



# SIERRA VISTA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES: JULY 6, 2022

**DRAFT**

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## MEETING LOCATION:

City of Sierra Vista, City Hall  
City Manager's Conference Room  
1011 North Coronado Drive  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

## MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MTG Join on your computer or mobile app

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Phone Conference ID: 407 585 379#

## MEETING DATE AND TIME:

July 6, 2022

3:35 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS:

Website: [www.svmppo.org](http://www.svmppo.org)

Email: [SVMPO@SierraVistaAZ.gov](mailto:SVMPO@SierraVistaAZ.gov)

SVMPO Director Phone: 520-515-8525

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## SVMPO BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Rachel Gray, Mayor, City of Sierra Vista

Vice-Chair: Carolyn Umphrey, Councilmember City of Sierra Vista

Member: Cynthia Butterworth, Councilmember, Town of Huachuca City

Member: Gregory Johnson, Councilmember City of Sierra Vista

Member: Peggy Judd, County Supervisor, Cochise County (*virtually*)

## SVMPO BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Member: Richard Searle, State Transportation Board

## STAFF:

SVMPO Director: Karen L. Lamberton, AICP

SVMPO Engineer: Dennis Donovan P.E.

SVMPO Intern: Cat Porter, BYU-I

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuck Potucek, Sierra Vista City Manager

Brad Simmons, P.E., Cochise County Civil Engineer

Jim (Doc) Johnson, Ph.D, CBO, CCI : Building Official, Huachuca City

Suzanne Harvey, Huachuca City Town Manager

Kevin Adams, RTAC (*virtually*)

## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 3:58 p.m. Chair Gray, Vice-Chair Umphrey and Members Butterworth, Johnson and Judd (*virtually*) present. A quorum was present.

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Gray asked if there were any adjustments requested to the presented agenda. Hearing none, the Chair asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Member Johnson made the motion, Member Umphrey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Member Johnson  
**SECOND:** Member Umphrey  
**ACTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5/0

**2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chair Gray noted that no members of the public appeared to be present and asked if anyone was on-line that wished to address the Board. Hearing no requests to speak from members of the public, Chair Gray then closed the Call to the Public.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (June 22, 2022)**

Chair Gray asked if any Board member had any comments or corrections to the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2022. The SVMPO Director noted one typo on page 1 and that had been corrected electronically. After a moment for Board members to take a look at the presented minutes, no other corrections were noted. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the June 22, 2022 minutes as corrected.

Member Johnson made the motion to accept the meeting minutes with the one noted correction, Member Butterworth seconded, and the motion to approve the June 22, 2022, meeting minutes were then unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** Member Johnson  
**SECOND:** Member Butterworth  
**ACTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5/0

**NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

**4. TIP PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**

Chair Gray noted that the Board had just completed a valuable and detailed discussion on this topic and asked the SVMPO Director to quickly summarize the consensus of the Work Session attendees. briefed the Board

**The SVMPO Director highlighted the following action steps that will be taken:**

- Additional research on potential formula options that could share the TIP funding among all three member jurisdictions.
- Engage in discussion and seek input from the SVMPO Technical Advisory Committee on potential formulas and TIP processes.
- Consider holding a Joint SVMPO Board/Member Jurisdiction Managers Work Session to discuss possible option developed with the SVMPO TIP, potentially early 2023.
- Bring forward two or three options to the SVMPO Board for consideration, consensus and potential action.

It is desired by the Board to adopt policies/procedures in advance of the next TIP adoption.

## 5. RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY REPORT/LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Kevin Adam, Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) liaison, provided a brief end of legislative session update. He stated that just immediately before this meeting Governor Dulcy had vetoed the MAG bill to extend their transportation sales tax. That tax expires in 2025 so there is time to address this next year again. The veto letter had not yet been issued so it was not clear as to why the Governor had vetoed this long-standing local initiative to provide local transportation dollars. *(The veto letter stated that the Governor felt that this was an additional tax at a time of economic stress, should have included amendments proposed late in the session to this bill, and lacked clarity as to what was being proposed for the use of these tax dollars).*

Although the \$66 million rural transportation project bill proposed by RTAC did not ultimately pass *(it had made it to the second to last day of the legislative session with House and Senate Leadership support)* the advocacy effort did increase direct funding to rural Arizona for additional highway projects. An additional \$43 million was provided in the State Budget for work on Highway 90. Of the RTAC project list proposed 14 additional transportation projects were added. The intention of the RTAC Board is to re-propose a Rural Transportation Bill packet. The RTAC Advisory Committee and Board were discussing presenting next year's "ask" at the September 2022 Rural Summit.

The SVMPO Director asked about the three-tier approach that had been discussed at the RTAC Advisory Committee and if that had been approved by the RTAC board members. Mr. Adams noted that the three-tier approach is still working out the details. It was not the intent to bring forward three separate bills but anticipate narrowing down the funding range and selection of projects once the elections are over in November and the budget for next year suggested a reasonable funding target. Real-time adjustments will then be more easily made – the last session there was a scramble to adjust direction to create a state highway list of preference. The SVMPO Board indicated an agreement that only one single bill go forward, not several versions or levels.

Chair Gray noted that developing these legislative proposals was a lot of work for small MPO's that have limited staffing. Kevin Adams stated that he does not expect all MPOs and COGs to have their three-tiers done by the Rural Summit since it will be a challenge with less time and the Summit being scheduled one month earlier. Mr. Adams also pointed out that a benefit of the state earmarks is that the projects being brought forward are up to the MPO's and that there are no federal strings on the use of this state funding, if included. The big deadline is actually in early December, in advance of the bill preparation for submittal in January. Advocacy from all elected officials will be needed, preferably one-on-one discussions when possible. Educating and gaining support of the new legislators, estimated to be about one-third change-over next November, will be critical. Chair Gray was complimented for her efforts with Senator Gowan in this last legislative session.

SVMPO Director Lamberton asked the Board if they were comfortable with her working with the SVMPO Chair, and the member jurisdictions directly, to select from the adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan and the unfunded TIP project list to form the three-tiers of potential projects, given the timeframe. As the Board will not be meeting until October, unless a special Board meeting is called this was the opportunity to provide feedback. There was consensus from the

Board to follow the recommendation of the SVMPO Director and draw from the list as noted in the memo on this item (*The two projects submitted in the last legislative bill and the unfunded TIP project list*). The Board also concurred with internal funding adjustments to take into account the rise in costs of 30% or more. The SVMPO Director thanked the Board for their guidance and advised she would keep them in the loop. She also cautioned that clearly the State Legislators might not support such a bill but if we don't ask, we are sure to not get any increases for needed transportation infrastructure in our region.

This was a discussion item. No action was taken.

## 6. BOARD CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS

Chair Gray advised the SVMPO Board that she must step down from her current position as her role as the City's Mayor pro tem in order to run for the November elections. She stated that in situations like this typically the Vice-Chair would be moved to Chair and then a new Vice-Chair would be chosen. Chair Grey then made a motion to move the current Vice-Chair Umphrey to the SVMPO Chair position (*to be effective after meeting adjournment*). Vice-Chair Umphrey indicated willingness to accept. Member Butterworth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Chair Gray

**SECOND:** Member Butterworth

**ACTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5/0

The Vice-Chair position now being vacant, Member Johnson then moved to appoint Member Butterworth to the Vice-Chair position. Board members commented that Member Butterworth would be an appropriate choice as she is diligent at attending every meeting and actively participating. Member Butterworth indicated willingness to serve until the next election for Chair/Vice-Chair positions to be held early next year. Member Judd seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Member Johnson

**SECOND:** Member Judd

**ACTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 5/0

## 7. UPCOMING SCHEDULED MEETINGS and DIRECTOR'S REPORT

However, the SVMPO will pay for registration for Board members and TAC members and their alternates. The SVMPO Director noted that she does not plan intend to attend all Conferences but will send staff or TAC members to some of these events. Vice-Chair/incoming Chair Humphrey plans to attend the Rural Summit. Huachuca City confirmed that their Town Manager, Suzanne Harvey will also attend the Rural Summit. Member Johnson confirmed with staff that the hotel and travel costs for conferences are the jurisdiction responsibilities.

City Manager Potuck assured City appointees to the SVMPO Board that additional travel costs would be covered for any SVMPO conferences they desired to attend.

At the October Board Meeting the SVMPO Director expects to provide an end of fiscal year Financial Report. She noted that the FY22 In-Kind overmatch appears to be sufficient to cover the SunCloud match agreement.

SVMPO TAC Meeting: October 12th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

SVMPO Board Meeting: October 26, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

**Conferences:**

AZPlanning Conference: August 24<sup>th</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup> Scottsdale, AZ

Rural Summit: September 14<sup>th</sup> – September 16<sup>th</sup> Maricopa, AZ

Roads and Streets Conference – September 28<sup>th</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> Tucson, AZ

This was an information item. No action was taken.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The last SVMPO Board meeting for the calendar year will be October 26, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. Items may include an end of fiscal year report, presentations on the Theater Drive Inventory & Assessment and Moson Rd. Corridor Pre-Scoping Study by the consultant teams, update on 2023 legislative agenda.

This was an information item. No action was taken.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT of REGULAR SESSION**

By general consent, the SVMPO Board regular meeting was then adjourned at 4:30 p.m.