

# Regional Council Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary of Thursday, June 4, 2026

Full Video Recording (YouTube): [Recorded Meeting \(YouTube\)](#)

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***"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](https://PAGregion.com/pledge)

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**Regional Council Members Present:** Mayor Jon Post  
General Ted Maxwell  
Mayor Tom Murphy  
Supervisor Matt Heinz  
Mayor Joe Winfield  
Chairman Julian Hernandez  
Chairman Verlon Jose

**Regional Council Members Absent:** Mayor Regina Romero  
Mayor Roxanna Valenzuela

**Staff Lead:** Michael J. Ortega, P.E., Executive Director

The following is an audio-to-text transcription of the **Regional Council Meeting held on Thursday, June 4, 2026**, 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.

## Agenda

### 1. Call to Order (12:08 p.m.)

[Item #1 Video Link](#)

#### MEMBERS PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

- Mayor Joe Winfield
- Mayor Tom Murphy
- General Ted Maxwell
- Mayor Jon Post
- Supervisor Matt Heinz
- Chairman Verlon Jose

**Mayor Post:** We do have a quorum. Please stand for 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 Post:** Thank you. Call to the audience. Do we have any speakers?

### 3. Call to the Audience (Remote Access Option)

[Item #3 Video Link](#)

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

**Mayor Post:** No speakers. Moving right along, meeting summary approval.

### 4. Meeting Summary Approval

[Item #4 Video Link](#)

**Mayor Winfield:** Motion

**General Maxwell:** Second

**Mayor Post:** We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on that motion?  
All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Post:** Opposed? Motion passes. Consent Agenda?

## **5. Consent Agenda Items**

### [Item #5 Video Link](#)

- a. Program Highlights Report
- b. Contracts and Agreements Report
- c. Simulation-based Land Use Model Development
- d. Travel Demand Model Software Upgrade

**Mayor Post:** Mr. Ortega, you have something you want to ...

**Michael J. Ortega:** I do not, unless there are questions. The recommendation is to move the entire slate on the consent agenda.

**Mayor Post:** Do I have a motion for that?

**Mayor Murphy:** Move to approve.

**Mayor Winfield:** Second

**Mayor Post:** We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none.  
All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Post:** Opposed? Motion passes. Item 6. Mr. Ortega?

**6. FY 2025-FY 2029 PAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2025.050**

**[Item #6 Video Link](#)**

**Michael J. Ortega:** Mr. Chair and members of the Board, this is a transportation improvement program amendment. It's for 5311 and 5339 grant programs. This is pretty much a standard thing we do every year. Both the TPC and the Management Committee have recommended approval.

Happy to answer questions. I do have staff available if there are any questions.

**Mayor Post:** Do we have any questions for staff? Hearing none, do we have a motion?

**Mayor Winfield:** Move to approve.

**General Maxwell:** Second

**Mayor Post:** We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Post:** Opposed. Motion passes. Item 7. Mr. Ortega.

**7. (Federal) Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill Update**

**[Item #7 Video Link](#)**

**Michael J. Ortega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a regular agenda item on federal and state legislative issues that are out there, the biggest, obviously, is the surface transportation reauthorization act. We have invited Mr. Racy to give some brief comments on that, and happy to answer questions after that, so I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Racy.

**Mayor Post:** Welcome, Mr. Racy.

**[Mr. Racy Presentation Link](#)**

**Mayor Post:** Board Member Maxwell, you have a question? I've been watching you. You've been chomping at the bit to go.

**General Maxwell:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If it goes down to a CR at the federal level, the IIJA had a lot of one-time dollars in it, as well. Is it going to be just the continuing resolution at the baseline programmatic amounts, or are they talking about doing the full funding for the IIJA?

**Mr. Racy:** Mr. Chairman, General Maxwell, this is a pure guess, but I'm virtually certain it will not be the entire program. It will not be all the additional funding. It will be the baseline, but maybe a few cherry-picked additions, again, to get the votes to get a CR done.

**General Maxwell:** I just wanted to confirm one other thing, and that's you said right now the gas tax is being discussed. I 100% agree with you, it's an awful idea. The 18 cents, you could double the gas tax, and nobody would notice it.

**Mr. Racy:** We desperately need to in Arizona.

**General Maxwell:** Yes, I wasn't saying that's what we proposed in the state legislature, but they could double the gas tax, and nobody would notice it. The gas tax, right now they're talking about it, will be backfilled, so there'll be no harm done to any of the states from the highway use or federal.

**Mr. Racy:** That's the proposal.

**General Maxwell:** Okay.

**Mr. Racy:** The devil is in the details. That was the proposal and the state proposal, as well, and it was defective. It wouldn't have fully backfilled. The federal one, I think, will come closer because of the way they'll do it, but we'll see.

**General Maxwell:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mayor Post:** Yes, sir. Any other questions for Mr. Racy? Thank you very much.

**Mr. Racy:** Members, thank you very much. As always, you and your staff reach out with anything, state or local, as we try to wind up at least the state session. Thank you again.

**Mayor Post:** Welcome to Board Members Heinz and Jose. Appreciate you, guys. Item 8? Mr. Ortega?

**8. PAG Resolution Regarding Regional Funding**

**[Item #8 Video Link](#)**

**Michael J. Ortega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was an item that was requested by Board Member Winfield to memorialize. If you recall, when we put the RTA next plan together, there was an expectation that the first five years of regional funding, particularly the HURF and STBG monies, would be allocated towards finishing the RTA One projects. The thought is to memorialize that now by resolution.

Now, keep in mind that the way it was actually worded on the ballot, it had a number. It was actually \$237 million. What I thought is we put the resolution together with the target as the number so that if we achieve that earlier, then we're able to cease that, if you will, at that time. This resolution does that. The spirit and intent is that if it does not happen, then an item would be brought back to the board and/or to the regional council in 2031. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

**Mayor Post:** Is there any discussion on this item? Board Member Winfield, would you like to make a motion?

**Mayor Winfield:** Move to approve.

**Mayor Post:** There you go.

**General Maxwell:** I enthusiastically make a second.

**Mayor Post:** We have a motion and a second, all those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Post:** Opposed? Motion passes. Thank you. Item 9, Mr. Ortega.

**9. Pima Association of Governments' (PAG) and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Committee Restructuring Proposal**

### [Item #9 Video Link](#)

**Michael J. Ortega:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a continuing conversation about the committee restructuring that we have discussed previously. We do have an updated presentation with some recommendations. Very interested in your feedback on it if you would. With that, I'll turn it over to Sheila Storm, who's been working on this for us. Sheila?

**Mayor Post:** Welcome. Thank you.

### [Sheila Storm Presentation Link](#)

**Mayor Post:** Thank you, do we have any questions?

**Mayor Murphy:** Mr. Chair? Well, I love the work that's been done because I know we're continually working on ways to deliver \$200 million worth of projects as opposed to 50 million, which we've only been able to do before, so I love that the council has a lot more feedback relative. Can you go to the first slide? Sorry, it has to go all the way back to the first slide. I'm sorry, the second slide, the fixed one.

So, especially on the RTA side, everything eventually comes back through us. My only question is on the advisory, the PAG Management Committee, if there's any drama or anything below that, do they have the ability to work with the Executive Director and get it to the governing body? I just see that. I'm not expecting an impediment, but if there is one, is there a way for them to get to us?

**Michael J. Ortega:** Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, Mayor Murphy. So what we could do... The short answer is yes. It doesn't look that way, I can see that, but what we could do is put a dashed line to the Executive Director, as well, so that the spirit and intent here is for that information to surface unfiltered directly to the Regional Council or to the Board. What we can do is put a dashed line there to the Executive Director so that there is an opportunity. It's obvious that there'll be interaction there. The spirit and intent is there would be a staff report on any of that, but I like your thought there. If you're okay with it, we'll put a dashed line there to the Executive Director.

**Mayor Murphy:** I'm just trying to eliminate any way of anything getting stuck, so to speak.

**Michael J. Ortega:** Sure, I like it. I think that will work.

**Mayor Murphy:** Thank you.

**Mayor Post:** Board Member Maxwell?

**General Maxwell:** Mr. Chair, thank you. My question is really along the exact same lines. I like the idea that we're going to have the Technical Management Committee, and I'm talking the RTA side and the CART committee reporting direct to the governing body. My fear is, what's the Executive Director's role inside of both those committees? Are you a sitting member? Because I think without the Executive Director at least involved in those meetings and conversations ... love citizens running things, but they don't always understand all the laws and rules. I think that you can either be in an advisory capacity or as a sitting member. I don't know if that's been thought out on at least those two committees and possibly the PAG Management Committee, as well.

**Michael J. Ortega:** Mr. Chairman, Board Member Maxwell, very simplistically, think of it this way. Any item that comes before you has a staff recommendation. The Executive Director has a piece of that, if you will, in terms of whatever the recommendations are that come here. I think to Mayor Murphy's point, it's how do we make sure that stuff doesn't get stuck? That's one component.

The other component is all of the committees, they have staff liaisons, and so the staff is part of that discussion. We're not voting members necessarily, but we are definitely at the table. We make sure that the OML is met. We make sure that the meeting minutes are kept, those kinds of things. I think that we've got that pretty well covered in terms of making sure that we are helping the conversation along.

Now, I do see a scenario that could occur, which is if, say, the Management Committee has a recommendation, it could be that it's a different recommendation from the staff. That's okay, because that gives you the opportunity to have as many options available to then make a decision at the governing board level.

**General Maxwell:** I agree. It could be completely within the scope of how it's written. My ultimate concern is whether the staff has got to be empowered with your approval to power, and they have to be willing to speak up if one of the other committees just starts going down something. I don't want them wasting a two-hour discussion at the CART committee just to find out that's illegal and you

can't do it. I just want to make sure that we have enough of the interaction and empowerment of the staff not to run the meetings, not to set the agendas, not to overpower. That's for the heads of those two, the advisory and the oversight committees, but there's got to be enough of a voice to see if you've got somebody going off the island in a different direction.

**Michael J Ortega:** Mr. Chairman, we'll try to keep everyone on the island if we can. I think what's going to be important there is really looking at the bylaws and making sure that the bylaws address a lot of those issues, as well as the charters. The charters can help with some of that as well to make sure that, A, it doesn't get stuck and, B, that there is adequate interaction with the staff as projects or issues are brought forward.

**General Maxwell:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Mayor Post:** Anybody else?

**Michael J Ortega:** Mr. Chair, before you move on, I just wanted to make a point on the next slide, I think it is, or two slides down. We did not list the Wildlife Linkages Working Group. I wanted to make sure that I let you know that that is on our radar. I know that Kate and Carolyn are probably listening. I want to make sure they hear that we haven't forgotten about them. That is part of what we're working towards. That is going to be a working group or continue to be a working group. Now, just an omission there, I wanted to make sure I pointed it out. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, we were looking for direction, unless if you have an opportunity to give us some direction, I'm sure like that at this point, on what we had recommended here. Thank you, Sheila.

**Mayor Murphy:** Mr. Chair? Does it require a motion? I was just thinking that when I saw coming back in September, that I'm fine with a couple of comments that have been made by you and me, and the General that...

**Mayor Post:** We didn't hear anybody say no.

**Mayor Murphy:** Yeah.

**Michael J. Ortega:** As long as it's clear, we're going to bring this back to you in September. We're golden. Thank you.

**Mayor Post:** Moving right along, future agenda items?

**10. Request for Future Agenda Items**

[Item #10 Video Link](#)

**Mayor Post:** Hearing none, we need an executive session, Lisa Ann?

**11. Executive Session**

[Item #11 Video Link](#)

**Lisa Ann:** We do, but it's pretty short. I don't know if you want to hold it now or if you want to recess and then have both, because there's an RTA.

**Mayor Post:** There's an RTA one, as well, why don't we hold them at the same time. Motion to adjourn?

Mayor Murphy: Well, we recess.

Mr. Chair: Recess. Motion to recess? Or just recess? Just recess. Thank you.

***\*At 1:47 p.m. Regional Council entered a motion and second to hold Executive Session: [Vote for Regional Council Executive Session](#)***

**Mayor Post:** I need to have a motion for the PAG board to go to executive session.

**Mayor Winfield:** Motion.

**Mayor Post:** Do I have a second?

**General Maxwell:** Second.

**Mayor Post:** All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Post:** We are in executive session.

**12. Adjournment**

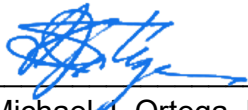
[Item #12 Video Link](#)

**Mayor Post:** We are adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a meeting summary of the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council meeting held on June 4, 2026. 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.



Michael J. Ortega, P.E.  
Executive Director

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*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: [Recorded Meeting \(YouTube\)](#)*