



# WORKING GROUP SESSION MINUTES

**Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation  
Advisory Committee (EMAC)  
Working Group Session  
Monday, August 5, 2019  
10:00 AM**

**Yavapai County Development Services  
Training Room  
1120 Commerce Drive  
Prescott, AZ 86305**

## **CYMPO Ecosystem Connectivity Mitigation Advisory Committee**

Chair	Tammy DeWitt, Yavapai County Development Services
Vice-Chair	Elizabeth Johnston, Arizona Game and Fish
Member	Chuck Budinger, ADOT Northwest District
Member	Francisco Anaya, Prescott National Forest
Member	Ron James, Private Citizen
Member	J. D. Greenberg, Private Citizen
Member	Deb Pastor, Private Citizen

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

All EMAC members present.

#### **Introductions were made around the room:**

- Todd Steinberger, ADOT NW Assistant District Engineer
- Jeff Gagnon, AZ Game & Fish
- Scott Sprague, AZ Game & Fish
- Chuck Budinger, ADOT NW District Environmental Coordinator, EMAC
- John Dominguez, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe
- Trish Hunter, ADOT Environmental Planning Group (*via telephone*)
- Joshua Fife, ADOT Environmental Planning Biology Lead (*via telephone*)
- John Wennes, ADOT Regional Planner (*via telephone*)
- Dale Wiggins, AECOM, (*via telephone*)
- Deb Pastor, EMAC
- Ron James, EMAC
- Tammy DeWitt, EMAC
- Elizabeth Johnston, AZ Game & Fish, EMAC
- JD Greenberg, EMAC
- Francisco Anaya, Prescott National Forest, EMAC
- Daniel Harmonick, CYMPO
- Allison McCarthy, CYMPO
- Andy Roth, ADOT NW District Assistant District Engineer
- Jenny Cobb, Great Ole Broads for Wilderness
- John Litteer, ADOT NW District
- George Sheats, City of Prescott
- Tom Slaback, Sierra Club,
- David Myers, Granite Dells Preservation Foundation

**2. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AND COLLISION MITIGATION FOR HIGHWAY 69-WIDENING DESIGN**

*(Scott Sprague & Jeff Gagnon, AZ Game & Fish)*

*(Alvin Stump, Andy Roth, Todd Steinberger, Patricia A. Hunter, John Litteer, Joshua Fife, Vivian Li, ADOT)*

*(Joe Baynes & George Sheats, City of Prescott)*

*(Kate Bondy & Dale Wiggins, AECOM Technical Services, Inc)*

Mr. Gagnon provided PowerPoint presentation to review wildlife crossing options and needs. Noted that in ADOT's Statewide Wildlife Crash Analysis and Proposed Action Plan created in 2014, SR 69 MP 290-295 is the 7<sup>th</sup> highest in wildlife-vehicle crashes in Arizona, which is the area of the SR Widening Design project.

Madam Chair DeWitt explained the Circle Trail currently uses the culvert being discussed, and the Sun Corridor Trail will be using this portion of the Circle Trail as well.

Mr. Budinger inquired about what other wildlife collision mitigation options are available. Mr. Gagnon explained wildlife detection systems are an option, but these often cause a safety hazard of motorists pulling over to view wildlife. Also noted that wildlife signs have not proven effective.

Mr. Steinberger explained additional funds will be needed in order to construct a wildlife crossing. Also noted that two lanes of traffic must remain open during construction.

Ms. Greenberg noted that SR69 is Critical Urban Freight Corridor and explained that funding opportunities may exist from interested wildlife organizations. Madam Chair DeWitt noted possibility of economic development funding. Mr. Gagnon noted funding could be available to assist in pedestrian crossing.

Mr. Budinger noted there have been three deer collisions in the last two weeks.

Mr. Gagnon noted that the Mule Deer Foundation has contributed to projects in the past and explained it will be necessary to collect funds from multiple sources in order to reach the needed amount. Mr. Sheats noted the City of Prescott receives funding for its Recreational Trails Program and Flood District money as well.

Mr. Litteer inquired about what size will be needed for under-passing. Mr. Gagnon explained 50ft x 12ft x 190ft would be an adequate size, however each project is assessed individually.

Mr. Wiggins noted that the project will go to bid in two years.

Mr. James suggested bringing this issue to the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors and Prescott City Council to inquire about willingness to contribute financially.

Madam Chair DeWitt suggested having the EMAC report to CYMPO TAC and/or Executive Board. Mr. Budinger noted grants need to be researched immediately. Ms. Pastor suggested bringing grant research to next TAC meeting on September 5.

Mr. Roth noted that \$730,00 would be the severely low end of cost potential of an underpass.

Mr. Fife noted that the current Surface Transportation bill has earmarked \$250 million in grants to reduce wildlife collisions. Mr. Wennes confirmed funds have been earmarked for wildlife collisions as part of America's Transportation and Infrastructure Act of 2019. Also noted that this bill has not yet been passed, but will be brought back up in the House of Representatives after August recess.

Ms. Pastor suggested EMAC attend next TAC meeting with potential grant opportunities.

Mr. Sheats noted City of Prescott Bicycle and Traffic Advisory Committee meeting will be held next Monday at 9:30am and this project will be included on the agenda. Ms. Greenberg suggested she attend as an EMAC representative.

Mr. Wennes explained ADOT is in the preliminary stages of putting together Wildlife Vehicle Study. Study is estimated to be completed in FY2020. Explained a discussion of funding will be included in working papers.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT 11:20 AM

*CYMPO endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons in need of foreign language assistance or with disabilities. Please call (928) 442-5730 or e-mail Allison.McCarthy@yavapai.us, 72 hours prior to the meeting to request a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting.*