



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE:	July 14, 2026	TIME:	10:00 AM
PLACE:	City of Eloy – City Hall, 595 N. C St., Eloy, AZ 85131		
VIRTUAL OPTION:	Click to Join Meeting Now Meeting ID: 251 072 020 625 53 Passcode: rU9mi3UH Dial in by Phone: +1 323-673-4336, 239 324 477#		
	Irene Higgs 520-705-5143		

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES

Board Members Present:	Mayor Lisa Fitzgibbons, Casa Grande Supervisor Jeffrey McClure, Pinal County Mayor Jon Thompson, Coolidge Mayor Andy Sutton, Eloy Doug Coleman, State Transportation Board	Others Present:	Will Randolph, ADOT (Virtual) Mick Mathieu, CivTech (Virtual) Robert Aldous, Casa Grande Nina Arredondo, Pinal County (Virtual) John Kross, Pinal RTA (Virtual) Jeremy Moore, ADOT (Virtual) Priscilla Thompson, ADOT (Virtual) Elizabeth Barnes, Hanson, Horrocks (Virtual) Ben Navarro, Coolidge Refugio Gallegos, Eloy
Board Members Absent:	N/A		
Staff Present:	Irene Higgs, Executive Director Jason Bottjen, Deputy Director Starla Anderson, Transportation Planning Manager Jill Dickey, Operations Manager		

ITEM	AGENDA ITEM	
1	Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions	10:02 AM
	<i>Chairman Sutton called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.</i>	
2	Title VI - Notice to the Public	
	<i>SCMPO Executive Director, Irene Higgs, read the Title VI Public Notice.</i>	
3	Call to the Public: This item is to provide an opportunity for citizens wishing to address the Executive Board on issues within the jurisdiction of the Sun Corridor MPO planning area that are not on the Agenda. Comments SHALL be limited to three (3) minutes or less.	
	<i>No comments from the Public.</i>	
4	Discussion of the Legislative Reports on Current Legislation by the Regional Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) (Information Only)	
	<i>Irene Higgs provided the following update:</i> <i>The RTAC Board has hired an attorney and is starting work on executing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with all COGs & MPOs for RTAC to become a standalone agency. We are contracting with someone to work 40 hours per month to assist with the development of the IGA and with getting it executed.</i> <i>The Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) Board has approved the development of an RTAC Priority Project Bill for possible inclusion in the State Budget for FY2028. The Statewide request for Greater Arizona is \$480M. The Sun Corridor MPO Request is \$33,139,200 with each agency requesting \$8,284,800</i> <i>Sun Corridor Region RTAC Priority Project Presentation.</i> <i>Ben Navarro, City of Coolidge Public Works Director, presented the joint priority project request between the City of Casa Grande, City of Coolidge, and Pinal County. The project is to widen Selma Highway from SR87 to Curry Rd - I-10 to Toltec Buttes.</i> <i>Refugio Gallegos, City of Eloy Public Works Director, presented the joint priority project request for the City of Eloy. The project is to widen Sunland Gin Road from Nelson Farm Road to Adams Road.</i>	

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5	Discussion of the Current Updates of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Activities (Information Only): • City of Eloy Safe Routes to School Study • City of Eloy Transit Study
	<i>Jason Bottjen provided the following Update:</i> Eloy Safe Route to School Study - •Kimley Horn submitted the Project Management Plan, Public Involvement Plan, and Four Factor Analysis for Persons with Language Needs to the Project Management Team on May 22, 2026, with comments due June 5, 2026. The updated documents with comments addressed were provided on June 10, 2026. The Consultant is working to schedule a Study Stakeholder Safety Summit with representatives from all schools and school districts involved in the study for late July. Eloy Transit Feasibility Study - The Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on April 15, 2026 with proposals due May 15, 2026. Five proposals were received. The Consultant Selection Committee met on June 23, 2026 and selected Kimley-Horn. A preliminary award letter was sent to Kimley-Horn on June 24, 2026. SCMPO Staff are currently negotiating the Professional Services Agreement (PSA), which is expected to be executed with the Notice to Proceed (NTP) sent out late June/Early July.
6	Discussion of the Current Updates of the Pinal County Air Quality Activities (Information Only)
	<i>Jason Bottjen provided the following update for Pinal County:</i> • SCMPO June 2026 Air Quality Conformity The 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period ran from April 23, 2026 through May 23, 2026. No comments were received. The associated Transportation Improvement Program Amendment and Finding of Conformity were approved at the June 9, 2026 Executive Board meeting. The letters to FHWA & FTA requesting a Finding of Conformity were sent on June 11, 2026. • SCMPO January 2027 Air Quality Conformity SCMPO staff has worked with member agency staff to update the SCMPO Region's Air Quality project list in recent weeks. As part of this conformity cycle, we are including an updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY2027-2031. Approval of the January 2027 Air Quality Project List including the DRAFT FY2027-2031 TIP, and 30-day Public Review and comment period were approved at the June 9, 2026 Executive Board meeting. MAG has started coding each air quality project.
7	Discussion of the Current Updates of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Multimodal Planning Division (Information Only) • ADOT FY27-31 Tentative Five-Year Construction Program • ADOT 2055 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) • Transportation Alternatives • Phoenix-Tucson Intercity Passenger Rail Study • North/South Corridor Tier 2 Study Update
	<i>Will Randolph provided the following update:</i> 1. ADOT FY27-31 Tentative Five-Year Construction Program : The 5 year construction plan has been approved by the board and ADOT staff are moving into technical scoring and P2P workshops for the next annual review cycle of FY28-32. 2. Next Move AZ Listening Tour/ Transportation Plan (LRTP): The Next Move AZ Program meetings are concluding with a few stakeholder meetings occurring and general public pop-up events in July. 3. Transportation Alternatives : The FY27-29 call for project applications have been scored, reviewed, and selected. SCMPO was awarded 8 projects. Please visit the TA Program website for detailed information, program guide and application review ranking and scoring. https://azdot.gov/TA. 4. Phoenix-Tucson Intercity Passenger Rail Study : The project Team is awaiting FRA's Step 2 NOFO release. FRA currently does not have a timeline to issue NOFO's. Project Website: azdot.gov/PhoenixTucsonPassengerRail 5. N/S Corridor Segment Tier 2 Study : Right of entry permitting for the project is complete. The Section 404 Clean Water Act document has been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Species-specific biological protocol surveys are underway for the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and Yuma Ridgway's rail and are scheduled to be complete in late summer or early fall. Cultural field work is complete, and focus has now shifted to the reporting effort. ADOT is continuing identification of environmental and infrastructure constraints based on data collected to date, which will inform the development and placement of potential alternatives. The team is overlaying data sets to identify areas of constraint/opportunity for potential alignments. For more information, please visit the project website. https://azdot.gov/north-south-corridor-study-proposed-new-transportation-route-pinal-county
8	Discussion of the Current Updates of the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) (Information Only) • USDOT has published the FY 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (INFRA) Notice of Funding Opportunity
	<i>Irene Higgs provided the following update:</i> USDOT has published the FY 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (INFRA) Notice of Funding Opportunity. Applications were due for Track 1 on July 1, 2026 and Track 2 July 15, 2026. I am not aware of any projects being submitted within the MPO region. Anthony Sarhan has officially been named the FHWA Arizona Division Administrator.

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9	Presentation of the ADOT Southcentral District Projects (Information Only) Regional Design/Construction Projects Administered by ADOT
	<i>Priscilla Thompson, ADOT SouthCentral Assistant District Engineer, provided the following update:</i> Casa Grande: - SR 387 at Pinal Ave and Viola Street - Install HAWK - AJP Electric; Construction Start October 2025; Construction Anticipated Finish August 2026. - Centennial Boulevard and Pinal Avenue (SR 387) - Construct Traffic Signal - Contractor is Falcone Bros. Construction Start January 2026. Construction Anticipated Finish October 2026. - Thornton Road-SR 84 to Peters Road - Widen Roadway - Anticipated Bid Advertisement - July 17, 2026 - Ash Avenue and Florence Street Roundabout - Anticipated Bid Advertisement - December 2026 - Thornton Road-Cottonwood Lane to Main Avenue - Widen Roadway - Anticipated Bid Advertisement - May 2027 - West Viola St - Pinal Ave to Park Ave - Multi Use Path - IGA being Reviewed and Approved Coolidge: - SR 87 - Arica Road and Shedd Road - Shelf Ready - July 20, 2026 - Casa Grande Canal Extension Bridge - Construct Bridge Replacement- Anticipated Bid Advertisement - March 2027 - Regional Park Walking Trail - IGA being Reviewed and Approved Eloy: - Battaglia Road - Eleven Mile Corner Road to Sunshine Boulevard - Construct Sidewalk - The City of Eloy just received TA funding for Final Design (FY26). Construction FY28. Anticipated Bid Advertisement - October 2027 Pinal County - Battaglia Drive, Henness Road, and Overfield Road - Shoulder Widening - Contractor is Clyde and Co.. Construction Start January 2026. Construction Anticipated Finish November 2026
10	Discussion of the Current Update of the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) (Information Only) - Update on the Pinal County RTA Business Tax Refund - Update on the Pinal RTA Audit
	<i>John Kross, Pinal RTA Executive Director, provided the following update:</i> Sales Tax Refunds . (As of June 2026): - The deadline for eligible taxpayers to file for a sales tax refund has passed on April 9, 2026. The refunds program is technically closed but there remain additional refund applications under review, that came in prior to or at the April 9, 2026, deadline. - We continue the process of closing out the program which will take several more weeks. - As reported by the Arizona Department of Revenue. ADOR is tasked with issuing taxpayer eligible refunds. - Total number of requests:634 - ADOR Approved 479 refunds for a total of: \$42.8M as of end of June 2026. Note: the refund amount is up by approximately \$500,000 from the May report. - Fund Balance remaining (i.e., unclaimed sales tax refunds) is not yet known until the closeout process is completed within the next few weeks or so. - Initial PRTA Working Group – outcome of the March 2026 Board meeting, will have its first meeting on Aug. 27 to discuss legislative options pertaining to the anticipated Fund Balance. We should have a better estimate of the Fund Balance by the August meeting. Audit Update. - The FY25 Audit is in final review at which time a Pinal RTA Board meeting will be scheduled to hear from the auditor and accept the FY25 audit. - We will advise the SCMPO Executive Board and all our regional partners when our next Board meeting will be scheduled. - State statute requires all Regional Transportation Authorities to complete an annual financial audit. - Despite the PRTA not having an active roads or transit capital improvement program, we are trying to comply with the spirit of the law. - Our focus remains on auditing the sales tax refunds, which technically ended on April 9, 2026. - I would like to thank all our partners, including Pinal County and the Arizona Department of Revenue for their assistance in administering the refunds program and assisting us with our Financial Audits.
11	Discussion of the Current Update of the Sun Corridor MPO Activities (Information Only): - Meetings/Trainings from May - July (11.1) - FY26 Federal Ledger (11.2) - Financial Report (11.3) - Design/Construction Project List (11.4) - Engineering Program Update (11.5) - Letters of Support (11.6) - FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #10 - Administrative (11.7)

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	SCMPO Staff provided the following update: • 11.1 Update on MPO Meetings/Trainings - Irene Higgs stated that staff had a busy couple of months in May-July. • 11.2 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Ledger - Irene Higgs stated that the balance of the 2026 ledger has been zeroed out and all loans have been secured with ADOT with paybacks in 2027. • 11.3 SCMPO Financial Report - Jill Dickey stated that we are still waiting for the City of Casa Grande Finance Department to complete final posting of Accounts Payable and payroll. Approximately \$920K in total expenses in FY2026. Irene Higgs stated that we just came under the \$1M single audit requirement. • 11.4 Update of the SCMPO Design/Construction Project List - Jason Bottjen had the following update: Battaglia Drive; Henness Road to Overfield Road, Shoulder Widening (Installation of 5' foot paved shoulders on the north side and 2' foot paved shoulders on the south of Battaglia Drive from Henness Road to Overfield Road). Construction is fully underway, working nights primarily. All paving is expected to be complete by mid-August with final striping completed in mid-September. • 11.5 Status of the SCMPO Engineering Program - Starla Anderson had the following update: • Professional Engineering Services: No new task orders have been issued. • Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Funding: Eloy, Coolidge, and Casa Grande submitted applications by May 26th. Award notifications should be issued no later than 12/22/2026. Total SS4A Grant Request \$17.6M • Transit Planning Funds (5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5339) 5 proposals were received for the Eloy Transit Study. Consultant selection, negotiation, and contract are underway. • Transportation Alternatives Funding The following TA funding was awarded for a total of \$4.8M: Coolidge - \$2,600,356: School Zone Speed Limit Signs 7th Street, Wilson Ave to Coolidge Ave Coolidge Ave and 9th Street Improvements 9th Street restriping from Northern Ave to Vah Ki Inn Rd Casa Grande - \$2,195,830: Palo Verde Elementary School SRTS Improvements Mesquite Elementary School Improvements Grande Innovation Academy School Improvements Casa Grande Elementary School - \$7,836: CGESD Flashing School Crossing Stop Paddles • Congressional Direct Spending Projects – The following projects have moved forward as recommended (no awards have been issued at this time). Total in CDS Request \$22.5M Burris Road-Peters Road to Highway 84 Improvement I-10, McCartney Traffic Interchange Improvement Project Vah Ki Inn widening project Frontier Mill & Overlay Project Phase II Frontier Mill & Overlay Project Phase III • AZ SMART Grant Applications Total in AZ SMART Grant Request \$4.4M Assisting Casa Grande, Coolidge, and Eloy in submitting AZ SMART funding requests for the local match requirement for the SS4A grant applications. • Letters of Support (11.6) - Irene Higgs stated that Letters of Support were provided for the SS4A grant applications. • FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #10 - Administrative (11.7) - Irene Higgs stated that Administrative Amendment #10 took the single line-item for the FY2025 CG LINK FTA 5307 Funding and broke it out in two line-items, Administration & Operations including the required local match.	
12	Consent Agenda ALL ITEMS LISTED BELOW WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE MATTERS AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION AND ONE VOTE OF THE BOARD. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A BOARD MEMBER OR MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SO REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE ON THE AGENDA. Business: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the Following:	
	A motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer Jon Thompson to approve Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Lisa Fitzgibbons.	
*12.A	Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Meeting Minutes: • May 12, 2026 • June 9, 2026	APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA 5 - 0
	By a 5-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2026 and June 9, 2026.	
*12.B	Discussion and Possible Action to Approve and Adopt Resolution 2026-01 for the Sun Corridor MPO 2027 Title VI Implementation Plan	APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA 5 - 0
	By a 5-0 vote under the Consent Agenda, the Board approved and adopted Resolution 2026-01 for the Sun Corridor MPO 2027 Title VI Implementation Plan.	

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13	Adjourn to Executive Session Arizona Revised Statutes A.R.S. §38-431.03(A) Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of public officer, appointee, or employee (A.R.S § 38-431.03 (A)(1)) A.1.1) Discussion or consideration of the Executive Director's Annual Evaluation and Salary A.1.2) Discussion or consideration of the 2027 Pay scale for the MPO Any records or documents distributed to the Executive Board or any conversations occurring during executive session shall be kept confidential. Legal action involving a final vote or decision shall not be taken at an executive session.	APPROVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 - 0
	<i>At 10:43 AM, a motion was made by Board Member Jeff McClure to adjourn into executive session. The motion was seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Jon Thompson.</i> <i>At 11:05 AM, a motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Jon Thompson to come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jeff McClure.</i>	
14	Discussion and Possible Action, if necessary, to comply with Arizona Open Meeting Law following the Executive Session regarding the Annual Evaluation of the MPO Executive Director. Possible actions include, but are not limited to, finding of satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance and/or salary adjustment.	APPROVED 5-0
	<i>A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Jon Thompson to approve the satisfactory performance evaluation of Irene Higgs, SCMPO Executive Director, and to approve her pay increase from a Grade 83: Step 6 to a Step 7. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jeff McClure.</i>	
15	Local Government Project Report: Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Pinal County	
	Pinal County - Oracle had 2.96 inches of rain last night in an hour. With the fires last year, it brought down a lot of mud, overflowed the banks, and ran through town. Looks like a major construction zone this morning with bobcats and heavy equipment cleaning up. The ballot box in Oracle was in 8 inches of water and soaking wet. There were about 155 ballots that had to be laid out to dry and duplicated. Casa Grande - Mayor Fitzgibbons thanked Doug Coleman for coming to Casa Grande to tour the community. She stated that there is a lot of construction underway. McCarthy Rd from Pinal Ave to Trekell Rd will be closed. Take an alternative route and please be patient. City of Coolidge - Nothing to report. City of Eloy - Nothing to report State Transportation Board - Doug Coleman stated there is a board meeting this Friday in Chandler.	
16	Upcoming Meetings: • State Transportation Board Meeting, July 17, Chandler • RTAC Advisory Committee Meeting, July 20, Virtual • RTAC Board Meeting, July 27, Virtual • RTAC Advisory Committee Meeting, August 17, Virtual • League of Cities and Towns, August 18-21, Scottsdale • State Transportation Board Meeting, August 21, Prescott Valley • RTAC Board Meeting, August 24, Virtual • SCMPO TAC Meeting, August 27, Coolidge • Transportation Policy Summit, October 13-14, Flagstaff	
17	Future Agenda Items	
	<i>No future agenda items were requested.</i>	
18	Next Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board Meeting: • September 8, 2026, City of Casa Grande Council Chambers, 510 E. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande, AZ 85122	
19	Adjourn	11:14 A.M.
	<i>A motion was made by Board Member Jeff McClure to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Jon Thompson.</i>	



SIGN-IN FORM / STANDARD IN-KIND CONTRIBUTED SERVICES FORM

Please Sign. Your Time Counts!

Group/Committee Name: Executive Board Meeting

City of Eloy – City Hall, 595 N. C St., Eloy,
AZ 85131

Activity/Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Location:

ATTENDANCE				
Name	Title	Organization	Email Address	Initials
Andy Sutton	Mayor	City of Eloy	andrew.sutton@EloyAZ.gov	AS
Doug Coleman	State Transportation Board Member	ADOT	dougcolemanaz@outlook.com	DC
Jon Thompson	Mayor	City of Coolidge	jthompson@coolidgeaz.com	JT
Lisa Fitzgibbons	Mayor	City of Casa Grande	lfitzgibbons@casagrandeaz.gov	LF
Jeff McClure	Supervisor	Pinal County	jeffrey.mcclure@pinal.gov	JM
Anthony Casselman	Administrator	ADOT Southcentral	acasselman@azdot.gov	AC
Andrea Robles	Executive Director	CAG	ARobles@cagaz.org	AR
Ben Navarro	Public Works Director	City of Coolidge	bnavarro@coolidgeaz.com	BN
David (Mac) Harmon	Civil Engineer	City of Casa Grande	David_Harmon@casagrandeaz.gov	DM
David Malewitz	City Manager	City of Eloy	dmalewitz@EloyAZ.gov	DM
Deb Bunner	Transit Manager	City of Casa Grande	deborah_brunner@casagrandeaz.gov	DB
Dedrick Denton	Transportation Planning Supervisor	Pinal County	dedrick.denton@pinal.gov	DD
Duane Eitel	Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer	City of Casa Grande	deitel@casagrandeaz.gov	DE
Elizabeth Barnes-Hanson	Transportation Engineer	Horrocks	Elizabeth.Barnes@horrocks.com	VB
Irene Higgs	Executive Director	SCMPO	ihiggs@scmpo.org	IH
Jason Bottjen	Deputy Director	SCMPO	jbottjen@scmpo.org	JB
Jeremy Moore	District Admin	ADOT	jmoore@azdot.gov	VM



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AZ 85131

Activity/Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Location:

ATTENDANCE				
Name	Title	Organization	Email Address	Initials
Jill Dickey	Operations Manager	SCMPO	jdickey@scmpo.org	JD
John Kross	Director	Pinal RTA	john.kross@pinal.gov	Virtual
Kevin Adam	Director	RTAC	kadam@rtac.net	
Kevin Louis	PW Director	City of Casa Grande	klouis@casagrandeaz.gov	
Leo Lew	County Manager	Pinal County	leo.lew@pinal.gov	
Matt Rencher	Public Works Director	City of Eloy	mrencher@eloyaz.gov	
Mckenzie Letcher	Asst City Manager	City of Eloy	mletcher@EloyAZ.gov	
Mike Blankenship	PE/Principal	Greenlight Traffic Engineering	mikeb@greenlightte.com	
Natalie Stephens	Engineering Technician	City of Casa Grande	Natalie.Stephens@casagrandeaz.gov	
Nina Arrendondo	Senior Transportation Planner	Pinal County	nina.arrendondo@pinal.gov	Virtual
Priscilla Thompson	Asst. District Engineer	ADOT Southcentral	pthompson@azdot.gov	Virtual
Robert Aldous	Asst. to City Manager	City of Casa Grande	robert_aldous@casagrandeaz.gov	Virtual
Starla Anderson	Transportation Planning Manager	SCMPO	sanderson@scmpo.org	SA
Will Randolph	Regional Planner	ADOT	wrandolph@azdot.gov	Virtual
Zeena Gagnon	Mobility Manager	CAG/SCMPO	zgagnon@cagaz.org	
Refugio Gallagos	PW Director	City of Eloy	rgallagos@eloyaz.gov	RG
Mick Mathieu	Managing Director	CivTech	umathieu@civtech.com	Virtual