



MEETING MINUTES

**Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation
Advisory Committee
(EMAC)
10:00 AM**

**Monday, October 24, 2022
Training Room
Yavapai County Development Services
1120 Commerce Drive, Prescott**

****This meeting is being held in-person and via Zoom Webinar***

Members of the Public may join the Zoom meeting as an “attendee” by accessing:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ovlM-JFeRd6V6bKHmQtvbg,

Or by calling 1-602-753-0140, Webinar ID: 844 7199 1649, Passcode: 608862

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	J. D. Greenberg, Private Citizen
Member	Deb Pastor, Private Citizen
Member	John Pratt
CYMPO Staff Liaison	Lindsay Post
TAC Liaison	Dan Cherry

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

Members Anaya and Pratt were absent. Member Pastor attended virtually.

A reminder to those attending the meeting, please keep your line on mute until you wish to speak.

2. TITLE VI POLICY AND MEETING PROCEDURES

*Allison McCarthy, CYMPO Administrative Assistant
(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.

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/webinar/register/WN_ovlM-JFeRd6V6bKHmQtvbg. 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.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Madam Chair Dewitt announced that the City of Prescott will be kicking off a General Plan update. Noted that public meetings for the plan will begin in 2023.

Member Greenberg noted that the Yavapai County Comprehensive Plan is currently collecting public comment, and encouraged comments to be submitted.

5. CYMPO UPDATES

*Vincent Gallegos, CYMPO Executive Director
(Task #100)*

Mr. Gallegos explained that CYMPO will be receiving \$185,000 per year in additional funding through a new fund type entitled “Carbon Reduction Funds” over the next five years. Noted one potential use for the funds is to join with Yavapai County and the City of Prescott in developing improvements to the trailhead on Pioneer Pkwy.

Mr. Gallegos explained CYMPO has recently hired a consultant to perform a Project Assessment. Noted that through the IJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), there are many grants available, including several grant opportunities specifically for wildlife mitigation. Explained that the hired consultant will assist with identifying what projects qualify for the grants that are currently available. Mr. Gallegos noted that staff has requested that each member agency (Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and Yavapai County) submit up to three projects to be evaluated as part of the Project Assessment project. Through the Project Assessment process, the consultant will identify which projects would be viable contenders for available grant funds. Mr. Gallegos noted that CYMPO cannot submit grant applications for federal grants, and clarified that any identified grant opportunities would then be pursued by the respective local municipalities.

Member Budinger inquired if it would be appropriate for EMAC to review the projects that are submitted by each jurisdiction, or if the EMAC should submit three projects itself.

Mr. Cherry inquired if it would be appropriate to provide the same opportunity to ADOT to submit three projects for evaluation. Ms. Post responded, yes, ADOT should be included.

Mr. Cherry explained that the municipality in which the project resides will ultimately determine how to prioritize the projects that are being considered for the Project Assessment. Also noted the strong likelihood that additional funding will need to be contributed by the submitting agency for staff time and local match dollars required. Noted that projects with support from multiple jurisdictions rank more competitive for grant funding than those with support from single jurisdictions.

Mr. Gallegos suggested that the EMAC work directly with CYMPO TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) members in determining viable projects. Member Budinger expressed concern regarding EMAC’s quarterly meeting schedule, and EMAC’s ability to discuss issues and opportunities in a timely manner as they arise.

Member Greenberg expressed concern regarding limited notice that EMAC receives regarding funding opportunities. Madam Chair DeWitt noted that any potential grant opportunities for the EMAC to pursue must be vetted through the CYMPO TAC and Executive Board. Mr. Gallegos explained that CYMPO’s solution to responding to the many grant opportunities that currently exist, in the most efficient and effective manner, is by conducting the Project Assessment to provide each local jurisdiction the opportunity to participate. Explained that the local jurisdictions will make the ultimate decision for whether to pursue identified grant opportunities.

Member Greenberg expressed need for assistance and skilled labor to assist the EMAC in pursuing funding opportunities. Member Budinger suggested creating an EMAC sub-committee or task force to address opportunities in a timely manner. Madam Chair DeWitt noted that because there are now more projects for the EMAC to be involved in, meetings can be scheduled more frequently than they have been.

Ms. Post provided an update on ridership of the Yavaline transit system in the Town of Prescott Valley.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 27, 2022 MEETING MINUTES OF THE EMAC

MOTION

Vice-Chair Johnston motioned to approve the June 27, 2022 meeting minutes of the EMAC. Member Budinger seconded the motion.

VOTE

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

7. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE SUNDG CONNECTOR DESIGN CONCEPT REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVEIW PROJECT

*Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner
(Task #200)*

Ms. Post noted that the first Public Open House meeting was held on September 7th, and approximately 93 members of the public were in attendance.

Ms. Post noted that the Next Sundog Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting will be held virtually on November 9th, and the next Sundog Stakeholder meeting will be held in December (date to be determined). Also noted that the Sundog Connector Design Concept Report and Environmental Overview (DCR & EO) project is scheduled to commence in the fall of 2023, and noted that the SR69 Urbanized Corridor Master Plan will be conducted concurrently.

Madam Chair DeWitt inquired about when the EMAC can begin providing input for wildlife crossings for the project. Ms. Post responded that the upcoming STAC meeting will provide opportunity for that information to be shared.

Ms. McCarthy read a comment provided by member of the public, Dan Prijic, in attendance virtually through Zoom Webinar: “Was there any wildlife concerns to be addressed by EMAC approaches yet?”. Ms. Post responded that the first presentation of potential corridors will be provided at the upcoming STAC meeting.

Member of the public, Joanne Oellers, requested more information on the “No Build” option, and what it means and how it is evaluated. Ms. Post noted that a request will be made to the project consultant, AECOM Technical Services, Inc., to provide that information at the upcoming STAC meeting. Mr. Cherry explained that the selection of a “No-Build” option would be decided by CYMPO Executive Board. Also explained that if the “No-Build” option is approved, that the Board is essentially voting to recommend that the project not be considered for construction.

Mr. Gallegos noted that the City of Prescott has verified that there are existing development agreements to construct a 1.5-mile corridor between Prescott Lakes parkway through Storm Ranch into Yavapai Hills. Explained that CYMPO is evaluating the entire 3.5-mile corridor, but noted that CYMPO does not have authority to speak on behalf of the 1.5-miles of the corridor that is included in the City of Prescott’s development agreements.

Mr. Cherry explained that the Sundog Connector DCR & EO will provide a regional overview for how the corridor should be constructed among multiple jurisdictions, and address the environmental aspects from a regional standpoint.

Ms. Oellers noted importance for EMAC to serve as the spearhead for keeping environmental concerns in the conversation. Member Greenberg noted the importance for having conservation easements in order for wildlife to have somewhere to go on either side of a wildlife crossing.

8. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE SR69 URBANIZED CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner

(Task #200)

Ms. Post explained that Kittelson & Associates has been selected as the project consultant for the State Route 69 Urbanized Corridor Master Plan. Also noted that AECOM Technical Services, Inc., the selected consultant for the Sundog Connector DCR & EO, will serve as a subconsultant on the SR69 Master Plan project. Noted that the project schedule is expected to span through the fall of 2023.

Ms. Post noted that the comments previously provided by the EMAC regarding the Scope of Work were incorporated. Member Greenberg inquired if the project will include environmental mitigations. Ms. Post explained that environmental mitigations will be identified throughout the study, and noted that an environmental overview will be included with the project. Mr. Cherry explained that the study will evaluate the entire SR69 corridor from SR89 to SR169, and will identify problems as well as potential opportunities to mitigate those problems.

9. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PURSUIT OF FUNDING FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)

Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner

(Task #100)

Ms. Post explained that through the IIJA, \$350 million is available through the Wildlife Connectivity Pilot Project, over the next five years. Noted that potential opportunities for the EMAC to pursue will likely fall within this program.

Member Budinger inquired about if the grant funding previously discussed will be coming through the IIJA. Ms. Post responded yes, and explained that the Project Assessment project discussed earlier in the meeting is CYMPO’s response and effort for pursuing those funds. Clarified that the funds being pursued are fiscal year 2024 funds that would become available October 1, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT 11:51 PM

CYMPO endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons in need of language assistance or with disabilities. Please call (928)442-5730 or e-mail Allison.McCarthy@yavapaiaz.gov 72 hours prior to the meeting requesting reasonable accommodations.

CYMPO se esfuerza por hacer que todas las reuniones públicas sean accesibles para las personas que necesitan asistencia con el idioma o con discapacidades. Llame al (928) 442-5730 o envíe un correo electrónico a Allison.McCarthy@yavapaiaz.gov 72 horas antes de la reunión para solicitar adaptaciones razonables.

EMAC –Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2022
Zoom Webinar Chat Messages

00:27:39 Dan Prijic: What are the grant dollar ranges?

00:55:49 Dan Prijic: Was there any wildlife concerns to be addressed by EMAC approaches yet?

00:56:54 Dan Prijic: It sounds like after STAC meeting?

00:57:18 Dan Prijic: How will that occur w/quarterly EMAC meetings?