



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, August 28, 2023 1:00 PM

Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Board members present:

Paul David (Chairman)
Nancy Campbell (Vice Chair)
Gary Knight
Vince Manfredi
Cecilia McCullough
Steve Miller
Alton Shepherd
Carolyn Umphrey
Jeronimo Vasquez

Supervisor, Graham County (SEAGO)
Councilmember, Lake Havasu City (LHMPO)
Councilmember, City of Yuma (YMPO)
Councilmember, City of Maricopa (CAG)
Vice Mayor, Town of Wellton (YMPO Alt.)
Supervisor, Pinal County (SCMPO)
Supervisor, Apache County (NACOG Alt.)
Councilmember, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO)
Supervisor, Coconino County (MetroPlan)

Attending:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Travis Ashbaugh	CAG
Brian Babiahs	WACOG
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Crystal Figueroa	YMPO
Vinny Gallegos	CYMPO
Brandon Gaylord	Pinal County
Cynthia Gentle	Yavapai County
Randy Heiss	SEAGO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Mike Huff	NACOG
Karen Kruse	The Kruse Group
Karen Lamberton	SVMPO
Kate Morley	MetroPlan
Jenn O'Connor	NACOG
Andrea Robles	CAG
Andy Smith	Pinal County
Sandra Tavel	MetroPlan

1. Chairman Paul David called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Legislative Liaison Kevin Adam read the names of those who had logged in to the virtual meeting.
2. Chair David made a call to the public. No one wished to address the Board.
3. Chair David called for a motion to approve the draft RTAC Board meeting minutes of July 24, 2023. RTAC Vice Chair Nancy Campbell made the motion seconded by Yuma Councilmember Gary Knight for approval which passed unanimously.

4. Chair David called on Mr. Adam to provide a legislative update. He stated that the Legislature adjourned sine die after passing legislation authorizing Maricopa County to take to its voters an extension of the region's one-half cent transportation sales tax currently set to expire at the end of 2025. Along with the roughly \$650 million in one-time revenues that were directed to transportation infrastructure in the state budget, he indicated that overall, it was a good session for transportation. For next year, he stated the revenue outlook would not be nearly as good but that RTAC would be proactive in making the case to direct any available revenues to transportation through another priority project bill and also support for additional funding for the SMART Program. He indicated that he would also continue to develop a reform proposal for the SMART program potentially expanding eligibility and revising the funding allocation process.

5. Chair David called on Mr. Adam to provide an overview of the draft RTAC resolution supporting the RTAC priority project legislation in the upcoming year. He stated that a similar resolution was passed last year and that this was essentially the same with some updated information particularly concerning the projected infrastructure funding to needs gap which has expanded considerably based on the preliminary information provided by ADOT through their long range plan update development. Yuma Councilmember Knight made a motion seconded by RTAC Vice Chair Campbell to approve the resolution which passed unanimously.

6. Chair David called on Mr. Adam to discuss the RTAC Board presentation during the Rural Transportation Summit. He indicated that, like last year's Summit, the RTAC Board would provide a presentation in support of the RTAC priority project legislation. He indicated that the presentation was scheduled for 40 minutes prior to the legislator panel and lunch on October 19th. He asked for the Board's input on how to structure the presentation. He stated that last year's presentation went well and the biggest challenge was continuity and length when involving 10 different speakers for one presentation. He suggested that each Board member should have 2 1/2 to 3 minutes to highlight one project to showcase from their region. Slides, pictures and/or videos regarding that project would run in the background as they delivered their remarks. He proposed that Chair David provide opening remarks and moderate the remainder of the presentation as one Board member from each region would then provide their presentation. He stated that last year's presentation went in reverse alphabetical order by COG/MPO name and that he would plan on alphabetical order this year. Chair David emphasized the importance of including the visual component and Pinal County Supervisor Steve Miller concurred, adding the need to keep the presentations short and effective. Mr. Adam thanked the COG/MPO directors and planners for all of their input and efforts to date and it was agreed to proceed with the presentation plan with each region deciding which project to showcase and developing the supporting visuals for their project.

7. Chair David called on Yuma MPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa to provide an update on the Rural Transportation Summit. Director Figueroa stated that registrations were up to 140, revenue was at \$45,000 including 13 sponsors generating \$28,500. She indicated that 15 legislators had rsvp'd. The agenda was essentially developed and that ADOT would be hosting a morning session with their tribal partners prior to the start of the Summit. She indicated that the main hotel was filling up but that there were blocks of rooms available at alternate locations.

8. Chair David called on Central Yavapai MPO Executive Director Vinny Gallegos to provide an update from the RTAC Advisory Committee. Director Gallegos indicated that the Committee would continue to provide support for the priority project legislation and the Rural Transportation Summit. He indicated that at the Committee's previous meeting, it was decided to shift the location and host of the next Summit from MetroPlan and Flagstaff to CYMPO and Prescott and planning was underway for October, 2024 at the Prescott Resort and Conference Center.

9. Chair David requested proposals for agenda items for the next Board meeting. None were provided. Mr. Adam announced that the next Board meeting was scheduled to be virtual on September 25th at 1:00.

10. Chair David adjourned the meeting at 2:09.