

EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**Executive Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 29, 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 W. Morrison St, 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 Senior Planning/Mobility Manager, Charles Gutierrez, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chairman	Matias Rosales, Councilmember, City of San Luis ^
Vice-Chair	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County ^
Secretary/Treasurer	Gary Knight, Councilmember, City of Yuma ^
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton ~
Member	Paul Patane, ADOT Southwest District Engineer ^
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.

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 *.

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

Additional Attendees:

Kevin Adams RTAC Liaison ~
Mark Hoffman ADOT Senior Planner ~
Susan Thorpe Yuma County Administrator~
Jenny Torrez City of San Luis Economic Development Manager~
Dan Marum Wilson & Company ~
Douglas Eberhart Wilson & Company~
Steve Wilks IBI Group~
Rick Williams Michael Baker International~
Vamshi Yellisetty Kittleson & Associates~

Declaration of Votes: Councilmember Knight declared that he would exercise the proxy vote for Deputy Mayor McClendon.

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. During the Title VI Declaration by Mr. Gutierrez, at 1:41 p.m., Deputy Mayor McClendon logged into the meeting by teleconference, so the declaration of votes for the City of Yuma reverted to the default.

4. Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of the June 24, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure for June 2021.

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

5. FY 2022-2045 YMPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) - Possible Approval and Resolution Adoption.

Mr. Ward introduced this item by reporting that the FY 2022-2045 YMPO LRTP is very close to being finished and is being presented to the Executive Board for possible approval. He introduced Mr. Vamshi Yellisetty, the leader of the consultant team from Kittelson and Associates, who was present, in person, at the meeting and requested the Chairman's consent to hand over the agenda item to him for a presentation.

Mr. Yellisetty thanked the Board and YMPO staff for the opportunity to serve the region by updating the LRTP. He reminded members that MPOs were required to carry out an update at least every four years, in an air quality nonattainment area, and explained what steps the LRTP update needed to take. The main criteria was to ensure that the update

addressed the region's transportation needs for the next twenty-year period, is fiscally constrained, and identifies the likely projects that will occur during that time frame. A key aspect is public input which was obtained as part of the Public Participation Program, as also covered under Title VI requirements. He reminded members that they had already received many updates during the past few as the LRTP progressed, either from him and/or from Mr. Ward.

Although the LRTP had a mainly regional focus, the effort included a lot of participation by member agencies and included important multi-modal components, for bicycles, pedestrian, transit, and freight as well as the usual vehicle-related improvements. Mr. Yellisetty reported that the regional plan was required to be initially coordinated with the Arizona Statewide plan, so he listed the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) goals of safety, maintaining infrastructure, reducing congestion, ensuring freight movement and economic vitality and environmental sustainability. He reminded members that YMPO had already adopted the State's performance measures, then continued to outline additional regional priority goals.

Mr. Yellisetty reported some current issues that are of concern, such as maintenance problems, safety issues, some circulation and congestion needs and gaps in multimodal networks. He gave a brief overview of growth and suggested that this growth shows parallel increases in growth and employment. He mentioned that the Land Port of Entries in the City of San Luis continued to be a big influence on this growth.

In general, the region's transportation is single occupancy vehicle (SOV) - centric, with over 80 percent of trips made by people driving alone. This is slightly lower than other regions, but illustrates the importance of roadway maintenance. He outlined a suggested network of regionally significant routes that would be expected to shoulder the majority of travel and travel increases over the next few years. He provided a summary of other subjects, like pavement condition, and the detailed some observed safety, congestion and roadway drainage issues.

Looking at the future, Mr. Yellisetty indicated likely future congested areas and then gave more details of safety issues. He indicated that the region had been successful in receiving funds to help address some of the safety issues being experienced. Mr. Ward reminded members that the Kittelson team would be spending a little more time, over the next month or two concentrating on Federal safety funds applications.

Mr. Yellisetty showed some predictions of future population growth and indicated where he expected the growth in traffic congestion to be located. He indicated reasonable congestion on Interstate 8 and US-95 and the summarized public's concerns regarding transportation needs and priorities. These included concerns on maintenance, safety, reliability and efficiency, economic development and public transportation needs.

Finally, Mr. Yellisetty made some projections of likely funding and indicated the critical need for regional funding (possibly a regional sales tax), as part of the overall funding streams and suggested a potential funding investment strategy between preservation (45%), modernization (25%) and expanding existing/constructing new facilities (30%).

He then showed a map showing possible capacity and new roadway projects, which generated a lot of member comments. He finished up with a listing of transit needs, based on the recently completed Short-Range Transit Plan and indicated that the next step, following Board approval, would be to send the LRTP Update to ADOT and the Federal authorities for further action.

The Chairman called for questions and Mr. Ward read out a possible motion, as contained in the agenda item, to approve the LRTP Update and to adopt an associated Resolution 152, signifying the same.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight proposed the motion, and Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi seconded. There was a discussion regarding the absence of a representative from the City of Somerton and Supervisor Porchas expressed his concern regarding the possible alignment of the Avenue D to Avenue E project, and whether the elected representatives from the City of Somerton had reviewed and fully supported the proposed alignment of the proposed roadway. Mr. Ward reported his understanding that the project process was currently being handled as a Yuma County project, but that the City of Somerton was being completely included in the process and that, regardless of what action the Board might take, the LRTP was always open to amendment, if needed. The motion was called and was unanimously approved, with one abstention from Supervisor Porchas.

6. FY 2022-2026 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Possible Approval and Resolution Adoption.

Mr. Gutierrez presented the TIP to the Board. He indicated that the Regional, or Metropolitan TIP is a required document and that, upon approval by the Board, it will be sent to the Governor's designee for that person's approval and eventual inclusion of the projects contained into the State TIP (STIP) which is then, in turn, sent to the Federal transportation authorities for their approval. This process validates the project development process, including the funding and future construction.

Mr. Gutierrez skimmed through the document and pointed out the separate tables for each member agency, with their projects listed, including further details of anticipated Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) exchanges, in the year that they are expected to occur. Also included are the several Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects for the City of Yuma, Yuma County and the City of San Luis.

Other tables include a combined TIP table that contains all of the region's projects and a separate table with funding estimates for all of the anticipated operations and

maintenance projects that member agency are expected to carry out, by year, for the next five years.

He then covered the anticipated transit projects submitted for inclusion by the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) and finished the presentation with a description of the funding sources used as part of the TIP development as compared to previous programs and covered the performance measures that had originally been discussed as part of the LRTP.

Mr. Ward addressed a question regarding how certain we were to get this funding by replying that the region was as guaranteed to get this funding as any other type of federal funds available. He stated that, in over 30 years of utilizing federal transportation funds, he had never been disappointed and, although the funds are NOT guaranteed, they were as close as possible to committed funding.

Mr. Gutierrez called out a few minor grammatical and spelling changes that he had updated to the version published on the YMPO website, primarily based on input from TAC members. Similar to the LRTP, at a special meeting on July 22, 2021, the YMPO TAC unanimously recommended approval of the TIP. He also read out the possible wording of a motion for the Board to approve the TIP, to include the minor corrections to be made and including the adoption of Resolution 154, signifying approval of the TIP.

MOTION: Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi proposed the motion, and Councilmember Knight seconded, including the minor corrections called out during the presentation. The motion was unanimously approved, with one abstention from Supervisor Porchas.

7. 2021 Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

The Chairman invited Vamshi Yellisetty to present this item. Mr. Yellisetty showed a map of the two nonattainment areas for Particulate Matter of less than Ten Microns (PM-10) and for Ozone (O3). He reported that, based on an interagency consultation (IAC) meeting, hosted by YMPO, but including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and ADOT, the consultant team decided to run the Air Quality Conformity Analysis (AQCA) using the newest version of the modelling software available, called MOVES 3.0.1. Currently, the budget in use for PM-10 dates back to 2006, whereas there is no budget for O3, so the region uses a 2017 not-to exceed budget for conformity purposes. 2017 is when the region officially had to start running an AQCA for O3.

Mr. Yellisetty displayed a table for PM-10 which confirmed that the region would beat the maintenance plan budget for the 2022, 2025, 2035 and 2045, even if construction occurred as shown in the TIP LRTP. He then displayed a table showing the conformity results for Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), which are both components of O3. This table shows that the LRTP and TIP also conforms to the standard

for O3. In summary, Mr. Ward stated that this item is on the agenda for possible action to approve the 2022 AQCA and Adopt the associated Resolution 153 and the Chairman called for a motion.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight proposed the motion, and Councilmember Watts seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, with one abstention from Supervisor Porchas.

8. Regional List of Projects.

Mr. Ward reported that the Regional Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) had requested their members (including YMPO) to identify lists of projects that could be submitted for funding, originally with State funds, because, for the past few years, the State has allocated large amounts of State General funds for transportation projects selected by their members (aka 'earmarks'). Mr. Ward suggested that, based on recent activities with regard to Federal transportation reauthorization and stimulus legislation, it is also possible that the State programming process may need to draw on regional requests to select projects for Federal funding.

Mr. Ward suggested that the regions want to encourage ADOT to allocate substantially more programming authority to the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and councils of governments (COGs). Currently, ADOT allocate just under \$10 million annually to MPOs (none to COGs), but the RTAC is requesting for that to be increased to \$50 million. In this case YMPO would receive between \$6 million and \$7 million. One important criteria is to also allow earmarks, should legislators wish to go this route.

As a result, the region, through the TAC, has developed a large list of projects that could possibly receive funding, either from State or Federal funds, whether by earmarks or not.

This list was presented to the Board for their review, with the request to possibly give the TAC further guidance with regard to how to develop and prioritize the projects listed. Mr. Ward suggested that, currently, member agencies should prioritize their top three or five projects, but the Board declined to add any further guidance.

By meeting time, the projects listed totaled 74 projects and approximately \$345 million in cost and came from the City of Yuma, Yuma County, the Cities of San Luis and Somerton, the Town of Wellton, the Cocopah Indian Tribe and ADOT. Mr. Ward stated that no action was being requested at this stage and the Chairman moved on to the next item.

9. Appointment of RTAC Representative(s) for YMPO.

Mr. Ward introduced this item by stating that the late Councilmember Kermit Palmer, the YMPO Executive Board representative for the Cocopah Indian Tribe had passed away, and the Tribe had not yet appointed anyone to replace him, at this stage. He reported that the late Councilmember Palmer had been the alternate member for the Yuma region on

the RTAC Board. Currently, the RTAC Board member for YMPO is Mayor Cecilia McCollough. Such vacant positions are generally filled during the change of office-holders and this usually occurs during the January/February timeframe. Due to the importance of the RTAC List of Projects, as discussed during the previous agenda item, Mr. Ward suggested that members might wish to appoint another person to fill the vacant alternate position and/or to adjust the RTAC membership for YMPO prior to the beginning of the year.

He reported that Councilmember Knight already attended all of the RTAC meetings as a representative of the State Transportation Board (AZSTB) and Councilmember Knight stated that, if appointed, he would continue to attend RTAC meetings at no expense to YMPO, as the AZSTB would continue to bear his expenses. There was a brief discussion on this subject.

MOTION: Supervisor Porchas nominated Councilmember Knight to fill the vacant RTAC Alternate Representative position and Supervisor Pancrazi seconded. The appointment was unanimously approved.

10. Ground-Breaking Event on US-95

Mr. Gutierrez introduced this item and outlined the sequence of events proposed for proposed ground-breaking event scheduled to celebrate for Thursday, August 5, 2021, to celebrate the construction phase of the next segment of US-95 construction, from Avenue 9E to Rifle Range Road. This event is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2021, just over a week away. Currently only six individuals have been nominated to participate in the official ground-breaking, but several other interested parties have been invited to witness the event. All members of the Board are invited to witness the event and further details will be provided during the Board meeting that is the subject of this agenda, on July 29, 2021.

The Chairman agreed that bringing out the positives of such a project was important to counteract any negatives that might be out there. Mr. Ward suggested that the flyers that ADOT often produce for such projects are a great way to advertise such projects and the flyer for this project was a good example. As no action was being requested at this stage, and as the next item was part of a possible Executive Session, the Chairman moved on to item 15, Summary of Current Events.

15. 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). Mr. Ward informed the Board that the usual RTS will not occur do to CoOVID and, instead, a proposal to hold a strategic planning session in 2021 is anticipated on Wednesday, October

13, through Thursday, October 14, 2021, and the State Transportation Board meeting on Friday, October 15, 2021.

- D. MPO/COG Director/Planner Meetings.
- E. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) activities. The Chairman recognized Kevin Adams, the RTAC Liaison, who was attending by teleconference. Mr. Adams provided more clarity on the reason for the RTAC Listing of Projects.
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation.

16. 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. Group/Individual photograph(s) of current Executive Board members.

17. Progress Reports.

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

- A. Jun 2 - Meeting with new YC Dev. Services Dir., Alejandro Figueroa (PW).
- B. Jun 2 - Participated in City of San Luis Budget Work Session (PW).
- C. Jun 3 - ITE Public Agency Council telemeeting (PW).
- D. Jun 4 - RAISE Grant telemeeting with Wilson & Co (PW, CG).
- E. Jun 4 - Air Quality meeting with Farmers and YC staff (PW).
- F. Jun 7 - Staff meeting (All).
- G. Jun 9 - LPA Training Module 3 (PW, CG).
- H. Jun 9 - TAC agenda pre-meeting (Chairman, PW, CG).
- I. Jun 9 - LRTP Bi-Weekly status meeting (PW, CG).
- J. Jun 10 - TAC telemeeting (PW, CG, MR).
- K. Jun 11 - COG/MPO's Planner's telemeeting (CG).
- L. Jun 10 - Statewide Mobility Management Committee meeting (CG).
- M. Jun 10 - YRBC telemeeting (PW).
- N. Jun 12 - Ordination (RA).
- O. Jun 14 - ADOT/YMPO Coordination telemeeting (PW, CG).
- P. Jun 17 - Regional Transportation Sales Tax meeting (PW).
- Q. Jun 18 - AZSTB telemeeting (PW).
- R. Jun 21 - Arizona STEP Committee telemeeting (CG).
- S. Jun 21 - RTAC Advisory Committee telemeeting (PW).
- T. Jun 22 - EPA Tribal Public Engagement webinar (CG).
- U. Jun 23 - ADOT CRO Title VI Training (CG).
- V. Jun 24 - EB telemeeting (PW, CG, CF).

11. YMPO Personnel Discussion.

As previously notified to members, Mr. Ward reported that he wished to discuss a personnel matter and understands that some members might prefer to discuss the matter in Executive Session. The Chairman asked Mr. Gutierrez to ensure that any unauthorized on-line attendees were excluded for participating in the likely Executive Session. Mr. Gutierrez reported that he had electronically locked out anyone who was not a member of the Executive Board and had stopped the recording. Then he and staff left the room.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to recess into Executive Session. Councilmember Knight seconded and the vote was unanimous.

12. Executive Session.

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. There are no minutes available for this period.

13. Reconvene to Public Meeting

This Chair reconvened back into the YMPO regular meeting.

14. YMPO Personnel Matter - Open Discussion

The Chairman reported that they had provided direction to Mr. Ward on the personnel matter. The Board decided to take no further action at this time and the Chair decided to move on to the next agenda item.

18. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 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, August 26, 2021, and September 30, 2021.

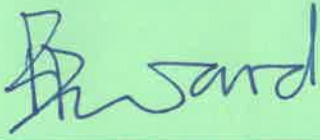
Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Assistant
and Accountant II, YMPO

Minutes reviewed to form by:



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

Minutes approved in regular session on
August 26, 2021



Councilmember Matias Rosales, Chair
YMPO Executive Board