



**EXECUTIVE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**Executive Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 30, 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

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

2. Roll Call Attendance and Declaration of Votes

Blenda Dale, YMPO Accountant II/Executive Assistant, 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 District Administrator, ADOT ^
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Member	Karen Watts, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^

^ Attended in person.

~ Participated by teleconference.

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 *
Member	Leslie McClendon, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma +

+ Not present but represented by proxy by another member.

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

YMPO Staff Present:

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

Declaration of Votes: Councilmember Knight declared that he would exercise the proxy vote for Deputy Mayor McClendon for a total of three votes and Councilmember Watts would have two votes.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

Jesus Aguilar Jr., YMPO Mobility Manager, read a message reminding members of the YMPO Title VI obligations. No members of the public addressed the Board.

Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi joined the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of the May 26, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. Approval of the June 15, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes.
- C. YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for May 2022.

A copy of the draft minutes of the Regular Board meeting from May 26, 2022, and the Special Board meeting from June 30, 2022, accompanied the agenda. The May 2022 financial report was also provided for review.

MOTION: Councilmember Gary Knight moved to approve the May 26, 2022, regular meeting minutes, the June 15, 2022, special meeting minutes and to accept the YMPO Income/Expenditure Report for May 2022, as presented. Councilmember Matias Rosales seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Study - Status Report

Mr. Gutierrez updated the Board on the YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Study. The second round of stakeholder meetings have started, both in the US and Mexico. Follow-up meetings will occur at MCAS. Several alternative routes have been identified. There are two upcoming in-person public meetings scheduled for July 13 and 14, 2022, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Information is being disseminated through all media outlets and a flyer was created for these meetings, which was presented to the Board as information. He also indicated that he was attempting to get interviews on the radio and TV stations.

Mr. Gutierrez asked if Board members would be available to attend these meetings to show their support? Mr. Rosales and Mr. Knight advised they were unable to assist as they had prior commitments. No action was scheduled for this item.

6. Amendment #3 to the FY 2022-23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The YMPO Executive Director, Crystal Figueroa, introduced this item by reporting that this item was originally being considered as an action item, but was currently being presented for discussion, questions and/or comments only at this stage. She reminded members that action was taken at the regular meeting on May 26, 2022, to adjust the UPWP Amendment approved in a prior meeting and that the special meeting on June 15, 2022, allocated local funds to pursue a Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program Grant.

Ms. Figueroa explained that, in addition to this Grant, there may be several more grant opportunities becoming available during the next few months as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL, aka the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA). Based on the recent Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for Grants already released, generally the timelines for applying for these Grants do not allow sufficient time for requesting funds for each Grant process, individually.

As a result, the suggestion is to establish a single Grant Application for Transportation Equity (GATE) line item in the UPWP, with a total amount of \$60,000 in local funds, that gives the authority to the Executive Director to allocate up to \$15,000 for individual consultant contracts to pursue grants, as they become available. Ms. Figueroa stated this item was for information only, at this stage, as further work was needed on the UPWP to give more accurate numbers, but that further information on this request is listed in the staff report memorandum included with the supporting documents provided as part of the agenda packet. Mr. Ward reported that, earlier that morning, another Grant NOFO had been released, that may be of interest to the region and is just the sort of opportunity that this GATE line item could, potentially, be used for.

Mr. Knight said he was willing to approve the \$60,000, and Chairman Porchas agreed that it would be appropriate to include the \$60,000 line item with Amendment #3, when it was submitted for action.

7. Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program Grant Opportunity.

Mr. Ward introduced this item and as stated in the previous agenda item, confirmed that the Board had approved the funds during the Special meeting on June, and reported on the status of the DCIP Program submittal. The DCIP program is a Department of Defense effort administered by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), to enable State and Local projects to address deficiencies in community infrastructure in support of Local military installations.

YMPO had been alerted to this program through the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC) and by a direct communication to Ms. Figueroa by US Senator staff members.

Mr. Ward reported that, during the effort to seek Board approval of the funds to pursue the grant, staff had discussed the opportunity with ADOT staff at the Southwest District, the Multimodal Planning Division, and the Executive Grants Team. In addition, Mr. Gutierrez, and other YMPO staff, presented to a large group of senior staff from the Yuma Proving Grounds, led by the Base Commander, Colonel Ben P. McFall. This meeting had resulted in receiving whole-hearted support from all concerned, a pre-requisite for a successful application.

Mr. Ward indicated that the segment of roadway being considered for the grant is US-95, between Rifle Range Road and the Wellton-Mohawk Canal at a total cost of approximately \$28 million, with a possible grant amount of \$13 million. He summarized that YMPO staff is holding weekly meetings with the selected consultant from Wilson and Company and the ADOT Grants Team to finalize the application which needed to be submitted by July 18, 2022. Mr. Knight commented that one detail of the Grant required the project to be "shovel-ready." Mr. Ward agreed and indicated that the support from YPG, Mr. Knight and ADOT staff had resulted in a project that completely met all of the stated Grant requirements. The discussion ended after a brief discussion of support letters.

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

Mr. Gutierrez reported that the HSIP is a Federally funded program that offers the opportunity to secure funds for a variety of safety projects on roads throughout the State. YMPO was remarkably successful during the previous process almost three years ago and hopes to be just as successful this time, especially due to the increase in HSIP funds during the recently approved Federal BIL.

Mr. Gutierrez summarized that the consultant from Greenlight Traffic Engineering, directly working with member agency's engineering staffs, had identified several applications totaling \$17.8M, with benefit-cost ratios between 6.3 to 18.3. He presented a list of the projects which had been included in the information summary. The City of Yuma had four HAWK crossings; five projects from Yuma County (one of which was a joint project with the Cocopah Tribe); and one each from the Cities of San Luis and Somerton. He confirmed that all of the YMPO projects had been successfully submitted for consideration.

He reported that the deadlines originally set by the Traffic Safety Section at ADOT had been stretching, due mainly to the Federal BIL being delayed. The original July 29, 2022, deadline for submittals had now been revised until August 31, 2022, although he was not expecting any further applications from YMPO, and no award date had yet been proposed.

9. The Arizona Rural Transportation Summit (AZRTS) and American Consulting Engineers Corporation (ACEC) Roads and Streets Annual Conferences.

Blenda Dale, YMPO Accountant/Executive Assistant, reported that the above conferences had been scheduled as shown in the information summary. The annual conference for the AZRTS is currently scheduled for September 14 and 15, 2022, at the Ak-Chin Casino and Resort, just south of the City of Maricopa. Customarily, the RTS is primarily focused on policy matters and is generally attended by elected members from the State legislature and by representatives from regional governments like Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Councils of Governments. As a result, members of the Executive Board are invited to attend this conference and YMPO normally pays for registration, lodging and travel to the conference. Board members will be requested to inform YMPO staff whether they are able to attend this year's conference, by the end of July 2022.

At the date of the Board meeting, an agenda had not yet been released. However, it was understood that Wednesday, September 14, 2022, is a travel morning, with briefings by Federal and State agencies in the afternoon and a welcome reception for all participants in the early afternoon. [A draft agenda has since been published on the azrts.org website].

YMPO intends to host a dinner for all YMPO region State legislative and member agency representatives and YMPO staff at the Ak-Chin Casino location starting at about 8:00 p.m.

In contrast to the RTS, the ACEC Roads and Streets Conference will be held at the El Conquistador Resort and Spa in Oro Valley, between September 28 and 30, 2022. YMPO Technical Advisory Committee members are usually invited to attend this conference and YMPO staff will work with TAC representatives directly regarding this conference. A tentative agenda is published on the acec.org website at acecaz.org/roads-and-streets. Ms. Dale suggested that further information on both conferences will be sent to the respective members as it becomes available.

Chairman Porchas had to leave the meeting and handed over the gavel to Vice-Chairman Knight at 2:13 p.m.

10. 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 an 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.

Mr. Rosales wished to thank everyone for their support of the \$33M award from the State Legislature for the City of San Luis' Cesar Chavez Boulevard project.

11. 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 IIJA Grants.
- B. DCIP Update.
- C. HSIP Application Update.

Mr. Gutierrez suggested the addition of a Title VI update to the agenda.

12. Progress Reports

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

- a. May 27 - Wilson & Co. Meeting (CF, CG).
- b. May 27 - GYEDC Meeting (CF, CG).
- c. May 31 - 5310 Regional Mobility Committee (CG, JR).
- d. June 1 - Title VI Mandatory Training (CG, JR).
- e. June 1 - YMPO Rail Study Stakeholder Meeting (CG, PW).
- f. June 2 - Annual FHWA Title VI Training Webinar (CG).
- g. June 2 - RTAC Board Special Meeting, Executive Session (CG, PW).
- h. June 2 - Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (CG, JR, PW).
- i. June 6 - Achieve 5310 - Quarterly Reports (JR).
- j. June 7 - YMPO Rail Management Call (BD, CG).
- k. June 8 - Local Public Agency Training Series (CG, PW).
- l. June 8 - COG/MPO Directors Meeting (PW).
- m. June 8 - YMPO Rail Study Stakeholder (CG, PW).
- n. June 8 - YMPO Rail Freight Study Conceptual Alternatives (CG, PW).
- o. June 8 - Avenue E/D Industrial Corridor Project (CG, PW).
- p. June 9 - TAC Meeting (BD, JR, PW).
- q. June 9 - YMPO Heavy Rail Corridor Study (PW).
- r. June 9 - Mobility Managers Meeting (JR).
- s. June 9 - YRBC Meeting (JR, PW).
- t. June 9 - New Hire Workplace Harassment Training (NC).
- u. June 14 - Staff Meeting (All).
- v. June 14 - Meeting with Yuma County Re: New Hire Trainings (CF, BD).
- w. June 14 - San Luis Streetscape Design Concepts (PW).
- x. June 16 - Arizona STSP-Intersections EA Meeting (CG).
- y. June 20 - RTAC Advisory Committee Meeting (CF, PW).
- z. June 21 - Yuma PM10 SIP Update Call (CG).
- aa. June 23 - Defensive Driving Training (NC).
- bb. June 29 - Yuma County's Regional Economic Development Meeting (CF).
- cc. June 30 - YMPO Executive Board Meeting (All).

13. Adjournment

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, August 25, 2022, in the YMPO offices, and on September 29, 2022, which may be a teleconference meeting only, as YMPO staff will be attending the Roads and Streets Conference, in Oro Valley, both 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
July 28, 2022



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director,
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Supervisor Martin Porchas,
Chairman, YMPO Executive Board