



# Rural Transportation Advocacy Council

Linking Arizona to the Global Economy

Central Arizona Governments  
Central Yavapai Metro. Planning Org.  
Lake Havasu Metro. Planning Org.  
MetroPlan Greater Flagstaff  
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, April 24, 2023 1:00 PM

ZOOM Teleconference

### Board members present:

Paul David (Chairman)  
Nancy Campbell (Vice Chair)  
Tom Armstrong  
Gary Knight  
Mary Mallory  
Vince Manfredi  
Steve Miller  
Duce Minor  
Miranda Sweet  
Carolyn Umphrey

Supervisor, Graham County (SEAGO)  
Councilmember, Lake Havasu City (LHMPO)  
Councilmember, Town of Chino Valley (CYMPO Alt)  
Councilmember, City of Yuma (YMPO)  
Supervisor, Yavapai County (NACOG)  
Councilmember, City of Maricopa (CAG)  
Supervisor, Pinal County (SCMPO)  
Supervisor, La Paz County (WACOG Alt)  
Councilmember, City of Flagstaff (MetroPlan)  
Councilmember, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO)

### Attending:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Travis Ashbaugh	CAG
Brian Babiars	WACOG
Cindy Blackmore	Chino Valley
Jason Bottjen	SCMPO
Dedrick Denton	Pinal County
Brenda Dickinson	Prescott Valley
Cynthia Gentle	Yavapai County
Crystal Figueroa	YMPO
Vinny Gallegos	CYMPO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Michael Huff	NACOG
Karen Lamberton	SVMPO
Kate Morley	MetroPlan
Jenn O'Connor	NACOG
Lindsay Post	CYMPO
Katy Proctor	City of Maricopa
Andrea Robles	CAG

1. Chairman Paul David called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Legislative Liaison Kevin Adam read the names of those who had joined the meeting virtually.
2. Chairman David made a call to the public. No one wished to address the Board.

3. Chairman David called for a motion to approve the draft RTAC Board meeting minutes of March 27, 2023. Yuma Councilmember Gary Knight made the motion seconded by RTAC Vice Chair and Lake Havasu City Councilmember Nancy Campbell to approve the minutes which passed unanimously.

4. Chairman David called on Mr. Adam to provide a legislative update. Mr. Adam stated that the RTAC priority project legislation, HB2543, was continuing to progress through the legislative process, passing the House 50-8, the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee 5-1, and the Senate Appropriations Committee 10-0. He indicated that along with all of the other bills seeking state appropriations, the bill had stopped moving as the Governor and legislative leadership were starting to negotiate the budget. He explained that was typical as the subjects of all of these “money” bills would now become part of the budget discussions and that the extent of progress through the process and vote margins boded well for the projects in the bill. He cautioned that while the prospects for each project being included in the bill were elevated, it was vital that each project receive the support from the legislators representing that project’s area in the budget negotiations. He indicated that leadership was going through a process similar to Congress and congressionally directed spending where each legislator was allocated a certain amount of revenue that they could direct in the budget. It would be important for them to choose these projects for their allocations. He also stated that the legislature’s budget staff had just estimated a balance of roughly \$2.5B in available funding so there was a sizable amount of one-time revenues that could be directed to the projects.

He stated that jurisdictions were applying for and exhausting the SMART Fund so that appropriating additional revenues for the Fund was a priority as the assistance provided to local jurisdictions would greatly enhance the State’s ability to maximize the level of federal transportation dollars returned to the State. He requested Councilmember Knight, who also serves as the Chairman of the State Transportation Board, to provide an update on the Fund. Councilmember Knight indicated that applications were coming in and some of sub-allocations were close to exhausted. At the Board’s last meeting, they awarded half of the requested funding in order for that sub-allocation to not be completely exhausted. He concurred that additional revenue for the Fund should be a priority. Mr. Adam indicated that the Governor had requested an additional \$25 million in her budget request. Replenishing the Fund would likely be a legislative priority for the foreseeable future.

He also stated that he had preliminary discussions with the RTAC Advisory Committee concerning next year and based on the revenue forecasts and discussions with Legislators that he would likely be recommending that RTAC develop and pursue funding for another list of priority projects. He cautioned that the robust revenue scenarios were unique and were not long term but were projected for at least another year.

Mr. Adam stated that Representatives Cook and Livingston were still working on bills to authorize a vote for an extension of the Maricopa County regional half-cent transportation sales tax. While reaching consensus among legislators, consistent with the plan developed by MAG and approved by the Legislature last year, had not yet been reached, he stated that progress was moving in that direction. The major area of disagreement continues to be the level of the revenue that can be used for public transportation.

5. Chairman David called on Mr. Adam to provide an update on the effort to secure ADOT surplus millings for local jurisdictions. He stated that he had continued to have productive discussions with ADOT Director Jennifer Toth who is supportive. She wanted to participate in the meeting but was involved with travel and meetings with the Governor today but already had the next Board meeting on her calendar where we would discuss the topic further. There was consensus that a formal process would need to be set up so that jurisdictions were aware of the potential for surplus millings and have the ability to request them early. ADOT would need to direct the potential millings to the jurisdictions as part of ADOT’s project scoping documents at the front end of a project rather than after the fact.

6. Chairman David called on YMPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa to provide an update on the Rural Transportation Summit. Ms. Figueroa stated the Summit would be at the Hilton Garden Inn Yuma

Pivot Point Conference Center on October 18-19 followed by the State Transportation Board meeting on October 20th. She announced that registration and hotel reservations were opened last week and could be accessed at [www.azrts.org](http://www.azrts.org). She indicated that agenda development was ongoing.

7. Chairman David called on RTAC Advisory Committee Chairman and CYMPO Executive Director Vinny Gallegos to provide an update from the RTAC Advisory Committee. Mr. Gallegos stated that the Advisory Committee would continue to provide input on the summit, the advancement of HB2543 as well as the development of the RTAC legislative agenda for the upcoming year.
8. Chairman David requested ideas for future agenda items and reasserted that the issue of commercial driver license renewals for rural contractors brought forward by Vice Chair Campbell be revisited. There were no other recommendations.
9. Chairman David called for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting which was approved unanimously at 1:58 PM.