July Regular Board Meeting Minutes



Greater Yuma Port Authority. 7/10/2025 8:45 AMMST @ 1090 Union Street, San Luis, AZ 85349

Attendance

Present:

Members: Arturo Durazo, Alejandro Figueroa, Russ Jones, Chris Morris, Matias Rosales, Javier Vargas. Guests: Esteban Rosales, City of San Luis Councilmember, Buna George, Jenny Torres, City of San Luis Interim City Manager. Absent: Gary Magrino, Member

- ١. Call to order by Chairman of the Board GYPA Regular July meeting called to order at 8:51 am by Chairman Russ Jones.
- II. Consent agenda

Motion:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented The motion passes unanimously

- Α. Meeting minutes for 04/24/2025
 - April 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes.pdf
- Financials, ending 05/31/2025 B.
 - balance sheet ending 5.31.25.pdf
 - Check register 04.25 and 5.25.pdf
 - P&L.YTD ending 5.31.25.pdf
- III. Discussion and possible actions:
 - Α. 2025/2026 Fiscal year budget
 - 25.26 proposed budget.pdf

The budget was discussed among the board members. The more the organization draws down from the principal balance available, the less interest will be generated and will thus be self-defeating. It will be a priority to determine funding and revenue sources for this fiscal year in order not to deplete the bank balance. Ideas such as a due/membership structure, border wait time technology/applications, future toll facility at San Luis II and GYPA acting as a principal applicant on utility rights of ways to the Southern border, exploring the 559 federal gifting clause and possible modifications to the current cold rooms as the commercial port were discussed in detail.

When the finance committee convened, they directed the ED to obtain investment models from 3 separate organizations. Thus far, the ED has acquired investment details from ACF and is meeting with 2 other planners in the next week and will bring the findings back for further review.

Motion: Motion to approve the budget as presented

The motion passes unanimously

B. ADOT Border Wait Time Technology

The most valuable resource is time

- Time is the one resource we can't get back.
- Long, unpredictable wait times at the border cause frustration, mental fatigue, and economic loss (e.g., missed deliveries, late to work, higher fuel consumption from idling).
- Providing real-time data empowers travelers to plan more effectively and reclaim hours that would otherwise be wasted in line.

Reduce guesswork and anxiety

- Travelers currently rely on word-of-mouth, social media rumors, or outdated CBP updates.
- With Texas Transport Institute's real-time technology, there is **no more guessing** people can make decisions based on accurate, up-to-the-minute information.
- Reduces stress, especially for cross-border workers who finish long shifts or families traveling for leisure.

Improve traffic flow and community safety

- When travelers know current crossing times, they can stagger trips and avoid peak congestion.
- Less congestion means:
 - o Reduced vehicle emissions in downtown San Luis.
 - o Less traffic overflow into neighborhoods and local streets.
 - o Better emergency vehicle access.

Economic benefits to local businesses and workforce

- Workers crossing daily can better manage their schedules, improving attendance and productivity.
- Local businesses benefit from smoother goods flow, fewer unexpected delays, and happier cross-border shoppers.
- Reduces uncertainty for truckers, supporting regional trade and strengthening Yuma's logistics reputation.

Strengthens San Luis as a *smart border* leader

- Positions San Luis as an innovative, forward-thinking port community, comparable to larger ports (Nogales, Calexico).
- Attracts new investments and creates a positive perception among regional, national, and international stakeholders.
- Showcases that GYPA is prioritizing user experience and quality of life, not just infrastructure expansion.

Community goodwill and public trust

- Demonstrates that GYPA and local agencies are actively listening to community frustrations and taking concrete steps to solve them.
- Builds long-term trust and strengthens public support for future projects (e.g., port expansions, new infrastructure).

Supporting Data Points

- Average crossing wait times can reach 1–3 hours on busy days a potential loss of 10+ hours per week per frequent crosser.
- A CBP study (and similar studies by Texas A&M Transportation Institute) shows that real-time information can reduce peak congestion by up to 15–25%.
- Over 50% of cross-border travelers say that uncertainty about wait times is their biggest concern.

"When we invest in technology that gives our community time back, we invest in stronger families, better jobs, healthier communities, and a more competitive region. This isn't just a tech upgrade — it's a promise to every person who crosses this port that we respect their time and their lives."

Motion:

The Executive Director asked the Chairman to table this item to the next meeting, as there was still information from TTI and ADOT that needed to be obtained.

C. Grant applications, funding forecast, goals, and metrics

"I'd like the board to set an ambitious, yet achievable fundraising target and focus areas for the coming fiscal year so I can strategically pursue and deliver on those goals."

- Funding sources for a non-profit like GYPA
- ¶ 1 Federal and state grants
 - U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Grants
 - o INFRA (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America)
 - o RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity)
 - Border-specific programs
 - o Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) Program
 - o FAST Lane program funding
 - Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) discretionary grants
- **i** Foundation and corporate grants
 - Community development and economic resilience foundations (e.g., Ford Foundation, Kresge Foundation, or local Arizona-focused funds)
 - Binational philanthropic initiatives focused on border regions and migrant workforce well-being
 - Logistics and supply chain corporations with corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds (e.g., UPS Foundation, FedEx Cares)
- Public-private partnerships (P3s)
 - Collaborations with large logistics operators, produce exporters, or local chambers of commerce
 - Naming rights or sponsorship opportunities for infrastructure amenities (e.g., rest areas, hydration stations)
- 🖺 🚺 Humanitarian and workforce-related funding
 - Health and Human Services grants (for wellness or humanitarian aid to cross-border workers)
 - Workforce development grants to support training, rest areas, and safe crossings
 - Philanthropic grants focused on migrant and seasonal worker support
- Possible success metrics for fiscal year
 - Total grant dollars secured (e.g., \$2 million target)
 - Number of grant applications submitted (e.g., minimum of 6 major applications)

- Percentage of infrastructure vs. humanitarian funds secured (e.g., 70% infrastructure, 30% workforce/humanitarian)
- Community impact measures
 - New hydration stations installed
 - Rest area improvements
 - o Health screening or wellness resources for crossers

"Our region's unique position — both economically and culturally — means we can attract not just infrastructure dollars, but also humanitarian and workforce support grants. But to succeed, we need a clear financial North Star from this board."

"With a defined goal, I can build a targeted grant calendar, cultivate relationships, and provide monthly progress metrics to keep us on track and fully transparent."

- D. Meeting schedule for 2025/2026 calendar year
 - 25.26 meeting schedule.pdf

The 2025/2026 calendar was discussed. The board requested that the December meeting be rescheduled for the 11th to avoid interfering with the holidays and people's vacations. The Chairman asked that the ED send out calendar invites for the next 12 months as a placeholder for the members.

No action was requested/necessary.

- E. City of San Luis re-zoning application (County 24th/Oak)
 - △ C-101.pdf

 - Request for Comments for Rezoning Case No. 2025-0172.docx
 - REZONING 2025-0172 LOCATION MAP.pdf

The Chairman brought to the board's attention that more zoning modifications on the East side of the City of San Luis will impede the commercial trucks accessing Ave E for north and south access to the Commercial Port of Entry. Some members viewed it as the wrong mix of traffic and could be an invitation for disaster. Traffic mitigation needs to be a priority and thus furthers the need for an alternative truck route, currently outlined as County 25th eastbound. City Manager, Jenny Torres, noted that the City of San Luis' priority remains the Cesar Chavez roadway expansion in connection with the San Luis I Port Remodel, and then would bring more focus to County 25th. The idea of proposing a resolution addressing the GYPA's public safety concerns regarding these rezone requests was discussed. This item will be brought back at next month's meeting for further discussion.

No action was taken, as this was a discussion item at this meeting.

F. Review of ongoing GYPA projects and initiatives for 25/26 Strategic Funding Goals **Proposed Annual Target:** \$2 million in new grant and partnership funding. **Priority Focus Areas:**

- Border infrastructure improvements (e.g., smart technology, expanded facilities, rest areas)
- Humanitarian and workforce support for daily crossers (e.g., hydration stations, rest areas)
- Regional economic development and binational trade facilitation
- **i** Potential Funding Sources

Federal & State Grants

- USDOT INFRA and RAISE grants
- Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) program
- Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) discretionary programs

Foundation & Corporate Grants

- Ford Foundation (economic resilience and community development)
- Kresge Foundation (health and cross-border workforce support)
- UPS Foundation, FedEx Cares (logistics and mobility initiatives)

Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)

- Local logistics operators and produce exporters
- Chamber of Commerce partnerships
- Naming or sponsorship opportunities for rest areas and amenities
- Funding Opportunities Forecast Calendar

Quarter Opportunity Estimated Ask Deadline / CycleQ1 (Jul–Sep)ADOT Discretionary Call\$500,000September 2025Q2 (Oct–Dec)USDOT INFRA/RAISE\$1M—\$1.5MNovember 2025Q3 (Jan–Mar)Private Foundation Proposals\$200,000RollingQ4 (Apr–Jun)Public-Private Sponsorships\$300,000Ongoing discussions

- Success Metrics (Annual)
 - Total secured grant funding: \$2M target
 - Number of grants submitted: Minimum of 6 major proposals
 - Infrastructure vs. humanitarian funding ratio: 70% infrastructure, 30% workforce support
 - Community impact outcomes:
 - o 3 hydration stations installed
 - o 2 enhanced rest areas for cross-border workers
 - At least one pilot health initiative (e.g., screening or wellness program)
- Funding Dashboard Proposal
 - Visual tracker for dollars secured vs. target
 - Status updates on each major grant or partnership opportunity
 - Community impact indicators (installations completed, people served, partnerships formalized)
 - · Monthly reporting cycle to the board

Request to the Board:

"To fully leverage upcoming funding opportunities, I respectfully request that the board establish and formally approve these annual funding targets and focus areas. This will allow me to pursue grants and partnerships with clear strategic alignment and provide transparent progress updates throughout FY2025–2026."

G. Contract renewal period for LG Advising LLC

GYPA Principal Contractor's contract is up for renewal in August 2025. Fiscal year 2025/2026 will be the last year of the initial 3 year contract period.

Ms. George has been serving GYPA since November 2018 and under LG Advising LLC as of 07/2021.

Ms. George stated this item was brought forth for the board to have foresight of the item that will be presented at next month's meeting with legal discretion. The Chairman asked for four volunteers, one from each member entity, to review the executive director's contract and performance. She was directed to provide documents to the committee and present their recommendations at the next board meeting.

IV. Executive Directors' Report

Executive Director cited that the initial creation of the GYPA, as per the originating documents, was to "lessen the burden of the governments" and looks forward to working with the newly appointed leadership to further this mission.

V. Notes from the Chairman

The chairman expressed his thanks to the members for his recent appointment. He has brought forth suggestions for proposed bylaw changes. He will be in communication with ED to delineate suggested updates and review other operating documents.

VI. Summary of current events

None.

VII. Call to the public

No one requested the opportunity to speak, nor did the executive director receive any emailed requests to be read to the board.

VIII. Adjournment

The Board of Directors may vote to go into executive session during the noticed meeting concerning any of the agenda items mentioned above. If authorized by the requisite vote of the Directors, the executive session will be held immediately after the vote and will not be open to the public. The executive session, if held, will be at the same meeting location set forth above. The discussion may relate to personnel, public records, confidential legal advice or counsel, litigation, and real estate or other matters permitted pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(1)-(7). The Chair or other presiding officer shall instruct the persons present at the Executive Session regarding the confidentiality requirements of the Open Meeting Laws. CERTIFICATION OF POSTING: Posted this 7th day of July 2025. GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY /s/ Secretary/Treasurer. Notice: The GYPA does not discriminate based on disability in admission to, access to treatment of participation in its programs or activities. People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations by contacting the GYPA's main office line at 928-248-8546. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:48am