

EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**Executive Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 2019
1:30 p.m.**

**Town of Wellton
10260 Dome Street
Wellton, Arizona 85356
Yuma County Wellton Justice Court**

1. Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Chairman, J. Deal Begay, Jr, called the July 25, 2019, meeting of the YMPO Executive Board (the Board) to order at 1:30 p.m. He called on the Town of Wellton Mayor, Cecilia McCollough, to lead 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	J. Deal Begay, Jr, Vice-Chairman, Cocopah Indian Tribe
Secretary/Treasurer	Maria Ramos, Vice-Mayor, City of San Luis
Member	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton
Member	Gary Knight, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma
Member	Paul Patane, ADOT SW District Engineer
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County
Member	Edward Thomas, Councilmember, City of Yuma

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent:

Vice-Chair	Miguel Villalpando, Councilmember, City of Somerton
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County
Member	Jacob Miller, Councilmember, City of Yuma

As members from six, out of seven, constituent member agencies were present, the quorum requirement was met.

YMPO Staff Present:

Paul Ward	Executive Director
Charles A. Gutierrez	Senior Planning/Mobility Manager
Crystal Figueroa	Administrative Assistant/Accountant
De'Laurien McKenzie	Associate Planner
Melissa Ramos	Assistant Planner

Additional Attendees:

Shelly Kreger	Transit Director, YCIPTA
Susan Thorpe	County Administrator, Yuma County
Larry Killman	Town Manager, Town of Wellton
Gene Dalbey	Yuma Regional Bicycle Coalition
Nazzer O. Mendez	Executive Director, 4Fronted

Declaration of Votes.

Deputy Mayor Gary Knight, City of Yuma, submitted to Paul Ward, YMPO Executive Director, a proxy letter from City of Yuma Councilmember Jacob Miller and declared one proxy vote, for a total of three votes for the City of Yuma. Councilmember Edward Thomas declared himself as having the remaining two votes for the City of Yuma. Mr. Ward confirmed that there was a standing proxy vote for Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi on record, giving Supervisor Porchas a total of two votes.

3. Title VI Declaration and Call to the Public.

De'Laurien McKenzie, YMPO Associate Planner, read out loud the YMPO Title VI obligations.

No members of the public addressed the Board.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the June 27, 2019, Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. Approval of the YMPO Income and Expenditure Report for June 2019.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Knight moved to approve the June 27, 2019, Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Vice-Mayor Ramos seconded, and the consent agenda item 4A was unanimously approved.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Knight moved to approve the YMPO Income and Expenditure Report for June 2019 Board as, presented. Vice-Mayor Ramos seconded, and the consent agenda item 4B was unanimously approved.

6. FY 2020-2024 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Status

Mr. Gutierrez informed the Board that the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the PM-10 and Ozone portion of the FY 2020-2024 YMPO TIP process had been released for public comment. He reported that some comments had been received and had already been answered. Charles reported that, by the month of November, the entire TIP including the Air Quality analysis should be finalized.

Mr. Ward added that even though the TIP had been approved, contingent on the successful completion of the Air Quality process, the consultants concerned were having to go through an additional process for the Air Quality analysis. He explained that the

conformity analysis is supposed to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the TIP don't make air quality in the region any worse. He mentioned that there might be a problem with the timeline, primarily due to the new finding of the region being in nonattainment for Ozone. When the RTP was originally approved, the region was NOT in nonattainment for Ozone. The Federal register that included the nonattainment designation was published on August 3, 2018, with a one year deadline for carrying out the appropriate analyses. The Ozone AQ analysis was supposed to be completed by August 2019, but the effort will not be completed in time.

Mr. Ward reported that YMPO would go into a lapse situation that could possibly hold up federally-funded construction projects if it's located within the Ozone nonattainment area. However, Mr. Ward mentioned that, currently, there are no projects within the area concerned that might be adversely affected. He indicated to the Board that he will report accordingly on this matter if a delay to a project is anticipated.

7. FY 2018-2022 YMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #7

Mr. Gutierrez reported that YCIPTA Transit Director Shelly Kreger requested several changes to transit projects listed in the current TIP prior to submitting some Grant applications to the Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Gutierrez mentioned that YMPO has worked with YCIPTA to submit changes to the TIP for consideration and possible approval, along with a concurrence letter from the YMPO to ensure that the Grant application matches what is displayed on the current TIP.

Mr. Gutierrez referred to the prior approval of TIP Amendment #6 and pointed out a scrivener's error on the Town of Wellton Coyote Wash Project. The error was caught by ADOT Project Manager and is planned to be corrected with an administrative amendment within Amendment #7. He mentioned that Town of Wellton is anticipating finishing the project within the next year.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Knight moved to approve the FY 2018-2022 YMPO TIP Amendment #7 for Scrivener's Error and Transit project changes. Councilmember Thomas seconded, and the item was unanimously approved.

5. Additional Transportation Funding for the YMPO Region

Mr. Ward stated that members already agreed that not enough funding is available to maintain our existing transportation systems, given the current revenue options. He presented on possible options for local/regional funding increases that can provide members more flexibility and increased regional control over transportation funding.

He stated that members understood that any gasoline tax increase would have to happen at the State level and would automatically give the State a lot of discretion as to whether or not to fairly allocate our share of the funds to the Yuma region. He also reported that based on previous presentations, the State had not adequately funded regional

transportation needs, especially when compared to other regions. Mr. Ward suggested that a regionwide sales tax, targeted specifically for transportation purposes, would need future approval by voters but would immediately give the region, NOT the State, 100% control over the funds. He mentioned that State legislation had recently been approved, allowing regions to charge up to a one-cent sales tax.

He suggested that four options could be considered, half-cent, three-quarters of a cent and one-cent sales tax increases were the first three. The last was a zero increase, but he was not advocating for that option, but it was a valid, no-increase, scenario. Councilmember Thomas asked about how electrical vehicles would be affected, Mr. Ward understood why the question was asked, but responded by saying that because he was suggesting a sales tax and not a gasoline tax increase, owners of electrical vehicles would pay their share of any increase.

Mr. Ward mentioned that the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan (RTP) update process was due to start within the next two to three months and would take between 18 and 20 months to complete. He suggested that the Scope of Work for this very detailed study could be used to help identify what projects member agencies would carry out if additional transportation funding mechanism(s) could be established. The question of additional funds for maintenance, modernizing or widening existing transportation facilities were all possible projects or programs.

The Chairman called on Susan Thorpe, Yuma County Administrator, to speak. She reported that, with permission from the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, she had initiated a discussion in mid on December 11, 2018, and met with the region's City and Town Managers and Administrators to discuss the concept of a county-wide sales tax that would be shared amongst all jurisdictions. Ms. Thorpe mentioned that they were all favorable if the revenue was 'fairly and proportionately distributed' to each jurisdiction. She summarized how much sales tax revenue would be received under the scenarios Mr. Ward had mentioned. She further mentioned that a half-cent county-wide sales tax would generate approximately \$13.4 million dollars, at three quarters of a cent sales tax it would generate \$20 million and a full cent, approximately \$26 million.

Ms. Thorpe also reported that she reached out to other Counties in Arizona to learn if they had passed a transportation sales tax and met again with the Yuma region administrators on April 4 to share what she had learned. She suggested that, to be successful, it takes about one and half to two years for the target election to be fully and completely prepared. This allows time to identify what projects or transportation investments are going to be done, to make sure there is a fair distribution across jurisdictions, and to implement an effective public involvement campaign.

The Administrators considered the year 2022 as an appropriate target for an election year, considering the one and a half to two years of prep time needed. She suggested a

dedicated campaign/project manager and reported that she had asked Paul Melcher to start the research on the technical aspects of running such a sales tax campaign. She further urged the formation of an engaged leadership group consisting of commerce, community groups, city and county civic leaderships to validate and create leadership and identify and solve problems. Councilmember Thomas asked about a 'sunset' and, Ms. Thorpe questioned why a sunset suggested that could be decided in due course.

Ms. Thorpe mentioned forming a fundraising committee to fund collateral pieces for radio spots, advertisements, website, a You-Tube channel, other social media outlets, help with polling and messaging. She mentioned that direct communication is very effective and critical to help build trust within the community at large and establish a face-to-face connection. We should also establish and execute a media plan, such as videos demonstrating the problem, setting up a calendar and executing it is essential. She reminded everyone that cities and counties cannot ask for a vote - the private sector or individuals within the community can advocate, cities, towns and the county can only educate. She reported that Coconino County's message for Proposition 405 was "Your Roads - Your Decisions" - this message conveys that it is up to the voters to decide. Ms. Susan Thorpe concluded by stating the for the Yuma Region a 2020 election would allow them to lay down the groundwork necessary for an effective election.

Deputy Mayor Knight asked if a proportional distribution has been discussed and she mentioned that the needs are to be identified and discussed with the help of City Engineers and Public Works people. She mentioned that what is also important in the campaign is to identify what specifically will be done with the sales tax transportation revenue. She stated that she had discussed with Mr. Ward about 'regional' projects that might be funded but she continued to say that people want to know specifics and it is important to deliver what's promised. If not, the trust in the community is lost. She mentioned again the importance establishing the groundwork is essential to answer any questions the votes might have.

After much discussion amongst members, it was agreed that sufficient time exists to prepare and educate the community along with an equitable proportional distribution plan of revenue based on the needs identified in the region. It was agreed that a region-wide County sales tax has a better chance of succeeding instead of individual county and city efforts. All members agreed that it's in the best interest of long-term maintaining roads in the future to not campaign for a sunset but that is a detail to be decided. Supervisor Porchas suggested that a committee of citizens would be a key component of success and Deputy Mayor Knight suggested the division of the funds would be extremely important. Vice Mayor recommended careful education of the voters will be critical. Councilmember Thomas agreed, and suggested a continuing educational effort and regular reports on the progress.

The item is not currently on the agenda for action, just for discussion, at this stage.

8. Update on BUILD Grant Application for US-95.

Mr. Ward reported that ADOT submitted the BUILD Grant Application for consideration for up to \$25 million in Rural BUILD Grant funds for widening the next segment of the projection of highway US-95. He understood that the application has been received, is being processed, and further information is expected by the end of October, 2019.

9. The YMPO Title VI Program

Charles Gutierrez, YMPO Senior Planning/Mobility Manager presented on the 2020 Title VI Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs for review and approval. He stated that the report identifies the current YMPO Executive Board Chairman as the Chief Title VI Officer and the Executive Director as the Title VI Liaison/Coordinator. The Board had received the initial version of this report earlier in the year and this was the final version.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Knight moved to approve the YMPO 2020 Title VI Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Program Plan. Councilmember Thomas seconded, and the item was unanimously approved.

10. Status Report on the Current and Future Regional Transportation Studies.

YMPO staff reported on the Regional Transportation Studies status. Mr. Gutierrez reported on the progress of the Regional Transportation Safety Study and mentioned that the consultant Greenlight Traffic Engineers identified HSIP projects and through the process, nine projects were submitted. He informed the Board that, on August 8, ADOT was going to hold an HSIP Safety meeting to discuss all the projects.

Mr. Gutierrez also updated on the Traffic Counts Study which is mainly an internal program for member agencies. The study will allow the YMPO to have a supporting document program for reference in the future and he reported that the study was 85% complete.

Mr. Gutierrez also gave a status report on the Bike/Ped Study and mentioned that is 65% complete.

Mr. Ward gave a brief update on the Pavement Management System Study and mentioned it had been advertised, but it was suspended because the RFP process was being revised and it would be re-advertised in due course.

YMPO Assistant Planner, Melissa Ramos, reported that the Short-Range Transit Plan RFP is being reviewed and she and Mr. Ward would meet with Transit Director Shelly Kreger to review the RFP later that day. The Plan was estimated to be released/advertised by the end of August 2019.

YMPO Accountant II, Crystal Figueroa, informed the Board that the Rail/Heavy Freight Study RFP was being reviewed by member agencies and is also estimated to be released to consultants by the end of August, 2019.

Vice-Mayor Ramos express the interest of the Rail Study to include a binational component and Mr. Ward agreed that it includes such a component. Town of Wellton Manager Larry Killman, reported that he had spoken with Jenny Torres, the City of San Luis Economic Development Director, and she had been approached by the federal government in Mexico to let her know that they had identified someone that had the ability to have a discussion in regard to the freight corridor going south into Mexico. Mr. Killman emphasized the importance of a binational component within the corridor alignment in order to make the connection south of the border in the future.

Mr. Ward mentioned the Intelligent Transportation System Study is out for review and the release is anticipated for September. He continued and talked about the Long-Range Transportation Plan Update and mentioned that it would take approximately eighteen months to get completed, it's expected to be released in the October-December time frame. For the POE I Origin-Destination Study, a draft scope of work has been started but the study is not officially in the work program at this time, but it's expected to be amended into the UPWP in a timely manner to give results for the General Services Agency (GSA) during the run-up to their improvements.

11. Possible YMPO Support for the Ratification of the USMCA

Mr. Ward informed the Board that the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been signed but that it took several years to ratify. Recent efforts have resulted in an agreement to replace NAFTA with the United States Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) which was signed on November 30, 2018 but each country's legislature still must ratify the agreement. He had received a suggestion by the City of San Luis that the region should send a letter to Congress urging ratification of the USMCA. After much discussion, it was concluded that a Resolution in support of the Ratification of the USMCA be approved.

MOTION: Supervisor Porchas moved to approve the adoption of a Resolution supporting the ratification of the USMCA. Councilmember Ramos seconded, and the item was unanimously approved with one abstention, from the ADOT Southwest District Engineer, Paul Patane.

12. Summary of Current Events/Board Member Reports/Executive Director's Report & Comments by Other Participants.

A. Staff Reports. All YMPO full-time staff members attended a National Transit Institute sponsored training course on the Transportation Planning Process in Sacramento.

B. TAC Minutes.

- C. Conference Updates. Melissa Ramos provide a brief update on plans for the Rural Transportation Summit in October 2019.
- D. MPO/COG Director/Planner Meetings.
- E. Rural Transportation Advocacy Council activities.
- F. Projects - Economic Development and Transportation.

13. 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 Selection of PMS Consultant.
- B. Discussion of planned additional Federal facilities at POE II. Vice-Mayor Ramos reported that GSA wants to add a standalone truck safety inspection in POE II, she mentioned that the City of San Luis is opposed to the idea because they already have various inspections. The Mayor Sanchez of San Luis drafted a letter and Ms. Ramos asked the Board for their support in this opposition effort against an additional inspection facility. After much discussion it was concluded that a letter of support would be drafted by individual Cities and Towns directly.
- C. Status of Highway Safety Improvement Projects.

14. Progress Reports.

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

- A. July 1 – Fiscal Year 2020 begins.
- B. July 3 – YMPO Earned Media meeting – Bike/Ped/Safety PP, Paul Ward, Charles Gutierrez, and De'Laurien McKenzie participated.
- C. July 8 – ADOT/YMPO Coordination meeting, Paul Ward, Charles Gutierrez, Deputy Mayor Gary Knight attended.
- D. July 9 – Interagency Consultation (IAC) Air Quality meeting, Paul Ward and Charles Gutierrez participated
- E. July 9 – Montoya Insurance Group meeting, Paul Ward and Crystal Figueroa attended.
- F. July 10 – ADOT YMPO Regional Planner meeting, Charles Gutierrez attended.
- G. July 10 – Possible New YMPO Building meeting, Paul Ward and Charles Gutierrez attended.
- H. July 11 – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, Paul Ward, Charles Gutierrez, De'Laurien McKenzie and Melissa Ramos attended.
- I. July 15-17 – NTI Training (Transportation Planning Process, Sacramento), All full-time YMPO staff attended.
- J. July 19 – State Transportation Board Meeting, Deputy Mayor Knight attended.
- K. July 27 – YMPO Executive Board meeting, All YMPO full-time staff are expected to attend.

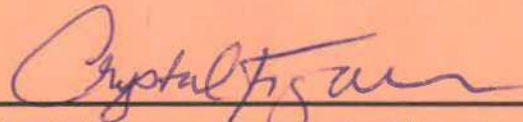
15. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 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.

Preparation and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes prepared by:



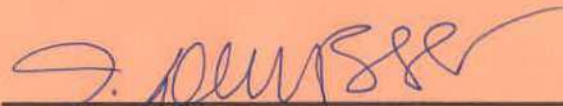
Crystal Figueroa, Accountant II and
Executive Assistant, YMPO

Minutes approved in regular session on
October 31, 2019

Minutes reviewed to form by:



Paul D. Ward, Executive Director
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization



Vice-President J. Deal Begay Jr,
Chairman, YMPO Executive Board