



# 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, May 22, 2023 1:00 PM

1820 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

League of Arizona Cities & Towns Building

### Board members present:

\* Paul David (Chairman)  
Nancy Campbell (Vice Chair)  
\* Tom Armstrong  
Gary Knight  
\* Mary Mallory  
\* Vince Manfredi  
\* Duce Minor  
\* Miranda Sweet  
Carolyn Umphrey  
\* Geronimo Vasquez

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

### Attending:

Jennifer Toth	ADOT
Greg Byres	ADOT
Kevin Adam	RTAC
* Travis Ashbaugh	CAG
* Brenda Dickinson	Prescott Valley
* Cynthia Gentle	Yavapai County
* Chris Fetter	NACOG
Crystal Figueroa	YMPPO
Vinny Gallegos	CYMPO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Karen Lamberton	SVMPO
Stephanie Maack	CAG
* Kate Morley	MetroPlan
* Jenn O'Connor	NACOG
* Katy Proctor	City of Maricopa
Andrea Robles	CAG

\* Participated virtually

1. As Chairman Paul David was participating virtually, he requested that Vice Chairman Nancy Campbell preside over the meeting. After resolving some virtual technical issues, Vice Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Legislative Liaison Kevin Adam read the names of those in attendance.
2. Vice Chair Campbell made a call to the public. No one wished to address the Board.
3. Vice Chair Campbell called for a motion to approve the draft RTAC Board meeting minutes of April 24, 2023. Yuma Councilmember Gary Knight made the motion seconded by Sierra Vista Councilmember Carolyn Umphrey for approval which passed unanimously.
4. Vice Chair Campbell welcomed ADOT Director Jennifer Toth and ADOT State Engineer Greg Byres to the meeting and asked them to provide an update. Director Toth stated that the state budget had passed with significant funding for both state and local projects. She stated that the Department has encountered some very substantial repair needs after the winter season and the budget provided funding to address those repairs. She indicated that with all of the additional appropriations, this upcoming year would have the largest ADOT program in recent history. State Engineer Byres stated that from an administrative perspective, the number of projects would pose a workload challenge for the Department. He indicated that the bulk of last year's appropriated projects would be carried out in the upcoming quarter. In addition to those projects, he indicated that the priority repairs were also currently underway including I-40, I-17, SR-260, and US-60. For this year's appropriated projects, ADOT is further analyzing, finalizing scopes and advancing them towards construction. He stated that the ADOT Five-Year Construction Program Update was near completion with a State Transportation Board study session scheduled for the following week and approval slated for the Board's June meeting. Yuma Councilmember (and State Transportation Board Chairman) Knight asked if there was an expiration date attached to the appropriations. Mr. Byres responded that the majority of this year's appropriations were non-lapsing.

As far as surplus millings, Mr. Byres indicated that the contractors have the first right to any excess millings that ADOT opts not to retain. He indicated that ADOT typically has a good idea if surplus millings will become available when they have a project's kick off meeting with the contractor. At that point, they could notify local governments of any likely millings availability. It was suggested that ADOT could notify local governments regarding the potential for available millings after that initial meeting if the contractor indicates they will not want all or some of the surplus. It was also recommended that ADOT could notify the locals after project completion in the event that surplus millings did materialize.

Numerous inquiries were made regarding specific projects including SR-90, US-95, and the SR-89/SR-89A interchange and Mr. Byres indicated that he would look into each and provide their status. Councilmember Umphrey asked about the process for the locals to receive project appropriations. He indicated that the locals would administer local projects but that ADOT would act as a "pass through" agency for the funding. An IGA or JPA would be signed for each project between ADOT and the local jurisdiction stating that the jurisdiction would use the funding for the legislative purpose. Sun Corridor MPO Executive Director Irene Higgs asked if the payments would be staggered. Mr. Byres responded that all of the funding would be provided upfront after the IGA/JPA agreement. Mr. Adam stated that while ADOT would not be administering the local projects, the Legislature has tasked ADOT with providing the quarterly status of each appropriated project so that ADOT would still be following and reporting on their progress. Mr. Byres affirmed that oversight function.

5. Vice Chair Campbell called on Mr. Adam to provide a legislative update. He stated that most of the update had been covered by the earlier conversation but he added that after passing the budget, the Legislature recessed rather than adjourned and would reconvene on June 12<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that there were several outstanding issues that they wished to resolve including the authority of Maricopa County to take to its voters an extension of the region's half-cent transportation sales tax. Mr. Adam stated that there was still not a consensus particularly on how the revenue could be used, mostly focused on public

transportation levels and uses, but that there had been substantial progress since the start of Session and that discussions were continuing to move towards a resolution. He also stated that a summary of the transportation provisions in the budget had been distributed. In addition to ongoing revenue distributions, \$653.5 million in one-time revenues was also appropriated to various transportation projects and programs. Of that, \$89M was directed to the I-10 widening, \$76.2 million for I-17, and roughly \$423 million to various projects across the State of which 27 totaling \$211.4M were included from HB2543, the RTAC-led Greater Arizona priority transportation project legislation. Also, \$54.3M was appropriated for pavement rehabilitation for highways throughout Greater Arizona and an additional \$12.5M was directed to the Arizona SMART Fund.

6. Vice Chair Campbell called on Mr. Adam to discuss the RTAC legislative agenda for next year. Mr. Adam stated that it was still very early, but if another round of funding for priority projects would be pursued, the COGs and MPOs would need to start the process of developing their lists now, particularly if we wanted the projects selected and the RTAC project fact sheet booklet completed in time for consideration during October's Rural Transportation Summit. After discussing next year's legislation with the COG and MPO directors, he was recommending and asking the RTAC Board to support developing a list of \$400M worth of projects with funding allocated to each region based on their percentage of the Greater Arizona population. He indicated that he would also likely be recommending a request of \$100M for the Arizona SMART Fund. However, unlike the project list which needs months for development, modifications to a SMART Fund request could be done relatively quickly. So for now, he was seeking immediate direction on the priority project list. Yavapai County Supervisor Mary Mallory, Coconino County Supervisor Geronimo Vasquez, Chairman David, and Councilmember Umphrey all spoke in favor of developing the \$400M priority project list and no objections were expressed to initiating that process.

7. Vice Chair Campbell called on Yuma MPO Executive Director Crystal Figueroa to provide an update on the upcoming Rural Transportation Summit. Director Figueroa indicated that the Summit would be at the Hilton Garden Inn Yuma Pivot Point Conference Center on October 18-19. Registration opened up on April 20<sup>th</sup> and that 32 have already registered. She stated that several sponsorships have also been secured including ADOT as the title sponsor. The agenda is under development and would include federal and state legislative updates, autonomous vehicles, construction inflation, future funding, the RTAC legislative agenda, and a number of ADOT updates.

8. Vice Chair Campbell 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 that all of the items had been covered and that the Directors would continue to work with RTAC on the development of the project priority list for next year.

9. Vice Chair Campbell requested ideas for future agenda items. Councilmember Knight stated that he was waiting on further revenue information from ADOT Chief Financial Officer Kristine Ward, and that once received, would have a HURF funding proposal that he would like to discuss and pursue.

10. Vice Chair Campbell called for a motion for the Board to enter an executive session to discuss the legislative liaison's annual review. The motion passed and the review was initiated.

11. Vice Chair Campbell reconvened the regular meeting and called for a motion to adjourn which was approved unanimously at 2:54 PM.