



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, May 11, 2020 1:00 PM
Conference Call

Board members present:

Steve Miller (Chair)	Supervisor, Pinal County (SCMPO)
Maria Cruz	Vice Mayor, City of San Luis (YMPO)
Paul David	Supervisor, Graham County (SEAGO)
Rachel Gray	Mayor Pro Tem, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO Alt.)
Tim Humphrey	Supervisor, Gila County (CAG)
David Lane	Councilmember, Lake Havasu City (LHMPO)
Vince Manfredi	Councilmember, City of Maricopa (CAG Alt.)
Cecilia McCullough	Mayor, Town of Wellton (YMPO Alt.)
Rick Mueller	Mayor, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO)
Terry Nolan	Mayor, Town of Dewey-Humboldt (CYMPO)
Tom Thurman	Supervisor, Yavapai County (NACOG)
Gary Watson	Supervisor, Mohave County (WACOG)

Others in attendance:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Chris Bridges	CYMPO
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Vinny Gallegos	LHMPO
Randy Heiss	SEAGO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Gary Knight	City of Yuma, State Transportation Board
Jeff Meilbeck	FMPO
Andrea Robles	CAG

1. In the absence of Chairman Steve Miller and Vice Chairman Matt Ryan, Yavapai County Supervisor Tom Thurman agreed to chair and convened the meeting at 1:04 PM. It was anticipated that Chairman Miller would be calling in later. Participants announced themselves.
2. Chairman Thurman made a call to the public. No one wished to address the Board.
3. Chairman Thurman called for consideration of the draft RTAC Board meeting minutes of January 27 and March 9, 2020 which passed unanimously.
4. Chairman Thurman called on CAG Executive Director Andrea Robles to announce the new CAG appointments to the RTAC Board. She introduced Gila County Supervisor Tim Humphrey as the new primary representative and Maricopa Councilmember Vince Manfredi as the alternate. The Board welcomed them and approved their appointments.

5. Chairman Thurman called on RTAC Legislative Liaison Kevin Adam to provide an update on the federal transportation agenda. Mr. Adam indicated that Congress was considering another COVID-19 relief package and that there is a considerable push to include funding for highways and roads in the next bill. In Arizona, Mr. Adam indicated that a coalition of public/private transportation stakeholders has been organized to advocate for federal relief and economic recovery funding. The coalition has agreed to an agenda that includes providing \$50 billion to the states to hold them harmless from state-generated transportation revenue losses, provide greater flexibility from federal aid requirements for the use of that funding, and to also reauthorize current federal surface transportation programs for at least six years with substantially increased funding levels. The coalition intends to convey the priorities to the Arizona congressional delegation and will prioritize speaking to the two Senators and Congressman Stanton as he serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Adam indicated he would continue to work with the coalition, directly communicate the priorities to the delegation, participate on the calls with the delegation members and insure that the RTAC Board, COG/MPO Directors and other Greater Arizona officials would have the opportunity to participate on those calls as well. He also indicated that he was continuing to work on a more extensive reauthorization position paper that he would provide to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

6. Chairman Thurman called on Mr. Adam to provide a state legislative report. After passing a “skinny budget” and temporarily suspending the session, there was a plan to reconvene and adjourn sine die on May 8th. He stated that the Senate passed a motion to adjourn as they had planned on the 8th but the House did not, and still wished to pursue continuing the session at some later date. He indicated that further future activity by the Legislature was very unpredictable at this point. He speculated that due to the uncertainty regarding future revenue collections and COVID-19 related spending, the Legislature would not likely take up any further legislation with significant budget implications unless COVID-19 related. This likely meant that the efforts to direct one-time funding to transportation projects and also increase HURF revenues would not likely resume this year.

7. Chairman Thurman called on Sun Corridor MPO Executive Director Irene Higgs and Central Arizona Governments Executive Director Andrea Robles to discuss the Rural Transportation Summit. Director Higgs indicated that due to a number of factors including future travel uncertainties, venue contract issues and sponsorship concerns, that this October’s Summit would be postponed for a year. After discussion, the Board supported the decision.

8. Chairman Thurman called on Northern Arizona Council of Governments Executive Director Chris Fetzer to discuss the RTAC budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2021. Director Fetzer indicated that the budget would closely reflect the current year’s expenditures with relatively small increases provided for new strategic planning and website expenses. He stated that no increase in assessments was being proposed. He indicated that while reserves were not quite yet at the six-month operating expense capacity, the RTAC budget could withstand the projected lost revenue from the Summit postponement as well as the proposal to temporarily cover the Summit venue’s \$20,000 cancellation fee which would be fully credited and reimbursed to RTAC as part of next year’s Summit expenses. The Board voted to approve the FY21 RTAC Budget unanimously.

9. Chairman Thurman called on Mr. Adam to provide the RTAC Management Committee Report. He stated that the Management Committee met after the last RTAC Board meeting and had since conducted a conference call primarily to discuss the decision to postpone the Rural Transportation Summit. Discussions also included the scheduling of a follow-up strategic planning session and an alternative one-day event on October 15th in lieu of the Summit to maintain some level of continuity. A possible lunch with legislative candidates was proposed. Planning for both another strategic planning session and an October 15th event will also be greatly influenced by future COVID-19 related factors such as local budgets and social distancing requirements and whether the events would be in-person or virtual.

10. Chairman Thurman called for adjournment which was approved at 2:20 PM.