



MEETING MINUTES

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

**Monday, January 23, 2022
Training Room
Yavapai County Development Services
1120 Commerce Drive, Prescott**

The virtual option for this meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar:
Members of the Public may join the webinar as an “attendee” clicking [here](#),
or by calling: 1-602-753-0140, Webinar ID: 861 5144 0051, Passcode: 409619

CYMPO Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee

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|---------------------|---|
| 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 | Frank Marbury |

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 Pratt absent. Vice-Chair Johnston and members Pastor and Greenberg 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)*

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.*

No comments were provided.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

No announcements or updates were provided.

5. **CYMPO UPDATES**

Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner

Bryn Stotler, CYMPO Planner

(Task #100)

Ms. Post explained that the next Stakeholder meeting for the Sundog Connector Design Concept Report & Environmental Overview (DCR & EO) will be scheduled in the near future. Also noted that the State Route (SR) 69 Urbanized Corridor Master Plan has kicked off. Noted that the scope of work for a SR89A DCR is being developed.

Ms. Post noted staff is beginning work on the SR89A DCR between Glassford Hill Road and SR89. Also noted the initiative being led by the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) on behalf of Greater Arizona to pursue funding for transportation projects. Noted that funding is being pursued through this initiative for safety and capacity improvements on SR89 between Road 3 North and Road 5 North.

Ms. Stotler noted that CYMPO staff is in the process of providing general presentations about CYMPO to the Quad Cities councils and boards.

Member of the Public, Rich Kaplan, inquired about what EMAC is doing to fulfill its mission in regards to the Sundog Connector. Madam Chair DeWitt responded that once proposed corridors are identified, wildlife and environmental evaluations will take place. Ms. Post noted that an Environmental Overview is included as part of the Sundog Connector study, and agreed to share the contact information for project consultant’s (AECOM) assigned environmental staff.

Ms. Post requested to reopen agenda item number four.

Member Budinger described a map of SR69 that could identify opportunities to promote the movement of wildlife. Also noted the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides a method for the Forest Service to purchase land for the purpose of wildlife connectivity. Explained that ADOT is working with the Forest Service in attempt to identify funds to purchase connecting sections. The Act allocates \$900 million annually that cannot be raided.

Ms. Post requested that Member Anaya and Member Budinger continue to explore opportunities provided through the Great American Outdoors Act. Member Anaya explained that leadership within the Forest Service will need to be consulted.

Ms. McCarthy read the typed chat message from Member Greenberg, “It would be nice if some of the funds could be used for state trust land”.

Mr. Marbury provided clarification on an earlier comment made regarding the Sundog Connector. Explained that each alternative for the Sundog will be weighed based on merits, and presented as such. Noted that as part of the evaluation process, one particular item will not get more focus than the others.

Mr. Kaplan, member of the public, inquired about what factors and considerations would go into the evaluation of a No Build option. Ms. Post explained that a No Build scenario will take into consideration the existing development agreements, and noted that there is not a set “trigger” that determines whether or not a No Build option will be implanted. Explained that the decision will ultimately be made by elected decision makers.

Mr. Kaplan suggested that objective criteria be identified for the determination of a No Build option, and urged the EMAC to fulfill its responsibility in the evaluation of the Sundog Connector.

Ms. Stotler explained that the No Build option also assesses the secondary consequences of not building the studies corridor. Mr. Kaplan suggested that it should be studied to what extend prioritizing SR69 would outweigh the needs for Sundog Connector.

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

Members Budinger and Greenberg requested modifications to be made.

MOTION

Member Budinger motioned to approve the December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes of the EMAC with the discussed changes. Vice-Chair Johnston seconded the motion.

VOTE

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

7. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLAN

*Lindsay Post, CYMPO Planner
(Task #100)*

Ms. Post explained that the presented scope of work outlines a plan that would identify environmental projects as well as evaluate EMAC best practices.

Mr. Kaplan, member of the public, suggested that the environmental impacts of Sundog connector be evaluated in comparison to environmental impacts of the SR69 corridor. Ms. Post responded that the hired consultant would assist with the prioritizing of such projects.

Member of the public, Molly Parrot, inquired why a consultant is coming in to assess EMAC. Ms. Post explained that a consultant will assess the committee and recommend ways to improve function and proactivity of the committee.

Ms. Stotler explained that new funding sources are being received, and in order to optimize the capturing of funding, this analysis will help the EMAC identify better project-oriented priorities.

MOTION

Member Budinger motioned to recommend the study to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Member Anaya seconded the motion.

VOTE

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

8. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE ACTIVE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION - UNIFIED PLAN (ACT-UP)

Bryn Stotler, CYMPO Planner

(Task #500)

Ms. Stotler explained that the anticipated kickoff date for the ACT-UP will be in May 2023. Ms. Stotler reviewed the draft scope of work with the committee.

Ms. Stotler explained that the plan will evaluate active transportation for the entire CYMPO region, and that additional sub-scoped plans will be included to evaluate each unique jurisdiction, such as Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, and Dewey-Humboldt. Noted elements that will be considered as part of the plan will include, but not limited to bike lanes, crosswalks, bicycle signage, access school campus access. Noted that \$200,000 has been allocated to conduct the ACT-UP.

Ms. Stotler noted that CYMPO is currently participating in a regional safety plan, and explained that the data from the safety plan will be used as part of the ACT-UP to identify specific safety concerns. Also explained that projects will be identified and prioritized per jurisdiction with preliminary costs identified. Noted that a stakeholder list is in development and requested suggestions.

Ms. Post explained that region is designated as transportation disadvantaged community by the US census. Noted the lack of alternative routes or transportation options for people that do not drive. Clarified that resiliency refers to a community's ability to provide and respond to such needs.

Mr. Kaplan, member of the public, commented regarding health impacts of transportation in relation to a community's resiliency. Mr. Kaplan also inquired if those considerations are included in the Sundog Connector DCR & EO project. Ms. Post confirmed that environmental considerations will be included as part of the plan.

Ms. Stotler clarified that Equity Analysis refers to the public's ability to access facilities safely.

Mr. Budinger provided maps to Ms. Post to be distributed to the EMAC.

9. ADJOURNMENT 11:05AM

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 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 72 horas antes de la reunión para solicitar adaptaciones razonables.