairman thanked Mr. Gutierrez for his presentation.

At this point, Councilmember Rosales had to leave the meeting and the Chairman reported that he would need to leave soon. As a result, the Chairman agreed to take item 9 (TIP Amendment #2) next, as it would require a quorum to approve.

9. FY 2022-26 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2

Mr. Gutierrez reported that there have been some changes to projects in the FY 2022-2026 TIP that raise to the level of a TIP Amendment and outlined the project changes concerned. One addition was the Hotel Del Sol RAISE Grant project, there were some changes to project numbers and some changes to the HSIP projects already programmed for FYs 2023 through 2025.

The current TIP was originally approved by the YMPO Executive Board on July 29, 2021, and Amendment #1 to the TIP was approved in August 2021. Both the TIP and Amendment #1 have been approved by the Governor's designee and have been incorporated into the State TIP (STIP). Since August 2021, member agencies have submitted requests to change projects included in the TIP. Mr. Gutierrez referred to a table in the information summary and called out the changes.

Mr. Knight moved approval of Amendment #2 to the YMPO FY 2022-26 TIP. Councilmember Karen Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously

approved.

At this point, Chairman Porchas left the meeting and handed over the Vice-Chairman Knight for the remainder of the meeting.

8. YMPO STBG Federally Funded Program

Mr. Ward, YMPO Principal Engineer, introduced this item by informing members that YMPO staff are looking for some guidance on the issues arising out of the YMPO Federally Funded Program. He reminded members that the YMPO region generally receives just over \$1 million each year in Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for programming and that, currently, these funds have been slightly over-programmed on projects throughout the region. These funds are included in the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), together with all the other Federally funded projects, including ADOT and Transit.

Mr. Ward reported that, one such project, involving the widening of 16th Street in the City of Yuma, between Maple and 3rd Avenue, is currently targeted to receive almost \$3 million from various years. He continued that the problem comes when such a project has to be delayed; and/or cannot be completed in the timeframe originally envisioned in the TIP; and/or has to be cancelled. In this case, the City has requested, through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), to utilize the funds on another project (or other projects).

Mr. Ward reported that, in his experience of programming federal funds for such projects, the guidelines used always require that the funds are allocated to a project - and *not* to an agency. Therefore, if the project is delayed, or fails to be delivered based on when the funds are programmed, the agency loses the funds concerned and they are returned to the MPO for re-programming. This does not preclude the sponsor agency from submitting another project for possible consideration, but all the other agencies in the region may also submit projects for consideration for the funds released.

Mr. Ward suggested that it may be appropriate to develop a written set of guidelines for programming federal funds, possibly similar to other guidelines already available within the State and requested guidance from the Board. Mr. Gutierrez agreed that the process used here in the region has included the understanding that funds are allocated to a project and, if the projects fails for any reason, the funds are returned to the region's pot. Ms. Figueroa suggested that developing a clear understanding for programming regional federal funds would benefit all participants in the process.

Councilmember Knight expressed his desire that the original sponsor agency should retain the use of the funds concerned, but specifically for the project concerned at some point in the future. Mr. Gutierrez suggested that discussion at the TAC indicated a general desire that, if a new project is submitted for

consideration, the priority held by the sponsor agency goes away and Councilmember Knight agreed that sounds a fair consequence.

Supervisor Pancrazi understood that staff is looking for guidance and made a motion to send this item back to the TAC, to put together a formal policy for developing a YMPO Federally Funded Program of Projects and how they would be prioritized. Deputy-Mayor Leslie McClendon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

10. Update on Federal Transportation Authorization (IIJA, or BIL).

Mr. Ward presented a brief summary on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (BID) or also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). He stated that the seemingly preferred acronym appeared to be the BIL.

It was signed into law on November 15, 2021 and is supposed to provide over \$1.2 billion in funding over ten years, with \$550 billion in new funding in the first five years and another \$650 billion in funding over the second five years. This equates to an almost thirty per cent increase in formula funds over FAST Act levels, which is, effectively, guaranteed funding, although he reminded members that the State controls most of the decision-making with regard to how the funds are programmed. There is also a huge increase in competitive Grant programs with at least 15 new Grant mechanisms that will be introduced. Even though the majority of the discretion remains with the States, he reported there MIGHT be a sub-allocation pot of funds for MPOs. However, he stated that it was apparent that the region would need to develop a Federally funded program for the Yuma region.

Compared with the FAST Act (FY 2016-202), which brought an average \$775 million per year to Arizona, the BIL brought \$800 million in FY 2021, this year the amount was \$969 million and the average for the next five years of the BIL is over \$1 billion. Other fund amounts for Arizona comprise an average of \$520 million of the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP - Interstates, Freeways and Major State Routes on the National Highway System); \$253 million on in STBG funds; \$56 million in HSIP funds; \$57 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds; and other programs averaging \$84 million.

The PL funds coming to YMPO will increase by about 30%, the SPR funds may also increase by the same amount; the Transportation Alternatives program may return, STBG funds sub-allocated to MPOs are not projected to increase even though the STBG funds to the State are projected to increase by at least 30%. Further, there will be new programs to encourage Carbon Reduction (CRP) and there will be a PROTECT formula driven program forthcoming.

In summary, Mr. Ward suggested that the region would need concentrate on applying for a variety of transportation grants and, as all types of federal funds are

increasing, the amount of local funds needed to match these funds would also increase. As a result, the need for a regional sales tax would become even more important especially as a similar percentage is increasing Federal Transit funds.

Mr. Ward continued that the need to keep alert to ensure that the Yuma region keeps our "fair share" was always important and to look at possible additional "redistributed obligation authority" opportunities by "advance designing and constructing", Federally funded projects, whenever possible. Councilmember Knight reported that the "fair share" would always be a problem in the Yuma region but that the widening of US-95 would help to increase the number of lane miles to our benefit. Ms. Figueroa added that the Transit planning funds that YMPO currently receives was also increasing. Mr. Ward concluded by briefly outlining some of the possible Grants being talked about.

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

- A. Staff Reports - Future Meetings.
- B. TAC Minutes.
- C. Conference Updates (AZTA, RTS, and Roads and Streets).
- D. MPO/COG Director/Planner Meetings.
- E. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council activities.
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation.

Ms. Figueroa announced that all YMPO staff members had participated in the Arizona Transit Conference and has greatly benefitted from the presentations. Mr. Gutierrez announced that he would be gathering videos and pictures of local and regional projects for the future Roads and Streets conference.

12. 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. Possible funding for future IJJA Grants.
- b. FY 2022-23 UPWP Amendment #3.

Councilmember Knight suggested that a possible future agenda item was the FSX presentation that was presented to the recent Greater Yuma Port Authority meeting.

13. Progress Reports

Members and staff participated in the following projects and other recent events.

- A. Apr 4 - Staff meeting (All)
- B. Apr 4 - Urban SDK proposal review (CF, PW, CG)
- C. Apr 4 - YMPO/ADOT Continued MPDG Discussion (CF, PW, CG)
- D. Apr 4 - Wilson & Co/ YMPO US DOT Grant Discussion (CF, PW, CG)
- E. Apr 4 - Greenlight TE HSIP discussion (CG)

- F. Apr 5 - Discussion with YC HR Director (CF)
- G. Apr 5 - Rail Study Management telemeeting (PW, CG)
- H. Apr 6 - RAISE Grant status telemeeting (CF, PW, CG)
- I. Apr 6 - YMPO US95 RAISE Grant Progress Review Meeting (CG)
- J. Apr 7 - Avenue E/D Industrial Corridor Project (CF, PW, CG)
- K. Apr 11-14 - AZTA Conference (Conquistador) (All Staff)
- L. Apr 12 - Statewide MM meeting at AzTA (CG, JR)
- M. Apr 13 - YMPO US95 RAISE Grant progress review meeting (PW, CG)
- N. Apr 13 - COGs/MPOs Director's meeting (at AzTA - CF, PW, CG)
- O. Apr 14 - YMPO TAC meeting (CF, CG, BD)
- P. Apr 15 - AZSTB meeting, Nogales (CF, PW)
- Q. Apr 18 - ADOT YMPO Coordination meeting (CF, PW, CG)
- R. Apr 18 - RTAC Advisory Committee telemeeting (CF, PW)
- S. Apr 20 - Transportation sales Tax meeting (PW)
- T. Apr 20 - Lunch Meeting with Lucy Rodrigues (Rep for Sen Kelly) (CF)
- U. Apr 21 - ADOT Corridor Profile Studies Update TAC meeting (CG)
- V. Apr 27 - Yuma County Econ Development Meeting (CF)
- W. Apr 27 - Admin Professionals Day (All)
- X. Apr 28 - EB meeting (All)

As presented no further discussion.

14. YMPO Staff Salary Review

During the last Board meeting, a request was made for the Director to provide a brief update on the current salaries for YMPO staff. The Board may decide to hear this report in Executive Session. Due to some Board members not being present, Supervisor Pancrazi moved to table this discussion until the next meeting when more Board members may be in attendance to discuss. Deputy Mayor McClendon seconded, and the motion was carried.

Items 15. Executive Session, 16. Reconvene to Public Meeting and 17. YMPO Staff Salary Review were not discussed as item 14. was postponed to a future date.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13p.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 Charles Gutierrez at 928-783-8911.

Anticipated Future 2022 Meeting Locations.

All future meetings will continue to be held 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. The next two meetings will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, and May 26, 2022, in the YMPO offices starting at 1:30 p.m.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



Paul D. Ward, P.E., Principal Engineer

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
May 26, 2022



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Supervisor Martin Porchas,
Chairman, YMPO Executive Board