



**Bullhead City Metro. Planning Org.  
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, November 25, 2024 1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

**RTAC Board:**

Paul David (Chairman)	Supervisor, Graham County (SEAGO)
Nancy Campbell (Vice Chair)	Councilmember, Lake Havasu City (LHMPO)
Tom Armstrong	Vice Mayor, Town of Chino Valley (CYMPO)
Maria Cruz	Councilmember, City of San Luis (YMPO)
Cecilia McCullough	Vice Mayor, Town of Wellton (YMPO Alt.)
Alton Shepherd	Supervisor, Apache County (NACOG)
Miranda Sweet	Councilmember, City of Flagstaff (MetroPlan Alt.)
Jon Thompson	Mayor, City of Coolidge (SCMPO Alt.)
Carolyn Umphrey	Councilmember, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO)

**Others attending:**

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Keith Brekhus	Coconino County
Dedrick Denton	Pinal County
Keith Dennis	SEAGO
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Vinny Gallegos	CYMPO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Edigar Karijwa	Bullhead City
Karen Lamberton	SVMPO
Wiame Nazih	Coconino County
Jenn O'Connor	NACOG
Travis Pruitt	Bullhead City
Andy Smith	Pinal County
Sandra Tavel	MetroPlan
Fernando Villegas	YMPO
Desi Zurcher	CYMPO

1. Chairman Paul David called the meeting to order at 1:02.
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 September 23, 2024. RTAC Vice Chair Nancy Campbell made the motion seconded by San Luis Councilmember Maria Cruz for approval which passed unanimously.

4. Chair David called on RTAC Legislative Liaison Kevin Adam to provide a legislative update. Mr. Adam stated that quite a bit of transition would be continuing from the November 5<sup>th</sup> election.

He indicated that President-Elect Trump would be nominating Sean Duffy, a former Wisconsin Congressman, as the Transportation Secretary. Mr. Duffy previously voted for MAP-21 (transportation reauthorization) and signed a letter supporting a sustainable revenue source to support the Highway Trust Fund. He stated that the Administration's appointments should move relatively smoothly as the same party controlled the Senate.

He stated that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) wouldn't expire until the end of 2026 but that Congress is elected to two-year cycles and that the members, along with the President, that were just elected, would be the ones drafting and voting on the next transportation bill likely in 2026. He indicated that in the interim, the incoming administration would likely change priorities and scoring criteria for all of the remaining discretionary grant rounds from the IIJA.

He stated that transportation infrastructure was not a highly visible topic during the election but that it had been during the 2016 campaign with candidates Trump and Clinton continually increasing the funding amounts they pledged to pursue if elected. He stated that the U.S. Senate changed partisan control and that Republicans would hold a 53-47 advantage.

He indicated that there would likely be a heavy rural influence with leadership and the transportation committee. The House currently had a 219-213 Republican advantage and was expected to increase to 221-214 with the outcomes of the three remaining uncalled races. He mentioned that the margin would also be impacted appointments to the Administration where three members had already been proposed for positions.

In Arizona, he stated that Prop. 479, the Maricopa County transportation sales tax extension passed as did Prop. 486, the Pinal County road tax extension which passed with over 75% of the vote.

He indicated that Republicans had picked up 2 seats in the Arizona House of Representatives increasing their majority to 33-27. Steve Montenegro from Goodyear was elected Speaker and appointed Leo Biasucci as Transportation Committee Chair and Teresa Martinez as vice chair.

Republicans picked up one seat in the Arizona State Senate for a 17-13 advantage and re-elected Warren Petersen as the Senate President. He eliminated the Transportation Committee and directed jurisdiction over transportation bills to the Appropriations and Public Safety Committees.

He stated that the revenue outlook remained positive with the state carrying a \$645M balance above what was forecasted at the time the budget was enacted in mid-June. He stated that the priority project legislation and an appropriation for the Arizona SMART Fund would be pursued. Revisions to the priority project booklet are due on 12/3. The final booklet and draft legislation will be completed immediately after.

5. Chair David called on RTAC Advisory Committee Chairman and CYMPO Executive Director Vinny Gallegos to provide an update from the RTAC Advisory Committee. Mr. Gallegos indicated that MetroPlan Greater Flagstaff Executive Director Kate Morley was voted the new Chairman of the RTAC Advisory Committee at the previous week's meeting but was unable to attend the Board meeting, so he would provide the update and focus on the Rural Transportation Summit.

Mr. Gallegos indicated that the Summit was a group effort and everyone stepped up. It was the first time the Governor attended, there were over 100 elected officials including over 10 legislators. He stated that

Desi Zurcher from the CYMPO staff was preparing a recap message and survey for input for consideration for the next Summit. He indicated that a record level of revenue had been raised but that costs had also risen significantly. He announced that the Sierra Vista MPO would be the next host and that their Executive Director, Karen Lamberton would take the lead. He concluded that we need to continue evaluating the logistics of the Summit and its priorities and if we are doing what is most appropriate and effective.

Chairman David expressed his thanks for a successful event and especially appreciated the recognition for Gary Knight. Vice Chair Campbell stated she was looking forward to the survey results and the direction it may provide. Councilmember Cruz thanked Mr. Gallegos for his work on the Summit and expressed that the Summit needs to continue. Mr. Gallegos stated that it was difficult to build momentum when the host changes every year. Sierra Vista Councilmember Carolyn Umphrey recognized the great job and the level of work involved, she liked the recognition of transportation champions and stated that SVMPO had found a venue for the next Summit. Southeast Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) Executive Director Keith Dennis responded that SEAGO was SVMPO's partner and offered to help in whatever capacity was needed.

6. Chair David turned the meeting over to Mr. Adam to conduct the RTAC Board officer elections. Chair David nominated Vice Chair Campbell as the Chairman which was seconded by Councilmember Umphrey. Councilmember Cruz nominated Apache County Supervisor Alton Shepherd as the Vice Chair which was seconded by Vice Chair Campbell. The Board voted unanimously to elect Vice Chair Campbell as the RTAC Chairman and Supervisor Shepherd as the Vice Chair for two-year terms effective immediately through the summer of 2026.

7. Chair Campbell requested ideas for future agenda items. No items were proposed. Mr. Adam announced that the next meeting was scheduled for December 16th virtually.

8. Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 2:05.