

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

*Local Governments & Citizens Working Together*

**Executive Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, May 27, 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 1:36 p.m. He asked Paul Ward, YMPO Executive Director, to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as a recently sworn U.S. Citizen.

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	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.

Supervisor Pancrazi joined the meeting at 1:52 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 *
Vice-Chair	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County #.
Member	Leslie McClendon, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma #.
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
Crystal Figueroa	Executive Assistant/Accountant II

Additional Attendees:

Kevin Adams	RTAC Liaison &
Gene Dalbey	YRBC &
Mark Hoffman	ADOT Senior Planner &
Buna George	GYPA Executive Director &
Africa Luna-Carrasco	City of San Luis, Vice-Mayor &
Phyllis Davis	Kittelson & Associates &
Maria Cruz	Previously Vice-Mayor, City of San Luis ^

Declaration of Votes:

Councilmember Gary Knight announced that he held a proxy for Deputy Mayor Leslie McClendon. He declared a total of three votes for himself, in addition to Councilmember Watts's allocated two votes, for a total of five votes for the City of Yuma. Supervisor Pancrazi declared an automatic proxy vote on behalf of Supervisor Martin Porchas vote in his absence, for a total of two votes for Yuma County.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

YMPO Senior Planning Manager, Charles Gutierrez, read the YMPO Title VI obligations. No members of the public addressed the Board.

The Chairman made a special presentation and recognized a prior Board member, Vice-Mayor from the City of San Luis Maria Cruz for her eight years of service to YMPO from August 2012 until November 2020. The Chair handed Ms. Cruz an appreciation plaque and a gift and thanked her for her dedication and commitment to the YMPO as a member. He mentioned that due to COVID-19, and the lack of holding meetings in person, YMPO had not been able to honor her previously. Ms. Cruz gladly accepted the plaque and mentioned she was extremely appreciative of the recognition and beautiful plaque. She reflected on her voyage with the YMPO and as a member of the RTAC where she had the opportunity to speak to legislators and convey the region's needs. Ms. Cruz shared a short versed from the bible and thanked everyone.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the April 28, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure for April 2021.

MOTION: Councilmember Gary Knight moved to approve the consent agenda with some requested changes. Councilmember Watts seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.



5. FY 2022-2045 YMPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

YMPO Executive Director, Paul Ward, introduced Phyllis Davis from Kittelson & Associates and specified she had taken a big lead on the public involvement campaign. Ms. Davis gave a presentation on the YMPO LRTP Update and reported the first round of public outreach had been completed. She shared some of the results received from the general public via website, online, and social media engagement. Ms. Davis summarized that there had been very good participation from public responses addressing perceived needs.

6. FY 2022-2026 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Gutierrez gave a general presentation on the new TIP and emphasized it is a Federally mandated requirement for all metropolitan planning organizations. He added that it is also known as a short-range plan where transportation projects for the metropolitan planning are outline and require federal funding within at least a four-year horizon. Mr. Gutierrez stated that the TIP serves as a complementary document to the Long- Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which is planned on a twenty-three-year horizon.

Mr. Gutierrez mentioned that the TIP should include all regionally significant projects receiving Federal Transportation funds and that the State Governor (or designee) approves the TIP. The development of the TIP involves a cooperative effort from member governments, the state, local municipalities, and transit operators. Also, public is given the opportunity to comment on the TIP and any modifications. Mr. Gutierrez stated that the TIP of various MPOs are required to be included in the State TIP (STIP), which is then reviewed and approved by the Federal Transportation authorities. Mr. Gutierrez finalized by mentioning that he will bring the current TIP back to the Board next month.

7. YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Alignment Study (R/HFAS)

Mr. Ward reported that an RFP was developed for the YMPO R/HFAS over a period of more than two years and that this effort is a follow-up to the original Corridor Study that was completed in March 2013. He stated that the current version of the study will identify a multimodal corridor to create an efficient and safe freight transportation network that will provide regional connections between Sonora Mexico, and Yuma County. The goal of the network is to promote and support economic development through the region. He stated that two proposals were submitted by Don Breazeale and Associates and Kimley-Horn and Associates.

The TAC reviewed, ranked the proposals and recommended selecting the Kimley-Horn and Associates submittal as the preferred proposal for \$240,000. Mr. Ward mentioned that there was a protest letter submitted by Mr. Breazeale following the TAC meeting, based on confusion with how the scores were presented and the fact that two agencies did not submit any scores. He reported that he responded to all of Mr. Breazeale's points



in writing and without agreeing to his conclusions, Mr. Breazeale stated that he does not intend to take the protest any further.

Supervisor Pancrazi asked a question regarding the need for the study. Councilmember Knight emphasized the importance of the study for the region, to define a rail line corridor and preserve the area for future transportation planning purposes, and, potentially a rail-line between the east-west Union Pacific mainline to the border with Mexico. This might help the City to avoid development in the proposed corridor.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight moved to approve the award of a contract to the consultant team lead by Kimley Horn and Associates. Supervisor Pancrazi seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. YMPO Mobility Manager, GIS Technician and Traffic Counting Technicians.

The YMPO Accountant, Crystal Figueroa gave a brief presentation on the advertisement of a new position of a Mobility Manager, GIS Technician, and a group of possible data technicians. She reported that all positions are included in the next two-year program and assistance from Yuma County Human Resources Department was being provided for advertisement effort. Ms. Figueroa stated the Mobility Manager position was going to be advertised tomorrow and the GIS Technician in June of 2021. She reported that a possible cooperation with Arizona@Work is anticipated to fill the GIS position through a potential internship with Arizona Western College.

9. Update on Recent Federal, State, & Local Legislation on Funding Transportation.

Mr. Ward informed the Board of a recent summary prepared by the American Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) showing a listing of infrastructure costs that being are supported by the members of the Republican party and compared that to the money being estimated by the Administration for infrastructure. He stated that the regular amount of money that will be coming down from the State, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) will be an additional pot of money.

He clarified that there were two funding streams, stimulus money and the (regular) reauthorization of federal legislation for transportation purposes which is estimated at 20 - 30% more than 2021. He gave a breakdown with anticipated shares of funding for the State and suggested that there was likely to be a LOT of federal funding available during the next few years.

In addition, the RTAC has been working with regional planning agencies to identify lists of regional projects so they can lobby to have ADOT free up more discretionary funds for MPOs to program.



Mr. Ward also alerted members regarding an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) about air quality results and suggested that he would bring this back to the Board in due course.

10. Submitting a RAISE Grant for US-95.

Mr. Ward presented on submitting a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to fund the next segment of US-95 Widening. He mentioned that recently the RAISE Grant had replaced the BUILD grant, which replaced the TIGER grant. He explained that the region had identified one major regional project for possible future funding, the widening of US-95, from Ave 9E to Aberdeen Road, from one lane in each direction to two lanes, plus a continuous left-turn lane and/or a median. He reported the first segment is already funded with approximately \$28 million State surplus General Fund monies.

He stated that ADOT has submitted for BUILD Grants for the past two years to help continue constructing the remaining 12-plus miles through Aberdeen Road but has been unsuccessful. Mr. Ward continued by saying that ADOT has encouraged YMPO to apply for possible RAISE funding for the next segment of US-95 improvements. He mentioned that YMPO staff is putting together a scope of work for this Grant Application, due by July 12, 2021. Mr. Ward finalized by asking the Board for authorization to negotiate and award a contract for consultant services between \$25,000 - \$40,000 to submit a RAISE grant to possibly obtained approximately \$25M to widen the next portion of US-95.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to authorize Mr. Ward to negotiate and award a contract for consultant services to apply for a RAISE Grant. Councilmember Knight seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

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. Approval of FY 2022-45 LRTP and FY 2022-26 TIP and AQCA.
- B. Group/Individual photograph(s) of current Executive Board members.



13. Progress Reports.

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

- A. May 3 - SRTP telemeeting (PW, SK).
- B. May 3 - Arizona@Work personnel meeting (PW, CG).
- C. May 4 - Staff meeting (All).
- D. May 4 - Proposals for Rail Study submitted (PW, CG, MR).
- E. May 5 - Wayne Benesch visit (PW).
- F. May 6 - HSIP project status telemeeting (PW, CG).
- G. May 6 - YMPO LRTP weekly telemeeting (PW, CG).
- H. May 10 - RTAC Regional Priority Project discussion (PW).
- I. May 10 - ADOT/YMPO Coordination telemeeting (PW, CG).
- J. May 11 - YMPO Mobility Manager Job Description review (PW, CG, CF).
- K. May 11 - YMPO LRTP biweekly telemeeting (PW, CG).
- L. May 11 - YMPO Traffic Counter meeting (CG, RA, TCs).
- M. May 12 - SRTP follow-up telemeeting (PW, SK).
- N. May 12 - Pre-TAC meeting (PW, CG).
- O. May 12 - Presentation to San Luis City Council (PW).
- P. May 13 - TAC telemeeting (PW, CG, MR).
- Q. May 13 - Yuma Regional Bicycle Committee telemeeting (PW).
- R. May 17 - YCIPTA/YMPO telemeeting (PW, SK).
- S. May 17 - Arizona CTS telemeeting (PW).
- T. May 17 - Arizona STEP Committee telemeeting (CG).
- U. May 17 - RTAC Advisory Committee meeting (PW).
- V. May 18 - STSP Safety Emphasis Area Telemeeting (PW).
- W. May 20 - Swearing at a Judge (PW).
- X. May 20 - LPA Training (CG).
- Y. May 21 - AZSTB telemeeting (PW).
- Z. May 24 - Regional Mobility Coordination telemeeting (CG).
- AA. May 24 - RTAC Board telemeeting (PW).
- BB. May 24 - YCIPTA Board telemeeting (PW).
- CC. May 25 - YMPO LRTP biweekly telemeeting (PW, CG).
- DD. May 27 - EB telemeeting (PW, CG, CF).

19. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 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. For information regarding rights and provisions of the ADA or Section 504, or to request reasonable accommodations for participation in YMPO programs, activities, or services, contact Paul Ward at 928-783-8911.*

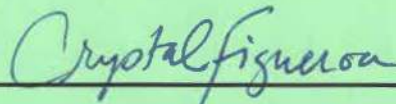


Anticipated Future 2021 Meeting Locations

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, April 29, 2021, and Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:

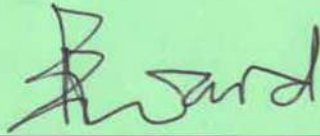


---

Crystal Figueroa, Executive Assistant  
and Accountant II, YMPO

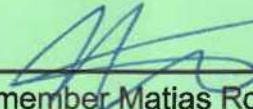
Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on  
June 24, 2021



---

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



---

Councilmember Matias Rosales, Chair  
YMPO Executive Board