

EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**Executive Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 24, 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 Executive Assistant/Accountant II, Crystal Figueroa, 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.

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 *
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 ~
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: As all three members of the City of Yuma were present, the standard votes exercised were as per the default.

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.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the May 27, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. YMPO Income/Expenditure for May 2021.

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

10. Submitting RAISE Grant(s) – Status and Possible Letter of Support.

Upon a request from YMPO Executive Director, Paul Ward, the Chairman agreed to hear this agenda item out of order, as the consultant team had a conflicting meeting later in the afternoon. Mr. Ward informed the Board about the efforts being made to produce a RAISE grant for construction of the next segment of US-95. He mentioned letters of support have been requested and reported that the City of Yuma and the City of San Luis are also submitting RAISE grant applications. Mr. Ward introduced Mr. Douglas Eberhart from Wilson & Company to provide a brief presentation.

Mr. Eberhart thanked Mr. Ward and the Board for the opportunity to assist and collaborate for the application of the RAISE grant. He reported that the next segment of US-95 that was the subject of this application subject was from Rifle Range Road to the Welton-

Mohawk Canal Bridge. Mr. Eberhart reported that their goal was to narrow their focus to safety improvements, travel-time savings, benefits to agriculture, and the huge economic benefits to the Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG). He reported collaboration with representatives from YPG to confirm the data to be used in calculating the benefits provided by YPG, as part of the overall benefit-ratio and that the application deadline was July 12, 2021.

Mr. Ward mentioned that, aside from the widening of US-95, there were two other applications from the YMPO region, a project is the City of San Luis, the Cesar Chavez Boulevard widening project and a City of Yuma project to seek funds to convert the City of Yuma Hotel Del Sol into a Downtown Regional Transit Center. Mr. Ward reported that both have requested Letters of Support from YMPO regarding their applications.

He reported that the YMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had considered all three projects and recommended that YMPO should provide individual letters of support for all three projects without prioritizing the projects. Mr. Ward asked the Board for guidance on how these letters of support should be issued.

The Chair called on San Luis Economic Developer Manager Jenny Torres for input regarding their application. Ms. Torrez reported that the Cesar Chavez Boulevard widening project has been in the TIP for several years. She continued by stating that they are requesting \$2 million and the city is willing to match up to seven million dollars in local funds. She added that many of the pre-construction items have already occurred and the city is very close to acquiring the necessary rights-of-way. She reported that Federal funds have been provided in the past, through ADOT, and mentioned 30% of the design has been completed. Ms. Torres requested a letter of support from YMPO and clarified her support for the other two projects competing for the RAISE Grant.

Councilmember Knight recommended that YMPO provide three separate letters of support, tailored to the specific projects, listing the benefits associated with each project. He explained, in this matter, the projects will stand on their own with YMPO supporting all three. Mr. Knight mentioned that his understanding is that up to two RAISE Grants will be awarded, per State, making the process competitive.

MOTION: Supervisor Pancrazi moved to approve three separate Letters of Support stating the benefits to the region, to be signed by the Chairman and the Executive Director. Councilmember Knight seconded, and motion was unanimously approved.

5. Acceptance of the YCIPTA/YMPO Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTTP).

Mr. Ward reported the project was carried out by the IBI Group, in collaboration with the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transit Agency (YCIPTA), who did most of the review work. Mr. Ward mentioned YMPO financed the project and was happy to be responsible, as the region's MPO and transportation planning agency, to assist the transit

operator. He reported the project was completed and approved by the YCIPTA Board. Mr. Ward introduced Steve Wilks from the IBI Group, who provided a brief summary on the Plan. Mr. Wilks reported the community survey results, people would like more shelters and/or benches at bus stops, better information on how to use transit, a potential mobile app for real time information, and other services to specific destinations. He informed the board on near-term focus on incremental improvements and full system restructuring concepts.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight moved to accept the FY 2021 YCIPTA/YMPO Short Range Transit Plan. Supervisor Porchas seconded, and motion was unanimously approved.

6. FY 2022-2045 YMPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Status.

Mr. Ward reported that the LRTP is wrapping up and anticipates a copy of the report early next month and will present the document to the TAC. It will be presented to the Board next month on July 29th for possible approval. An Air Quality Conformity Analysis portion will also be included as part of the report.

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

Mr. Gutierrez reported that currently the LRTP and the TIP are being considered through the second phase of the Public Participation Plan. He reviewed the current and new projects in the TIP and funding. Mr. Ward mentioned that currently the region is over-programmed in 2024. However, he suggested this could be easily solved by borrowing a one million dollars in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds from ADOT or another MPO to repay it in FY 2025, 2026, or 2027.

8. Status of the YMPO Rail/Heavy Freight Alignment Study (R/HFAS).

Mr. Ward informed the Board of that an Request for Proposals had been developed for the YMPO R/HFAS and included in the YMPO Work Program, and that this effort is a follow-up to the original Corridor Study that was completed in March 2013. 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 is to promote and support economic development through the region. Two companies submitted proposals, from Don Breazeale and Associates and Kimley-Horn and Associates, and that both proposals were under the budgeted amount.

Mr. Ward reported the TAC had reviewed and ranked the proposals and recommended selecting the Kimley-Horn and Associates team's submittal as the preferred proposal. The Executive Board had approved the award of a contract to them at the previous Board meeting. He reported the contract is pending and a Notice to Proceed letter is anticipated by the end of June 2021, with project completion by May 2022 (eleven months).

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

Mr. Ward presented an RTAC Legislative Update showing \$10 million in State funds that were targeted for US-95 improvements and approved by the Arizona Senate. He clarified that he did not know if the House had approved a similar bill - yet. Mr. Ward mentioned that, at the Federal Level, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee had approved reauthorization of the regular annual funding that the region gets for transportation and, as a result, that the State of Arizona's federal funds would like increase to an average of approximately one billion dollars per year for the next five years.

Mr. Ward mentioned that his understanding on the stimulus package infrastructure bill is that it's going to bring a minimum of \$600 billion over and above the regular transportation authorization legislation. He said there is likely to be a lot of money coming forward in the next four to five years due to the both the transportation reauthorization AND the stimulus legislation.

Mr. Ward also mentioned recent discussions amongst City Managers for a possible local sales tax election, in the future. The Yuma County Administrator, Susan Thorpe, reported that the Cities and County administrators will bring forward a recommendation for a fair distribution of funds, based on an accommodation of both population and revenue generation. She added that the subcommittee is also identifying specific projects for each entity that would be done with that money and that the initiative would include a 20-year sunset. Ms. Thorpe mentioned a possible 2025 starting date and that it would likely bring in about \$20 million, based on the prior past sales-tax history. She also mentioned learning from other counties and other cities that have had success with such a sales-tax and that they, effectively, consider a year and a half to two years in advance to educate every possible person across the county regarding the ballot initiative. Education about what the problem is which is not enough funding and what the needs are for the region and what it will provide for the entities.

11. FY 2020-2024 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #5.

Mr. Gutierrez reported that the Transit portion of the TIP is primarily funded through a Grant mechanism and changes to transit projects often occur as the Grant deadline approaches. He stated that ADOT requested an Amendment to program changes to meet the July 1, 2021, timeline for the State to submit their application to FTA. Mr. Gutierrez mentioned the projects include FTA 5310 Mobility of Seniors & Individual with Disabilities funds; 5311 Rural Public Transportation Program funds; and 5311 Intercity Bus Program funds, including additional funds provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and the Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. He continued by stating that the projects will be programmed in FY 2022. Mr. Gutierrez mentioned the projects or programs are sponsored by YCIPTA, the Arizona Board of Regents, Helping Ourselves Pursue Enrichment Inc., NAZCARE Inc, Saguario Foundation Living Programs, and YMPO.

MOTION: Councilmember Knight moved to approve Amendment #5 to the FY 2020-24-TIP to include some Federally funded Transit projects in FY 2021. Supervisor Porchas seconded, and motion was unanimously approved.

12. 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 the Board that the usual RTS will not occur do to Covid 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 activities. RTAC Liaison Kevin Adams provided a legislative
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation.
- G. TAC Minutes
- H. Conference Updates (AZTA, RTS, and Roads and Streets)
- I. MPO/COG Director/Planner Meetings
- J. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council activities
- K. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation

13. 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.

14. 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).

15. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

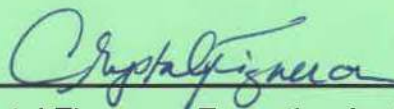
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Anticipated Future 2021 Meeting Locations

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, July 29, 2021, and August 26, 2021.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

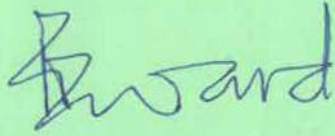
Minutes prepared by:



Crystal Figueroa, Executive Assistant
and Accountant II, YMPO

Minutes reviewed to form by:

Minutes approved in regular session on
July 29, 2021



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



Councilmember Matias Rosales, Chair
YMPO Executive Board