



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.

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## RTAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 23, 2026 1:00 PM  
Virtual Participation Only Via ZOOM

### RTAC Board:

Nancy Campbell (Chairman)	Councilmember, Lake Havasu City (LHMPO)
Alton Shepherd (Vice Chair)	Supervisor, Apache County (NACOG)
Maria Cruz	Councilmember, City of San Luis (YMPO)
Karen Dallman	Councilmember, Bullhead City (BHCMPO)
Paul David	Supervisor, Graham County (SEAGO)
Keith Eaton	Mayor, Town of Florence (CAG Alt.)
Cecilia McCullough	Vice Mayor, Town of Wellton (YMPO Alt.)
Duce Minor	Supervisor, La Paz County (WACOG Alt.)
Carolyn Flowers	Mayor Pro Tem, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO)

### OTHERS ATTENDING:

Tom Dorn	Dorn Policy Group
Eric Emmert	Dorn Policy Group
Sonya Pastor La Sota	Dorn Policy Group
Kevin Adam	RTAC
Brian Babiars	WACOG
Jason Bottjen	SCMPO
Steve D'Amico	BHCMPO
Vinny Gallegos	CYMPO
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Karen Kruse	Kruse Group
Sarah Lojewski	LHMPO
Tommy Martin	LHMPO
Kate Morley	MetroPlan
Jenn O'Connor	NACOG
Katy Proctor	Maricopa
Andrea Robles	CAG
Fernando Villegas	YMPO

1. As RTAC Chair & Lake Havasu City Councilmember Nancy Campbell was participating while commuting, RTAC Vice Chair & Apache County Supervisor Alton Shepherd agreed to preside and called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.
2. Vice Chair Shepherd made a call to the public. No one wished to address the Board.

3. Vice Chair Shepherd called for a consideration to approve the RTAC Board meeting minutes of January 29 and February 9, 2026. RTAC Legislative Liaison suggested an amendment to the February 9 minutes to indicate that Yavapai Plan Executive Director Vinny Gallegos was also approved to serve on the RTAC Transition Committee. Chair Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes amended with Mr. Adam's suggestion which was seconded by Graham County Supervisor Paul David and passed unanimously.

4. Vice Chair Shepherd called on Mr. Adam to provide a legislative update. Mr. Adam thanked all of the Board members and other rural officials who travelled to the Capitol to show their support for HB2304, the RTAC priority project bill, HB2760, the Arizona SMART Fund appropriation, and the other bills funding rural transportation projects which were all considered and voted on during the previous Wednesday's House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee hearing. He indicated that the outcome was already likely to be successful particularly with the Committee's chair, Representative Biasiucci's efforts to move the bills out of his committee. However, the very large turnout in support likely reinforced the unanimous vote and likely influenced almost the entire committee expressing their very strong support for rural projects during their vote explanations. Mr. Adam also acknowledged the support of Representative Quang Nguyen for sponsoring and advocating for HB2760 and Representative Selina Bliss for providing supporting opening comments on the bill when Representative Nguyen was unable to break away from the House Appropriations Committee. Mr. Adam indicated that it remained to be seen whether the bills would be considered in the House Appropriations Committee but that last week's advancement from the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee would strongly boost the consideration of these projects and the SMART Fund during future budget deliberations. He indicated that revenue availability would still be the largest determining factor regarding their success. He stated that revenue collections were still strong but that the potential for income tax cuts and federal funding reductions could offset the revenue gains.

5. Vice Chair Shepherd called on RTAC Advisory Committee Chair & MetroPlan Executive Director Kate Morley to provide an update on the transition plan for the departure of Mr. Adam from RTAC. Director Morley indicated that it would be important to reach a consensus on the future structure reforms of the organization before pursuing candidates for a director. She stated that five options were being developed; a fully independent structure, or transferring administrative and financial oversight to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the County Supervisors Association, or another COG or MPO, similar to the current arrangement with NACOG. Her goal was to reach consensus on an option at an in-person meeting of the RTAC Board in May or June. With that direction, the Transition Committee could seek candidates with the target of hiring a director by December.

6. Vice Chair Shepherd called on Mr. Adam to introduce Tom Dorn, Eric Emmert, and Sonya Pastor La Sota from the Dorn Policy Group, who had been selected by the RTAC Advisory Committee for the contract lobbying position to represent RTAC at least for the duration of the state legislative session. Mr. Adam stated that Mr. Dorn had worked as the ADOT legislative liaison prior to their meeting but that they had worked together for over 20 years through Mr. Dorn's representation of the Arizona Planners and Arizona Highway Associations. Also, through his representation of Kingman and Page, he had also worked and coordinated with Mr. Adam on the RTAC priority project legislation and had helped those communities secure funding for projects in the bill. Mr. Adam stated that he has also had a lot of positive experiences working with the other partners of the Group. Mr. Dorn introduced his partners, stated that they were excited to be working for RTAC and that he would continue communicating with RTAC leaders to start representing the organization immediately.

7. Vice Chair Shepherd called on Mr. Adam to discuss the documents that he had drafted providing the histories and background of the RTAC priority project legislation and state transportation project earmarks. He stated that earmarking projects in the state budget was far from the best process for investing in the infrastructure, but pragmatically, it has been the most viable opportunity to secure any level of significant additional funding in the recent past. He outlined the lessons learned and the fact that the earmarking process doesn't necessarily lend itself to directing investment to the greatest specific needs and is also very much dependent on the political clout and eagerness of individual legislators to advocate

for projects in their districts rather than a more holistic statewide consideration. However, he pointed out that nearly \$2 billion in additional funding had been directed to transportation infrastructure in recent years in this manner. This was funding that would not have likely been directed to transportation without the push from the RTAC bill and other earmarking requests. Considering the revenue to needs gap for transportation, securing this level of additional funding was a great success despite not being the most ideal process for making infrastructure investment decisions. He also stated that a majority of the funding had been directed to Greater Arizona and had greatly assisted with the successful delivery of the state's most recent major projects, including the lane additions on I-10 and I-17, the improvements along SR-189 and its interchange development at I-19 in Nogales, funding for future improvements on SR-347 between Maricopa and I-10, and the reconstruction and repairing of vast sections of I-40 through northern Arizona. He stated that there were two major benefits from pursuing the RTAC bill. First, it has provided an immediate boost in funding, and secondly, its discussion at the Capitol has educated legislators and kept the under-investment levels visible as a continuing priority topic. The priority project bill has been building a platform to grow support to a level where taking action on increasing the transportation-dedicated revenue streams will become politically viable. Vice Chair Shepherd, who had earlier requested these reports, thanked Mr. Adam for providing them.

8. Vice Chair Shepherd called on MetroPlan Executive Director Kate Morley to provide an update from the RTAC Advisory Committee. Director Morley indicated that the focus of the Committee's work was previously discussed as part of the discussion on the RTAC transition plan. She stated that the Committee was also continuing to work with ADOT on improving ADOT's rural consultation process and to update RTAC's federal transportation reauthorization agenda and partner with ADOT to the fullest extent possible on common priorities for the state.

9. Vice Chair Shepherd asked if there were any items that members would like to place on future agendas. HURF funding and insuring that excise taxes on large trucks were dedicated to transportation were requested. Mr. Adam also announced that he wanted to acknowledge and congratulate Western Arizona Council of Governments Executive Director Brian Babiars on his upcoming retirement. San Luis Councilmember Maria Cruz expressed her gratitude and well wishes to Mr. Babiars as well.

10. Vice Chair Shepherd adjourned the meeting.