

EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**Executive Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 26, 2021
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.

The Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Chairman, Councilmember Matias Rosales, called the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked the Board to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance.

The YMPO Executive Assistant/Accountant II, Crystal Figueroa, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chairman	Matias Rosales, Councilmember, City of San Luis ^
Secretary/Treasurer	Gary Knight, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton ~
Member	Bruce Fenske for Paul Patane, ADOT Southwest District Engineer ^
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

Board of Supervisors Pancrazi arrived at 1:35 p.m.

Councilmember Watts arrived at 1:47 p.m.

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	Kermit Palmer, Councilmember, Cocopah Indian Tribe *
Member	Leslie McClendon, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma #
Vice-Chair	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County #

Not present but was represented by proxy by another member.

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

YMPO Staff Present:

Paul Ward	Executive Director
Charles Gutierrez	Senior Planning/Mobility Manager
Crystal Figueroa	Executive Assistant/Accountant II

Additional Attendees:

Kevin Adams	RTAC Liaison ~
Mark Hoffman	ADOT Senior Planner ~
Vamshi Yellisetty	Kittleson & Associates ~
Phyllis Davis	Kittleson & Associates ~
Jim Chang	Arizona State Demographer ~

Declaration of Votes: Councilmember Knight declared that he would exercise the proxy vote for Deputy Mayor McClendon. Supervisor Pancrazi declared she would exercise the proxy vote for Supervisor Martin Porchas.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

Mr. Gutierrez, read the YMPO Title VI obligations. No members of the public addressed the Board.

4. Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of the July 29, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure for July 2021.

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

5. Initial Results from the 2020 US Census

Mr. Ward introduced Jim Chang, State Demographer, from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (AZOEO). Mr. Chang shared information on the 2020 U.S Census, resources and reviewed local-level results. He clarified that the AZOEO is a statistical agency, responsible for making population estimates and projections. He noted that another responsibility under their agency is collecting labor statistics, employment, and unemployment statistics. He emphasized that they are separate from the U.S Census Bureau and were not directly involved with the recent Census count. Mr. Chang reported that on August 12th, 2021, the U.S Census Bureau released the 2020 Census redistricting data files in legacy format; however, they didn't seem to be user-friendly. Mr. Chang mentioned that the AZOEO office processed the Arizona datasets and produced the tables in an easy-to-read, spreadsheet format. He reported that most tables contain comparisons with the 2010 Census data and provided links for reference.

Mr. Chang showed population by county in Arizona, the change comparison from 2010 to 2020, and noted that Yuma County had a increase of 4.2%. He pointed out that the population estimates collected by his agency were higher than those for the Census Bureau but reminded members that they don't use the estimates to measure how well the Census Bureau did. He said the Census numbers are used to evaluate their estimates and learn from them. Mr. Chang compared the Yuma County population in 2010 to 195,751, and in 2020 to 203,881. He pointed out a correction count of 2,928 in the State Prison population in San Luis, Arizona, had originally benefitted Yuma. He reported on the different jurisdiction percent difference from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census, a noticeable decreased population change for the Town of Wellton with a -17.6% and a -- 0.6% decrease change for the City of Somerton.

Supervisor Pancrazi commented that some of the region's cities intended to contest the 2020 Census Bureau numbers and asked Mr. Chang what would happen if they won. Mr. Chang mentioned that if they win and the court orders a change in numbers, the numbers should be changed by the Census Bureau, and the AZOEO would do the same. However, he mentioned that he is not aware of any such recounting effort done in the past.

6. Requested Changes to, Approval of the YMPO Title VI Plan.

Charles Gutierrez, Senior Planning/Mobility Manager, presented to the Executive Board on the YMPO Title VI Plan of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and included respective training, including area demographics changes, the Public Participation Plan, and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP).

MOTION: Councilmember Knight moved to approve requested changes to the YMPO Title VI Plan. Supervisor Pancrazi seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Regional List of Projects.

Mr. Ward presented a project list including 74 projects totaling \$345 million in cost. He stated that the intention is to send the list to Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC). They will compile a list of projects from all the rural MPOs/COGs and include them as part of the legislation as possible earmarks. The rural MPOs/COGs set forth the effort to help pull up a request for a share of \$50 million out from the state legislation. Out of that portion, the YMPO region would get approximately \$6.5 million. Mr. Ward reviewed the combined mileage segments for US-95 and funding; he suggested that instead of having one project on the ADOT list of \$100 million, perhaps splitting that up into four segments as a priority would be preferable.

Councilmember Knight agreed and stated it would give a better chance of getting funds if the requested share, to begin with, is at \$50 million and the ADOT US 95, Wellton-Mohawk Canal Bridge to Aberdeen Road widening project is more than \$100 million, double the amount of the requested share for the whole State. Mr. Ward suggested that, perhaps, the list of projects should be narrowed down to focus on ten projects, considering

the one ADOT project split into four segments and the highest priority project from each member agency. Supervisor Pancrazi and Councilmember Knight agreed to the approach.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to approve the ADOT US-95 project split in four phases and the priority project from each member agency. Councilmember Knight seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Report on the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for US-95.

Mr. Gutierrez showed the Board the ground-breaking ceremony coverage by KYMA news reporter Arlette Yousif for the widening project on US-95, between Avenue 9E and Rifle Range Road. He mentioned it was the first time a ground-breaking ceremony took place in the Yuma region and emphasized the cooperative efforts taken by YMPO staff, ADOT, and speakers. Mr. Gutierrez stated that the event was highly successful, with over 25 guests in attendance, and commemorative coffee mugs were given to guests to take home.

9. FY 2022-2024 YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1

Ms. Figueroa informed the Board that they approved the FY 2022-2024 UPWP on April 29, 2021. She stated that she has begun to compile a list of changes to report as part of Amendment #1 to the UPWP in the next few months. Ms. Figueroa said that, although the future federal funds available to YMPO have not yet been confirmed, the most recent year has been fully closed out, and the statuses of the transportation studies are better understood. Mr. Ward mentioned including the RAISE grant application expense from local funds would be included in Amendment #1. He said he was able to negotiate down the cost from the approved \$40K to \$30K, less than the Board had originally approved. Mr. Ward asked the Board that if they had any specific changes to please let him and/or Crystal know.

10. YMPO Personnel Discussion

Mr. Ward presented the process and timeline for hiring the new Executive Director. He mentioned confirmation, review, and posting of job description would be completed in September. The first review could potentially happen October 28, 2020 (approximately 5 weeks), and potential TAC/Board interviews mid to early November/December. He asked if the Board wanted to organize an Advisory Committee to form an interview panel; he added that this was a combination of the TAC and Board members, when he was hired. Mr. Ward mentioned he was currently reviewing the job description and revising it.

The Chair emphasized getting the position advertised as soon as possible, considering the upcoming months' vacation Mr. Ward will be taking in December. Mr. Ward discussed and suggested a salary range and mentioned he would move forward with the appropriate steps.

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, League, RTS, and Roads and Streets).
- D. MPO/COG Director's/Planner's Meetings.
- E. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council activities. Kevin Adams gave a federal/state legislative update.
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation.

12. Possible Future Agenda Items.

The following items will be heard at a future meeting. Members were encouraged to suggest topics for discussion at a future Board meeting:

- A. Amendment #1 to the UPWP.

13. Progress Reports.

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

- A. Aug 2 - Staff meeting (All).
- B. Aug 4 - Verkada camera free trial session (CG).
- C. Aug 6 - Transit Financial Sustainability meeting (PW).
- D. Aug 9 - ADOT/YMPO Coordination telemeeting (PW, CG).
- E. Aug 10 - Possible STBG Loan Request (PW, CG, ADOT staff).
- F. Aug 12 - TAC telemeeting (PW, CG, MR).
- G. Aug 12 - YRBC telemeeting (PW).
- H. Aug 12 - Statewide Mobility Managers telemeeting (CG, MR).
- I. Aug 13 - COG/MPO Planner's meeting (CG).
- J. Aug 16 - Emergency Relief reimbursement training (CG, CF).
- K. Aug 16 - RTAC Advisory Committee telemeeting (PW).
- L. Aug 16 - Arizona STEP Committee telemeeting (CG).
- M. Aug 17 - San Luis Proposal for Circulation and O/D Study (PW, CG).
- N. Aug 17 - STSP Safety Emphasis Area telemeeting (PW).
- O. Aug 18 - Visit to YMPO by Arizona Senator Sine Kerr (All).
- P. Aug 20 - AZSTB telemeeting (PW).
- Q. Aug 23 - RTAC Board telemeeting (PW).
- R. Aug 23 - YCIPTA Board telemeeting (PW).
- S. Aug 25 - Yuma regional Economic Development meeting (PW).
- T. Aug 26 - EB telemeeting (PW, CG, CF).
- U. Aug 31 to Sep 3 - League of AZ Cities and Towns (PW).

14. Adjournment.

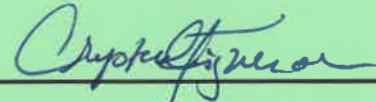
There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Anticipated Future 2021 Meeting Locations

All future meetings will continue to be held at the new YMPO office at 230 West Morrison Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364. However, although they **MAY** participate in person, members may also participate electronically, by computer and/or telephone (or both), using the GoToMeeting portal. The next two meetings will occur on Thursday, September 30, and October 28, 2021.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Assistant
and Accountant II, YMPO

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
September 30, 2021



Paul D. Ward, P.E., Executive Director
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Council member Matias Rosales, Chairman
YMPO Executive Board