



MEETING MINUTES

**Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation
Advisory Committee
(EMAC)**

**Special Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2021
10:00 AM**

Members of the Public may join the Zoom meeting as an “attende” by accessing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89120697849?pwd=Y1d2dIRFeTFRS09YZmNzYVgvTjdYUT09>,
or may view the live stream of the meeting on the CYMPO YouTube page at:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUXH6D19fFNp9wnPVRNoMjPeW8hVlyqq> or Google “CYMPO YouTube Page”

CYMPO Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee

Chair	Tammy DeWitt, City of Prescott
Vice-Chair	Elizabeth Johnston, Arizona Game and Fish
Member	Chuck Budinger, ADOT Northwest District
Member	Francisco Anaya, Prescott National Forest
Member	Ron James, Private Citizen
Member	J. D. Greenberg, Private Citizen
Member	Deb Pastor, Private Citizen

Mission Statement:

The mission of the EMAC is to study and advocate for the preservation of interconnected eco-systems in the CYMPO Region that will integrate land use and mitigation for natural resource protection, and wildlife habitats into the regional transportation planning and design program.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
Member Anaya absent. All other members present.
- 2. TITLE VI POLICY AND MEETING PROCEDURES**
*Allison McCarthy, CYMPO Accounting Specialist
(Task #100)*

CYMPO complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related Nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Members of the public may review the CYMPO Title VI Plan, and submit a Self-Identification survey by accessing the CYMPO website.

A reminder to those attending the meeting: 1) please keep your line on mute until you wish to speak, 2) voting will take place by rollcall.

This meeting is available for public viewing on the CYMPO YouTube page.

3. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** This item is to provide an opportunity for presentation of comments by the public on subjects *not on the agenda*. Individuals wishing to address the Board need not request permission in advance and are limited to three (3) minutes.

Instructions for virtual meeting: Those who wish to participate in the CYMPO Executive Board meeting can access the meeting by using the Zoom Webinar link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89120697849?pwd=Y1d2dIRFeTFRS09YZmNzYVgvTjdYUT09>. Since this is a virtual conference meeting everyone will be muted when they call into the meeting. Attendees may type comments in the “Q&A” feature or use the “Raise My Hand” feature to request to make a verbal comment.

No comments were provided.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

No announcements were provided.

5. **CYMPO UPDATES**

*Vincent Gallegos, CYMPO Administrator
(Task #100)*

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- CYMPO Board Retreat

Mr. Gallegos reviewed the UPWP and TIP with the committee, and noted that CYMPO is looking at updating current studies for the Great Western Corridor and Sundog Connector. Explained that staff is currently working with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to identify what updates need to be performed on the current studies. Mr. Gallegos explained that CYMPO has been invited to participate in the North Prescott Area Plan being conducted by the City of Prescott, and anticipates valuable information regarding land use to be helpful in shaping the scope of any potential updates to the Great Western Corridor plan update.

Member Greenberg expressed desire for the EMAC to be involved with any planning activity regarding the Great Western Corridor early enough in the process to provide input. Mr. Gallegos explained that the studies are at the preliminary planning phase and the EMAC will be involved in the process.

Member Pastor inquired if the EMAC should be participating in the North Prescott Plan as well. Madam Chair DeWitt explained that the City of Prescott has initiated a study to create a concept plan to look at the growth pattern happening now and potential needs, and City planning staff has been tasked with providing input on the plan. Member Pastor inquired if the EMAC should be providing input at this time. Madam Chair DeWitt explained that an existing zoning overlay is being used as part of the study. Member Pastor inquired if migration patterns are being considered in the zoning overlays that already exist. Madam Chair DeWitt explained that some open space is being kept as well as creek corridors and it will depend on how the area gets developed.

Member James explained that the public currently has the opportunity to provide input through the City of Prescott website. Also noted that the Deep Well Ranch Plan has already evaluated migration patterns as part of the approval process. Member Budinger noted discomfort with being grouped as public comment and believes the EMAC should be considered a technical advisory committee. Also noted that the EMAC should be included with the Yavapai County Comprehensive Land Use Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gallegos noted that he has been invited to participate in the Yavapai County Comprehensive Land Use study and offered to attempt to include the EMAC as well.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 26, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE EMAC

MOTION

Member Greenberg motioned to approve the October 26, 2021 Special Meeting minutes of the EMAC. Member Pastor seconded the motion.

VOTE

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

7. EMAC MISSION ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

*Vincent Gallegos, CYMPO Administrator
(Task #100)*

Mr. Gallegos explained that the Board Retreat will provide opportunity for the EMAC to be involved early in the planning process, at which time discussion will take place to identify and prioritize specific projects.

Member Greenberg inquired how to become involved in the Yavapai County Comprehensive Land Use study. Mr. Gallegos explained he would reach out to Dave Williams to find out about involvement opportunities.

Member of the public, Barbara Jacobsen, expressed concern regarding proper timing, within the planning process, for input to be made. Mr. Gallegos explained that the list of priority projects that was created as part of the development of the CYMPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan will be considered by the CYMPO board, TAC, and EMAC to identify projects to move forward in the planning process. Explained that this is the very beginning phase of the planning process.

Mr. Gallegos noted that staff will distribute the links to the existing Great Western Corridor and Sundog Connector studies. Madam Chair DeWitt clarified that the CYMPO board will prioritize projects at the upcoming Board Retreat, and EMAC will be able to move forward from there.

Member Pastor suggested the committee review existing wildlife corridors within the county to obtain a better idea of the big picture. Vice-Chair Johnston noted the Wildlife Linkages Report created by Arizona Game and Fish is available for the public and displays connectivity and linkages of wildlife. Madam Chair DeWitt noted importance of identifying a scope for a project in order to be analyzing the appropriate wildlife linkages.

Mr. Gallegos acknowledged the committee's desire to be involved with any future projects as soon as possible in order to provide productive input. Member Greenberg noted desire to have more frequent meetings following the Board Retreat.

Member of the public, Ruth Anne Norris, noted importance for the EMAC to be involved in projects as soon as possible.

Mr. Gallegos explained that there is currently no funding committed to the roads discussed today. Noted that the priorities identified at the CYMPO Board Retreat will be the very beginning stage of the planning process.

Jeff Gagnon, Arizona Game and Fish, noted there is an advantage to anticipate what data will be needed once able to identify a specific project scope.

8. UPDATE OF STATEWIDE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE MITIGATION PLAN

Chuck Budinger

Member Budinger explained that the Plan task force is looking at updating a system for developing wildlife mitigation features. Conducted process for identifying hot spots throughout the state. Game & Fish conducted camera survey for State Route 69. In January 2021, the TAC drafted a hotspot mitigation strategy for development options, but realized there are not enough reconstruction projects to address the full response to wildlife crossings around the state. The group created a list of Non-Structural Mitigation Projects, including message boards, flashing signs, rumble strips, enhanced signing, and striping, or to retrofit the area with fencing or enlarged draining structures.

Noted that the SR69 Widening project will incorporate some of these non-structural mitigation methods to reduce collisions.

Jeff Gagnon, Arizona Game and Fish, noted that based on data collected, no deer have been detected using the culvert beneath SR69, however other wildlife such as javelina, bobcats, and raccoons have used the facility.

9. ADJOURNMENT 11:30AM

CYMPO endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons in need of foreign language assistance or with disabilities. However, during these trying times, the accommodations we can provide are limited. Please e-mail Allison.McCarthy@yavapai.us, 72 hours prior to the meeting to request a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting.