

Special Joint Meeting

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Pima County Board of Directors and Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council Meeting

Meeting Summary of Thursday, June 16, 2025, Joint Meeting

Full Video Recording (YouTube): [YouTube Video Recording](#)

"We encourage and uphold the importance of regional collaboration as the Regional Council addresses regional priorities and pursues regional solutions."

To view the full Regional Collaboration and Unity Pledge, visit: PAGregion.com/pledge

Regional Council Members Present:

- Mayor Jon Post
- General Ted Maxwell
- Mayor Tom Murphy
- Supervisor Matt Heinz
- Mayor Roxanna Valenzuela
- Mayor Joe Winfield
- Mayor Regina Romero

Regional Council Members Absent:

- Chairman Verlon Jose
- Chairman Julian Hernandez

Staff Lead: Dave Adler, Acting Executive Director

The following is an audio-to-text transcription of the joint **Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Pima County Board of Directors and Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council Meeting held on Thursday, June 16, 2025**, and is being used as the written summary of the discussion. Minor changes were made to the transcription to include grammar or formatting for clarity, YouTube links/time stamps, spelling corrections and the addition of the agenda number or items based on the posted agenda.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED OUT OF ORDER

Agenda

1. Call to Order

[Item #4 Video Link](#)

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Mayor Winfield: I'd like to call to order the special joint meeting of the Pima Association of Governments and Regional Transportation Authority, Mayor Romero and I have briefly discussed and agreed that I'll chair this particular session. And so we've alternated, this is our 3rd special joint meeting. We'll begin with the call to order, Jacki, excuse me with a roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

- Mayor Winfield
- Mayor Murphy
- Mayor Valenzuela
- General Maxwell
- Mayor Post
- Mayor Romero
- Supervisor Heinz

Mayor Winfield: OK, we have 7 of 9 members present. If you'll please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

[Item #2 Video Link](#)

All: I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Winfield: Thank you. The third item is a call to the audience. Mr. Ledford, do we have anyone?

3. Call to the Audience (Remote Access Option)

[Item #3 Video Link](#)

Mr. Ledford: Mr. Chair, there are no speakers today.

Mayor Winfield: Thank you. We'll go to item 4, which is a meeting summary approval.

4. Meeting Summary Approval

- May 22, 2025, Joint Meeting

Mayor Romero: Mr. Chair.

Mayor Winfield: Mayor Romero.

Mayor Romero: I'd like to move the meeting summary for PAG Regional Council.

General Maxwell: Second.

Mayor Winfield: Seconded by General Maxwell, any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Winfield: Any opposed, nay? The ayes have it. 7-0. We'll go to item 5. Discussion, direction, action appointing interim counsel for Pima Association of Governments and Regional Transportation Authority to serve until such time as permanent counsel is secured.

5. Discussion/Direction/Action: Appointing Interim Counsel for Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to Serve until Such Time as Permanent Counsel is Secured

[Item #5 Video Link](#)

Mayor Winfield: So there's been some recommendations for interim council. You have at your tables some materials for two legal firms that have been proposed. Any discussion about those, Supervisor Heinz?

Supervisor Heinz: Thank you. I would move that we appoint DeConcini McDonald for interim counsel.

Mayor Romero: I didn't hear.

Mayor Murphy: I didn't either.

Mayor Romero: I thought it was just me.

Supervisor Heinz: My motion was to appoint DeConcini McDonald for interim counsel for PAG/RTA.

Mayor Romero: I second that motion.

Mayor Winfield: Seconded by Mayor Romero. Discussion? General Maxwell.

General Maxwell: Mr. Chair, something I'd like to put on the table just for consideration. The interim legal counsel is going to have a lot of work in different aspects of the PAG/RTA mission going forward to include some significant potential work in the personnel field. So what I would suggest is that we consider hiring two interim counsels. One to take the role of PAG/RTA and the other one to deal with the personnel issues that are going to come before this board. I'd like to hear everybody's thoughts before I either offer a friendly amendment to this motion, but I'd like to hear what everybody's thoughts are first on that. I do believe if we try to flood a single brand-new legal counsel with both of those, which could be incredibly weighty issues depending on what rolls out of on the personnel side. And we know we have action that the board's approved at the last meeting, that's going to take some time and effort. So I think that's a worthy topic.

Mayor Murphy: Mr. Chair.

Mayor Winfield: Mayor Murphy.

Mayor Murphy: I mean, I would second that for sure. Knowing I've had a lot of experience with Pierce Coleman, if that's what the potential suggestion is. Or at least it could work. If they're both on board, it could swap back and forth depending. They have a lot of experience. They also cover the pool, the risk pool and a couple of our municipalities. I know we couldn't be using the same person that covers the municipality, but I've been very impressed on how they've worked with many towns and cities throughout Arizona.

Mayor Winfield: Mayor Romero.

Mayor Romero: Mr. Chair. I think that we have to take one step at a time in this important junction that we find ourselves in. And for now, I think that we choose one law firm and possibly the law firm or the interim director and ourselves could get into that point where we feel we need to. I'm pretty sure our legal counsel will be able to tell us that. We feel overwhelmed. It's too much. We're moving quickly. But to be honest, I've wanted to take one step at a time and the difficult time that we find

ourselves in and would like to hire someone outright and then have that counsel help us through any additional support that they might need. To be honest with you, I saw the CVs and a description of the services that both Pierce Coleman and DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C, provide, and both seem outstanding and I'm supportive of the motion, and would ask that we proceed and then have whomever we select help us through what help in addition that they might need. That's my suggestion.

Mayor Winfield: Supervisor Heinz.

Supervisor Heinz: Thank you, Chair. I think unlike for permanent executive director, I think for permanent legal counsel, we can move much more quickly. So we may not need two if we say have a couple week process where we're looking for a permanent legal counsel. I don't think there'll be like a number of months where we're going to be without our permanent legal counsel if we move quickly. So I'm comfortable with one firm right now, as long as we can get our permanent legal counsel in the next 4 to 6 weeks to deal with all the other stuff. But also I would like to ask who we hire for legal counsel would they want to.

Mayor Winfield: Mayor Romero.

Mayor Romero: I would love to be able to hear if that's permissible, Mr. Chair, to have whoever's here representing DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C, I think it's Lisa Anne Smith and the second counsel, I'm not sure if they're here. Cecily Stamps, if any of them want to stand up and add to what they have to say if they want to say something.

Mayor Winfield: Ms. Smith.

Lisa Anne Smith: So, in looking at what you're looking for and I just now looked at the draft sort of RFP for permanent counsel. There are a number of areas that I have a lot of experience in. There are a number of areas that others in my firm have a lot of experience in. And there are some areas that I don't necessarily have experience

in. Personnel is one of my main areas of practice. So, I mean, I'm very happy to step in immediately as interim counsel and work with you all to determine whether you need a second interim counsel or a different permanent counsel. I wouldn't be opposed to discussing who your best candidate is, even if it isn't myself. I mean, you could obviously better determine that after you see a full review of a response to a request for proposals. Or having more than one counsel for a different area. So, if you have questions, I'm happy to answer them. But I think that's what you were wanting me to speak about so far.

Mayor Winfield: Thank you, Ms. Smith. If there are questions, we'll invite you back to the podium.

Ms. Smith: OK. Thank you.

Mayor Winfield: And just a matter of fairness, is there a representative here from Pierce Coleman? So, I'll just say to the board, I did reach out to their office. I didn't make connections with Mr. Pierce. He was on vacation and because of the tight timeframe, but I appreciate the fact that the staff has provided the information, because I do think that they are certainly a firm that should be given consideration, whether interim or permanent. General, do you want to elaborate anymore?

General Maxwell: No, I fully understand the concern and the need to move forward with one or the other. I'm appreciative that right now, at least we know from DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C, that they're willing to also take a look. And they've got enough folks in their organization that they could have different lawyers assigned to each piece of it. If the Board's comfortable with moving forward with a single legal counsel, I'm comfortable with that. It just was one of those things that we've got two months on the RTA side. And so if the personnel issues become a big issue at that point, we may need to consider getting a legal counsel, just to deal with those issues as well.

Mayor Romero: I do have a question.

Mayor Winfield: Mayor Romero.

Mayor Romero: After the vote, and maybe this question is for you, Mr. Adler, would we need the newly appointed counsel to jump in with us in executive session or how will that work? Because we've talked about this being the plan.

Dave Adler: Yes.

Mayor Romero: OK.

Dave Adler: That would be my understanding.

Mayor Romero: OK. So there's a motion on the floor and that's for the DeConcini.

Mayor Winfield: All right. Any other board members? I think I favor going forward with the motion as proposed. We can always make adjustments if needed and counsel with our interim counsel. So with no more discussion, all those in favor say, aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Winfield: Any opposed? Nay?. The ayes have it, 7-0. Along with that item, we did have the opportunity to review and discuss the procurement process for a permanent counsel. I think we can postpone that till we meet with our counsel. The next item is executive session.

6. Executive Session

[Item #6 Video Link](#)

Mayor Winfield: Pursuant to ARS 38-431.03A1 executive session to discuss appointment of interim executive director of Pima Association of Governments, Regional Transportation Authority. So, I make a motion that we go into executive

session with our interim counsel.

Mayor Murphy: Second that.

Chairperson: Seconded by Councilman or Mayor Murphy. Any more discussion? All in favor say, aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Winfield: Any opposed? Nay. The ayes have it, 7-0. So we'll go on to executive session and return to regular session when that's completed. Thank you.

1:14 p.m.: *Motion was made by Mayor Winfield and seconded by Mayor Murphy and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board and Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council move into closed Executive Session for discussion and appointment of an Interim Executive Director for Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).*

3:03 p.m.: *The governing bodies [returned](#) from Executive Session and Mayor Winfield announced that item #8 (Appointment of Interim Executive Director) will be moved up on the agenda for discussion prior to item #7.*

Mayor Winfield: We'll resume the special joint Board meeting. I'd like to make an adjustment to the agenda. I'd like to move item 8 to follow item 6. Any objections? OK, hearing none, we'll make that change to the agenda. So we'll go to the appointment of Interim Executive Director.

8. Appointment of Interim Executive Director

[Item #8 Video Link](#)

Mayor Winfield: The action is that the Regional Council of Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors will appoint an Interim Executive Director, welcome a motion. Mayor Post.

Mayor Post: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to appoint Michael J. Ortega as the Interim Executive Director.

Mayor Murphy: I'll second that motion.

Mayor Winfield: Seconded by Mayor Murphy. Any discussion? I'd like to say that we've just completed interviewing three exceptional candidates. I think as a board, we feel greatly blessed that these individuals have stepped forward to be considered for this interim position. And we want to personally thank them for doing that. And so with that, we'll take a vote. All those in favor, say aye. Aye.

Members: Aye.

Chairperson: Any opposed? Nay? The ayes have it, 7-0. It's a unanimous vote. I will go to Item 7.

7. Executive Session

[Item #7 Video Link](#)

Mayor Winfield: Executive Session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03A3, Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice Regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements, enacted by the former Executive Director with departing and or former PAG/RTA staff.

Mayor Romero: Mr. Chair?

Chairperson: Mayor Romero.

Mayor Romero: I'd like to make a motion that we go into Executive Session.

Mayor Murphy: I'll second that.

Mayor Winfield: Seconded by Mayor Murphy. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Winfield: Any opposed? Nay. The ayes have it, 7-0. We'll go into Executive Session. We'll return back to Special Joint Session when we're completed.

3:05 p.m.: *Motion was made by Mayor Romero and seconded by Mayor Murphy and unanimously carried that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board and Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council move into closed Executive Session for discussion to receive legal advice regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements enacted by the former Executive Director with departing and/or former PAG/RTA staff.*

3:31 p.m.: *The governing bodies returned from closed Executive Session. There was no discussion regarding this item.*

Mayor Winfield: We're going to resume Special Joint Meeting, and I move to adjourn.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a meeting summary of the joint Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Pima County Board of Directors and Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council meeting held on June 16, 2025. This summary is not intended to be verbatim. It serves as the summary of action items taken at the meeting

upon approval by the PAG Regional Council. An audio recording is available upon request and serves as the official minutes. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Dave Adler, Acting Executive Director

In compliance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the PAG Regional Council legal actions and this meeting summary are posted online, and an audio recording which serves as the official minutes of the meeting is available upon request. In addition, a meeting video is also available at: [YouTube Video Recording](#)