



Central Arizona Governments
Central Yavapai Metro. Planning Org.
Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Org.
Lake Havasu Metro. Planning Org.
Northern Arizona Council of Gov'ts.
Sierra Vista Metro. Planning Org.
Southeastern Arizona Governments Org.
Sun Corridor Metro. Planning Org.
Western Arizona Council of Gov'ts.
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Org.

RTAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 9, 2020 1:00 PM
League of Arizona Cities & Towns Bldg.
1820 W. Washington, Room #101
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Board members present:

* Matt Ryan (Vice Chair)	Supervisor, Coconino County (FMPO)
Craig Brown	Supervisor, Yavapai County (CYMPO Alt.)
* Maria Cruz	Vice Mayor, City of San Luis (YMPO)
* Charlie Odegaard	Councilmember, City of Flagstaff (FMPO Alt.)

Others in attendance:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
* Brian Babiars	WACOG
Chris Bridges	CYMPO
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Vinny Gallegos	LHMPO
* Charles Gutierrez	YMPO
Randy Heiss	SEAGO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Tim Humphrey	Gila County (CAG)
* Gary Knight	City of Yuma, State Transportation Board
* Vince Manfredi	City of Maricopa (CAG)
* Jeff Meilbeck	FMPO
* Andrea Robles	CAG

* Participated by phone.

1. Vice Chairman Matt Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. RTAC Liaison Kevin Adam announced that there was not a quorum of the board present and that Chairman Steve Miller might join the meeting later depending on the timing of water legislation meetings at the Capitol. Attendees introduced themselves. Vice Chairman Ryan announced that no Board actions would be voted on but that the meeting would proceed with a discussion of the agenda information items.

Mr. Adam stated that Gila County Supervisor Tim Humphrey was in attendance and City of Maricopa Councilmember Vince Manfredi was on the phone. He indicated that both had been appointed by CAG to serve on the RTAC Board but that approval action by the RTAC Board would need to wait until a quorum of the Board could formally approve their appointments. Vice Chairman Ryan welcomed them to the meeting.

2. Vice Chairman Ryan asked if anyone from the public wished to address the Board. No one requested to speak.

3. Vice Chairman Ryan called on Mr. Adam to provide a state legislative update. He stated that Rep. Campbell's transportation funding legislation (HB2899) had cleared all of the steps up to consideration by the full House. Further consideration was being stalled as the bill had support from a simple majority of the members but was short of the 40 needed to secure the required super majority vote for any legislation that would increase state revenues. Rep. Campbell, with the support of Speaker Bowers, was working on a compromise that would potentially be inserted into the budget which was increasingly becoming the session focus. The compromise would likely include two of the three main measures of his bill which are a fuel tax increase, comparable fees and taxes for alternative fuel vehicles and annually indexing the revenue sources. He indicated that if a fuel tax was included, it would likely be a lower level than the phased-in 18-cents currently in the bill. He further stated that the alternative fuel vehicle piece had the most support and was the most likely to be included. He stated that indexing received some late opposition that was expressed in the House Transportation Committee hearing on the bill which will complicate its inclusion. Any fuel tax increase would also have some opposition as well and presumably from the Governor who has made broad tax increase opposition statements repeatedly. Attaching the revenue increases to proposed tax cuts is also being considered so that the two would offset one another and create a revenue-neutral scenario which would not require a super-majority vote to pass.

Vice Chairman Ryan, Flagstaff Councilmember Charlie Odegaard and Yuma Deputy Mayor/State Transportation Board member Gary Knight all expressed their support for prioritizing indexing. MetroPlan Executive Director Jeff Meilbeck asked if Mr. Adam would be able to express prioritizing indexing without a quorum of the Board to direct such action. Mr. Adam indicated that the previous broad direction from the Board including the passing of a resolution in support of increasing transportation revenues provided him with enough authority and discretion, and that he would express the indexing priority to Rep. Campbell immediately.

4. Vice Chairman Ryan called on Mr. Adam to provide a federal transportation update. He indicated that with reauthorization due by October, RTAC needed to update its federal agenda. He stated that he and NACOG Executive Director Chris Fetzer would be traveling to Washington the following week and would be meeting with the Arizona congressional offices and that he would continue efforts to set up in-state meeting with the delegation and RTAC Board and a possible RTAC delegation trip to Washington later in the year. The agenda packet included an RTAC priority document from last year which he believed would need some updating but would remain fundamentally the same with the possibility of including some direction on the formation of new MPOs and language concerning changing demographics and regional coordination. The continuing priorities would be long-term adequate funding for Highway Trust Fund solvency, updating data for state funding allocations and particularly for planning funding, regulatory streamlining, broader P3 and tolling authority, and adequate staffing at the international ports of entry. He indicated a more refined priority document would be brought to the Board for approval at the next meeting and that the RTAC Management Committee would be asked for further input for its development.

5. Vice Chairman Ryan called on Mr. Adam to provide an RTAC Management Committee report. He stated that the Management Committee did not meet after the previous Board meeting which was followed by the legislator lunch in January. He stated that the Management Committee would meet immediately after the Board meeting and discussions had continued regarding the upcoming Rural Transportation Summit.

6. Vice Chairman Ryan called for adjournment which was approved at 2:13 PM.