

The Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) met in Regular Board Meeting session on Monday, May 31, 2022 at Yuma County Department of Development Services, Aldrich Hall; 2351 West 26th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364. The Chair, Mr. Jerry Cabrera called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M.

**Members Present:**

Jerry Cabrera/City of Somerton/Chair  
Ralph Velez/City of San Luis/Vice Chair  
Jay Simonton/City of Yuma/Secretary/Treasurer  
Brian Golding, Sr./Quechan Tribe  
Dr. Michael Sabath/Northern Arizona University  
Eric Holland/Cocopah Tribe  
Susanna M. Zambrano/Arizona Western College  
Susan Thorpe/Yuma County

**Members Absent:**

Richard Marsh/Town of Wellton

**Others Present:**

Shelly Kreger/YCIPTA/Transit Director  
Carol Perez/YCIPTA/Transit Operations Manager  
Chona Medel/YCIPTA/Financial Services Operations Manager  
Anabel Teran/RATP Dev/Operation Manager  
Wayne Benesch/Benesch, Shadle & White, PLC /Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth Punpayuk/Benesch, Shadle & White, PLC /Legal Counsel  
Ian McGaughey /Yuma County/ Deputy County Administrator  
Ross Poppenberger/AWC/VP for Finance and Administrative Services  
Michelle Landis/AWC/Director of Financial Services and Controller

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Thorpe.

**CALL TO PUBLIC:**

No comments were made. No action required; no action taken.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**No. 1: Adopt the April 25, 2022 regular session minutes. Action required.**

**Motion (Zambrano/Sabath): Approve item as amended.**

**Voice Vote: Motion Carries, 8-0) with Mr. Marsh being excused.**

**DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS:**

**No. 1: Discussion and or action regarding Arizona Western College membership dues. Ross Poppenberger to present. Action may be required.**

Ms. Kreger introduced Mr. Poppenberger to the Board.

Mr. Poppenberger stated there was a few things to address regarding the May 18<sup>th</sup> email from Ms. Thorpe.

Ms. Thorpe stated that she wanted Mr. Poppenberger to provide a little background since not all Members were privy to the discussion.

Ms. Thorpe stated that she attended a meeting with Mr. Cabrera Mr. Poppenberger and Dr. Corr on May 12<sup>th</sup> and the email recapped discussion that was had and provided some information that was provided by Ms. Kreger.

Mr. Poppenberger stated what prompted the meeting was the increase in dues and the one-time contribution.

Mr. Poppenberger stated the following:

- Students are charged \$5.00 fee funds go to transportation
- Misinformation regarding the fee, the amount of the fee is correct but the enrolment numbers are incorrect
- Enrollment is 11,500 per year and not semester
- On average about \$70,000 is collects by AWC per year from student fees
- About \$30,000 per year was subsidizes by AWC
- About 1000 of the stickers were issued the past semester

Mr. Poppenberger requested the Board to reconsider the assessment as it is a significant impact that was not budgeted for 2023.

Mr. Poppenberger also requested the new annual dues to be reduced as well as the one-time contribution.

Mr. Poppenberger stated that AWC recognizes that transportation is a barrier to education and recognizes its value.

Mr. Simonton stated that it was important to work with AWC because to lose \$100,000 would be detrimental to the organization.

Mr. Simonton stated that they were not in a position to make a decision today but can discuss it further, however, the Authority can't continue to operating at the same cost.

Mr. Velez inquired if Mr. Poppenberger had any idea what the summer numbers were  
Mr. Poppenberger stated that he had no numbers.

Mr. Cabrera stated that just the cost of running Silver Route was \$128,000.

Ms. Kreger stated that the route's ridership could be reviewed. However, students would still able to utilize Yellow Route 95 and Orange Route 2 to get to the college, it would just take longer.

Mr. Poppenberger stated that the numbers lend themselves to bigger discussion.

Dr. Sabath supported Mr. Simonton's comments to reconsider the amounts for the dues and stated to possibly make a motion to work with AWC.

**Motion (Simonton/Sabath): Financial Sustainability to work with AWC to discuss and come to a final decision within two-week period.**

**Voice Vote: Motion Carries, 8-0) with Mr. Marsh being excused.**

**No. 2: Discussion and or action regarding the Draft Eastern Imperial County Transit Services Operation and Implementation Business Plan and Draft FY22-23 YCIPTA MOU Exhibit A Amendment Twelve. Action required.**

Ms. Kreger provided the information for this item as contained in the member packet.

Mr. Golding stated that this year Imperial Valley Transportation Commission increased their contribution.

**Motion (Velez/Zambrano): To approve item as presented**

**Voice Vote: Motion Carries, 8-0) with Mr. Marsh being excused.**

**No. 3: Discussion and or action regarding the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration apportionment. No action required.**

Ms. Kreger stated that this item was discussed at the last Board meeting.

Ms. Kreger provided the information for this item as contained in the member packet stating that apportionments are supposed to reviewed annually.

Ms. Kreger stated that this year there was a requirement to provide proof of local match and since there was none, ADOT took the funds.

No action taken; no action required.

**No. 4: Discussion and or action regarding the cancellation of the NightCat services. Action required.**

Ms. Kreger stated that upon reviewing the NightCat it was an easy choice to cancel the service due to performance.

Ms. Kreger stated a two weeks' notice would be provided to the public.

Mr. Simonton stated that two weeks' notice might not be sufficient time.

Ms. Thorpe stated that there were only two passengers that utilize the service.

Ms. Zambrano inquired as to what other options at night are there.

Ms. Kreger suggested Uber or Lyft.

Ms. Zambrano inquired if the Board was okay with a two week notice to the public.

Mr. Simonton stated that July 1<sup>st</sup> would be a better option.

**Motion (Thorpe/Simonton): To cancel NightCat effective July 1, 2022.  
Voice Vote: Motion Carries, 8-0) with Mr. Marsh being excused.**

**No. 5: Discussion and or action regarding YCIPTA Shelter and Bus Stop permit status report. No action required.**

Ms. Kreger stated that several attempts to make contact Mr. Kevin Burge from Core Engineering Group regarding permitting.

Ms. Kreger stated that through a Facebook post it was discovered that Mr. Burge has brain cancer.

Ms. Kreger stated that she has reached out to Mr. Doug Nicholls and he will be the new point of contact.

No action taken; no action required.

**No. 6: Discussion and or Action regarding the timeline for new Operations and Maintenance Facility. No action required. NO UPDATES**

No updates. No action taken; no action required.

**PROGRESS REPORTS:**

**No. 1: Operations Manager Report/Maintenance Update– Oliver Cromwell, General Manager – RATP Dev. *No action required.***

Ms. Teran provided the report as contained in the member packet. No action taken; no action required.

**No. 2: Transit Director Report – Shelly Kreger, YCIPTA Transit Director. *No action is required.***

Ms. Kreger provided the information for this item as contained in the member packet.

Ms. Thorpe inquired if the Authority's cost per revenue hour was comparable to others agencies.

Ms. Kreger stated that YCIPTA was comparable to other agencies our size. No action taken; no action required.

**No. 3: Transit Ridership – Carol Perez, Transit Operations Manager. *No action is required.***

Ms. Perez provided the information for this item as contained in the member packet. No action taken; no action required.

**No. 4: Financial Report – Chona Medel, YCIPTA Financial Services Operations Manager. No action is required.**

Mrs. Medel provided the information for this item as contained in the member packet. No action taken; no action required.

Upon vote of the Directors, the Chairman recesses the Regular Session and convenes Executive Session.

**Motion (Golding/Zambrano): To recess the Regular session and convene Executive Session.**

**Voice Vote: Motion Carries, 8-0) with Mr. Marsh being excused.**

Recessed Regular Session and convene Executive Session at 2:04 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**No. 1: Discussion regarding Financial Sustainability Committee recommendations. This matter is brought in executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38- 431.03(A)(1) & (3)**

Chairman adjourns Executive Session and reconvenes Regular Session at 2:38 p.m.

**No. 7: Discussion and or action regarding Financial Sustainability Committee recommendations. Action may be required.**

Discussion ensued as to what the motion should be and if there should be separate motions for AWC and NAU or a joint motion.

Mr. Benesch suggested that meeting should be between Board Members, AWC Executive Directors and Transit Executive Director.

Ms. Thorpe stated that we should not have two different paths for the discussion for AWC and NAU.

Dr. Sabath stated that NAU was looking to remove themselves from the Board.

Dr. Sabath further stated that NAU was willing to discuss the one-time contribution amount but it was longer feasible to stay on the Board.

**Motion (Golding/Thorpe): The Board to designate the Financial Sustainability Committee to meet with AWC/NAU regarding the one-time debt payment and the annual dues for reconsideration.**

**Voice Vote: Motion Carries, 7-1 with Dr. Sabath abstaining with Mr. Marsh being excused.**

**No. 8: Discussion and or action regarding YCIPTA staff. Action may be required.**

No action taken.

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE AND IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS:**

June 27, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Authority in regular session, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

YUMA COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Adopted this June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Agenda Item CC1.



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Carol Perez, Board Secretary