



# MEETING MINUTES

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**Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation  
Advisory Committee  
(EMAC)  
1:00 PM**

**Tuesday December 6, 2022  
Training Room  
Yavapai County Development Services  
1120 Commerce Drive, Prescott**

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

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## **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, Private Citizen
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. Madam Chair DeWitt and Vice-Chair Johnston attended virtually. All other members were present.

*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)*

**Title VI:** 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.

**Meeting Procedures:** Chair may or may not allow for public comment on items on the agenda. The Chair may limit the number of speakers and the length of comments provided.

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*. Please complete a **Request for Public Input** card and submit to CYMPO staff prior to the beginning of the meeting. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes. *Any members of the public attending virtually wishing to address the board may request to speak or provide a written comment by using the “Raise My Hand” or “Q & A Comments” features available through the webinar.*

Ms. Oellers, with Save the Dells, announced new a new wildlife advocacy community group is being formed. The name of the group is yet to be determined.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Madam Chair Dewitt noted the City of Prescott is beginning the Comprehensive Plan Update. Explained that the intent is to have surveys available on the website by February, and to hold Public Open House meetings in May and June 2023.

5. **CYMPO UPDATES**

*Vincent Gallegos, CYMPO Executive Director*

*Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner*

*Bryn Stotler, CYMPO Planner*

*(Task #100)*

Mr. Gallegos explained that due to changes in officer positions on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Dan Cherry, Public Works Director for Yavapai County and TAC member, has accepted the position of Chair for the TAC. Explained that Frank Marbury, Public Works Director/Town Engineer for the Town of Chino Valley and TAC member, will serve as the new TAC Liaison for the EMAC.

Mr. Gallegos explained that CYMPO now receives \$185,000 annually from a new funding source entitled the “Carbon Reduction Fund”. Explained CYMPO intends to propose a Carbon Reduction Study to the TAC and Executive Board that will identify and prioritize projects specifically for the EMAC’s focus. Also noted that the study will address the roles and responsibilities within the EMAC membership, and anticipates the duration of the study to be three months.

Member Greenberg inquired if the consultant would take the place of Ms. Post. Mr. Gallegos responded that is not the intent. Ms. Greenberg inquired if this study would allow for the EMAC to evaluate more local projects. Mr. Gallegos explained this will be discussed throughout the course of the study, and will result in a recommendation made by the project consultant. Ms. Greenberg suggested that the EMAC be considered to address environmental issues within all of CYMPO’s member agencies.

Member of the public, Barbara Jacobsen, expressed concerned about the role of the consultant. Mr. Gallegos explained that the goal of CYMPO has been to include the EMAC in CYMPO projects as early as possible. Also explained that the hired consultant will serve CYMPO and the region based upon the direction given by the project stakeholders, which will include the EMAC. Also noted that the consultant will produce recommendations to ultimately be considered by the CYMPO Executive Board. Mr. Cherry explained that the intent for bringing a consultant on board is to look at a wider range of projects and to prioritize them.

Ms. Post noted that the consultant will assist with developing policies and creating maps to aid EMAC’s efforts. Member Budinger suggested that a formalized map be created to identify key wildlife corridors throughout the CYMPO region.

Ms. Post explained that the consultant would recommend roles and responsibilities within the EMAC. Members Greenberg and Budinger suggested that groups such as the Arizona Antelope Association and Mule Deer Association be involved in the study process.

Mr. Cherry inquired if the deer groups in the region conduct regular wildlife counts. Vice-Chair Johnston explained that Arizona Game and Fish performs collaring and research initiatives. Mr. Cherry noted possible partnership opportunity with CYMPO to contribute funding for updated data collection.

Member Budinger noted that he is exploring the potential of federal funds to aid with wildlife mitigations along the State Route (SR) 69 corridor. Also requested that the study being discussed include evaluation of corridors across the entire CYMPO boundary. Mr. Gallegos clarified that the study being proposed would include the entire CYMPO boundary, and mentioned that the CYMPO boundary is being considered for expansion. Also explained that the SR69 Urbanized Corridor Master Plan will evaluate wildlife crossings along the SR69 corridor between SR169 and SR89. Member Budinger inquired if funding will be available within the SR69 Master Plan to provide an environmental assessment. Mr. Gallegos explained that funding is available to identify and prioritize potential projects and provide more detailed information for implementation of those projects. Mr. Cherry suggested that data collected from ADOT and Arizona Game and Fish should be incorporated into the SR69 Master Plan.

Ms. Post explained the Project Assessment project will include a \$10,000 project for wildlife crossing signage. Member Greenberg inquired about the possibility for private citizens to contribute funds to specific projects. Ms. Post noted effectiveness of Private Public Partnerships, and suggested a possible way to use local contributions could be through sponsorships from various organizations. Also noted that the project consultant could aid in the exploration of potential Private Public Partnership opportunities.

Member Greenberg requested addressing membership absences for the EMAC at the next meeting. Mr. Gallegos noted that policies related to EMAC membership will be addressed as part of the study.

Ms. Post explained that the SR69 Urbanized Corridor Master Plan will formally kick off in January. Also announced that new information was collected by the consultant, AECOM, that is conducting the Sundog Connector Design Concept Report & Environmental Overview (DCR & EO). The new information is being incorporated into the draft preliminary design materials and will be presented at the next meeting.

Ms. Post introduced Bryn Stotler as project manager of the Active Transportation Plan. Ms. Stotler explained that for the first time ever, an Active Transportation Plan will be conducted for the region. Explained that the scope of work will include inventory of existing facilities, trip origination and destination, land use and development, connections to transit facilities, safe pedestrian and bicycle travel, identify gaps in the network, and equity analysis. Noted that the plan will identify and prioritize potential projects for implementation. Explained that key stakeholders will be identified and included in the project process. Also noted the plan is anticipated to kick off in May 2023.

Member Greenberg inquired if it would be appropriate for the CYMPO Executive Board to make recommendations to each of the local jurisdictions regarding safety and building codes to preserve corridors. Mr. Gallegos explained staff is exploring what level of influence this study could play.

Mr. Marbury noted that there is an update being performed to the Town of Chino Valley's General Plan.

Ms. Stotler noted the importance for acknowledging each jurisdiction's set of priorities, and the intent to address these priorities throughout the planning process.

**6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 24, 2022 MEETING MINUTES OF THE EMAC**

**MOTION**

Member Budinger motioned to approve the October 24, 2022 meeting minutes of the EMAC. Vice-Chair Johnston seconded the motion.

**VOTE**

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE EMAC**

*Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner*

*(Task #100)*

Ms. Post reviewed the proposed 2023 EMAC meeting schedule.

**MOTION**

Member Greenberg motioned to approve the 2023 meeting schedule of the EMAC as presented, with the provision to be flexible should the need for additional meetings arise. Member Budinger seconded the motion.

**VOTE**

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**8. ADJOURNMENT 2:19PM**

*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@yavapai.gov](mailto:Allison.McCarthy@yavapai.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@yavapai.gov](mailto:Allison.McCarthy@yavapai.gov) 72 horas antes de la reunión para solicitar adaptaciones razonables.*