

EXECUTIVE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Local Governments & Citizens Working Together

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2017
1:30 PM**

**Yuma County
2351 West 26th Street
Yuma, Arizona 85365
Aldrich Auditorium**

1. Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gary Knight called the Executive Board (the Board) meeting of the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) to order at 1:30 p.m. He called on Kevin Adam, RTAC Director, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call Attendance.

The YMPO Executive Assistant, Crystal Alonzo, called the roll as follows:

YMPO Executive Board Members Present:

Chairman	Gary Knight, Deputy Mayor, City of Yuma
Vice Chair	Cecilia McCollough, Mayor, Town of Wellton
Member	Paul Patane, Southwest District Engineer, ADOT
Member	William "Bill" Craft, Councilmember, City of Yuma
Member	Maria Ramos, Councilmember, City of San Luis
Member	Lynne Pancrazi, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County

YMPO Executive Board Members Absent:

Treasurer	Jose Yepez, Mayor, City of Somerton
Member	J. Deal Begay, Jr., Vice Chairman, Cocopah Indian Tribe
Member	Jacob Miller, Councilmember, City of Yuma
Member	Martin Porchas, Board of Supervisors, Yuma County

As members from five different agencies were present, the quorum was met.

YMPO Staff Present:

Executive Director	Paul Ward
Senior Planning Manager	Charles Gutierrez
Accountant II	Crystal Alonzo

Additional Attendees:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Blake Herzog	Yuma Sun
Susan Thorpe	Yuma County

Declaration of Votes.

The Chairman submitted to Mr. Ward a proxy letter from City of Yuma Councilmember Jacob Miller and declared his proxy vote for a total of 3 votes.

3. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Board.

4. Consent Agenda.

The Chairman entertained a motion on the consent agenda, specifically approval of the Board minutes for the February 23, 2017, meeting.

MOTION: Councilmember Bill Craft motioned to approve the February 23, 2017, Board Minutes, as presented. Councilmember Maria Ramos seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Election of Audit Officers - Calendar Year 2017.

During the previous meeting, Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi was nominated, in her absence, as a member of the Audit Committee and was duly elected. Supervisor Pancrazi graciously affirmed her acceptance and expressed her willingness to serve as a member of the YMPO Audit Committee for calendar year 2017.

6. 5310 Coordination Plan

Charles Gutierrez, YMPO Senior Planning Manager/Mobility Manager, reported he is in the process of updating the 2017 5310 Regional Transportation Coordination Plan serving transportation disadvantaged individuals. He is in the process of gathering and updating information from service providers and will submit a draft report to the ADOT Transit section and present to the Board for approval on the next executive board meeting.

7. FY 2018 Draft YMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) & Annual Budget

Paul Ward, YMPO Executive Director, presented the FY 2018 YMPO UPWP & Annual Budget draft with suggested studies by member agencies, projected cost of potential studies that could be included in the UPWP and comparable budgets from previous years. Mr. Ward referred to the information summary for agenda item 7 sent to members prior to the meeting. He asked the board members for potential guidance and prioritization of studies based on the likelihood that funds for all projects will be available. Mr. Ward reminded Board members that the agenda item was listed for possible action, although this is not required, at this time.

He continued that, as the current work program was still being worked on and the funds available for the next UPWP would not be known for several months, the precise budget was a moving target. As a result, prioritizing the list of projects being submitted for consideration was probably the simplest way of moving forward at this time.

Councilmember Bill Craft, noticed that the Utility Corridor Study had been excluded from the study cost priority list and asked for an explanation. Mr. Ward explained that the study was originally on the list of seven potential projects. However, the development process for the UPWP had recently been the subject of an annual review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). During this recent review, the three agencies

reviewed the list of studies and concluded that the Utility Corridor study was not sufficiently a transportation-related project and therefore not likely to be eligible for funding with the federal funds available.

Mr. Ward continued that the main thrust of the agenda item was to allow members to provide their opinions on the studies concerned. To this end, Mr. Ward suggested that he and Mr. Gutierrez would be happy to provide a verbal summary of each study and answer any questions that members might have.

Following this verbal summary, the Chairman liked the list of priorities as listed and Councilmember Ramos agreed with the Chairman. Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi asked if the Regional Traffic Count Network study would be more likely to be funded if the study showed an increase of traffic in certain roads. Mr. Ward suggested that Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) might rank the study a little higher due to the direct affect that traffic counts have on the member agencies concerned. He further explained that he foresees this item as being very important on a long-term basis as the region grows and our own transportation model is needed. The Chairman stated he would like to see what the TAC recommends.

8. Update on the FY 2018-2041 YMPO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Mr. Ward requested to defer this topic to the next meeting and apologized to the board for not having a fully detailed presentation ready to go. He suggested that, although a discussion of the planning assumptions underlying the RTP is normally completed as part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process, this had, effectively, already be completed this year. However, MPOs should do this, as a separate item, during the LRTP process. Chairman agreed to reschedule this item for next month's agenda.

9. Revised Schedule for Calendar Year 2017 Board Meetings.

The Chairman confirmed that he had received the schedule for Board meetings with revised locations via email.

10. Possible Policy Status of US Route 95

Mr. Ward informed members about a draft letter signed by previous Chairman stating Highway 95 had been designated as part of the Canamex highway. SR-95 is the main roadway that runs north/south from the southern border to the northern border and as a result part of the transportation network. His understanding is that having the 95 Highway designated as the Canamex West highway was NOT the end of the request by the previous Chairman. Mr. Ward suggested a formal presentation in a future meeting by the member agencies concerned and welcomed any assistance from Paul Patane on this subject.

The Chairman stated that the County already has 195 and a state-of-the-art Port of Entry in San Luis, but the region seems to be missing something by not being able to connect the east/west corridor to I-10 and the western ports. He suggested that anything we can do to further the development of SR-95 between I-8 and I-10 would have a beneficial effect to the region, even if that means providing support to further the 95 Canamex initiative in the region.

Mr. Ward informed members that ADOT has recently completed a corridor profile of SR-95; however, it hasn't been translated into direct improvements or certainly not of any magnitude that YMPO would be interested in seeing happen. The plan is to move forward to the next step and work together with ADOT, cities, towns and put forth a recommendation to the State level for this roadway.

The Chairman requested that there needs to be a follow-up on this matter. Mr. Ward reported that he will speak with both the City of Yuma and Yuma County on preparing a presentation on this subject. Paul Patane also offered his assistance, as appropriate.

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

The Chairman moved immediately to item E, a report by the Director of the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC), Kevin Adams.

Kevin informed members on the (Arizona) House's position on the state budget outline and referred to last year when the Governor proposed \$107 million comparable levels of HURF transfers to DPS to pay for highway patrol operations. These HURF transfer levels have been maintained this year; however, last year, there was \$86.5 million appropriated for several projects across the state in one-time cost savings, plus \$30 million in one-time funding that went back for distribution to counties and municipalities. He reported that these funds came from a carry forward balance which greatly enhanced their ability to appropriate the additional transportation funding.

Going into this year, State legislators don't have a revenue surplus to work with. So, it was anticipated that it would be a challenging year for transportation on the proposed budget, with the Governor continued to transfer HURF transfers to DPS but no one-time funding to offset it.

Another significant part about the House's proposal is that rather than support a proposal to provide shared revenues to the university for bonding purposes, they are rather supporting a \$16 million appropriation out of the general funds to void shared revenues. As far as regular session bills go, more transportation funding bills have been introduced; however, none of the major bills are expected to advance. Kevin referred members to the handout that he has provided to YMPO staff.

- A. Staff report.
 - B. The TAC minutes for March 9, 2017, were provided to members as part of the agenda packet and no formal comment or action is anticipated.
 - C. Conference Updates: The annual Arizona Transit Association meeting and the annual Roads and Streets Conference in Tucson are in April. Mr. Gutierrez and Melissa Ramos will attend the first conference and Mr. Ward and Mr. Gutierrez will attend the second. As a result of the scheduling, the TAC meeting was deferred a week to April 20.
 - D. The MPO/COG Director/Planners meeting confirmed that the October Rural Transportation Summit will be in Prescott.
 - E. The RTAC presentation was already covered.
- Mr. Ward reported that concluded his staff report.

12. Possible Future Agenda Items
- A. FY 2018-2041 YMPO Regional Transportation Plan.
 - B. Audit FY 2016-17.
 - C. YMPO FY 2016-17 UPWP TIP Amendment
 - D. FY 2017-18 Draft YMPO UPWP and Annual Budget

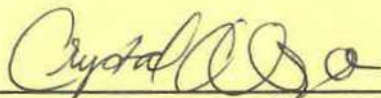
In addition to the items listed Mr. Ward reported that there would need to a TIP Amendment AND the approval of a new TIP that would be approved at the same time as the RTP.

13. Progress Reports.
- A. Discussion on forthcoming UPWP Development with YCIPTA Director, March 7, Paul Ward attended.
 - B. FHWA/FTA UPWP Review, March 9, Paul Ward, Charles Gutierrez, Crystal Alonzo, Melissa Ramos attended.
 - C. RTAC Board meeting, March 10, Paul Ward attended.
 - D. Meeting with Yuma Sun Reporter, March 11, Paul Ward attended.
 - E. YMPO Regional Mobility Committee Meeting, March 14, Charles Gutierrez and Melissa Ramos attended.
 - F. Meeting with Yuma Airport Director and Staff and Airport Tour, March 16, Paul Ward attended.
 - G. YMPO Air Quality Conformity Demonstration, March 21, Paul Ward, participated.
 - H. 5310 Program Webinar, March 28, Charles Gutierrez and Melissa Ramos attended.
 - I. ITB Conference, March 3, Charles Gutierrez presented the results of the Wi-Fi studied done in San Luis.

14. Adjournment.
There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

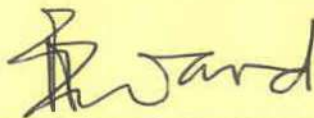
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Minutes prepared by:



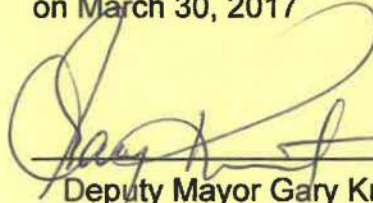
Crystal Alonzo
Accountant II/Executive Assistant

Minutes reviewed to form by:



Paul D. Ward, Executive Director
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes approved in regular session
on March 30, 2017



Deputy Mayor Gary Knight, Chairman
YMPO Executive Board