

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—October 24, 2016
West Alabama Chamber of Commerce Boardroom

Judge McCollum called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Commission Member Attendees: Judge Hardy McCollum, Chair; Mayor Walt Maddox; Mayor Bobby Herndon; Jim Page; Senator Gerald Allen; Representative Chris England; James Brown; Dara Longgear

Other Attendees: Mayor Elect Donna Aaron, Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Ron Davis, Glenda Webb, Robert Spence, John Powell Webb, Nick Crane, David Kemp, Eddie Pugh, Rick Harbin, Representative Bill Poole, Harrison Taylor, Phyllis Odom

Meeting minutes from September 26 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Walt Maddox seconded by Dara Longgear.

Accountant Rick Harbin gave an accounting report to the Commission, reporting a deposit from the August 2016 tax collections, received in October, in the amount of approximately \$735,000.00. After bill payments, the TCRIC account remains at approximately \$1.25M. There will be one more month collected for the FY2016 compilation.

Nick Crane from ALDOT provided the Commission with an update on the status of TCRIC projects from ALDOT's perspective, along with a new grid sheet of project costs.

- Hard numbers are continuing to be developed, as numbers change weekly in the design process.
- Next need will be to get estimates from the City/County after ALDOT costs are incorporated of their costs for projects they are managing.
- Technology has increased some costs, but it is giving Tuscaloosa the opportunity to be at the forefront of transportation technology. There are, however, some other items that will continue to raise costs, such as an added retaining wall near the old Open Door Baptist Church on Hwy 82.
- The estimates/numbers being utilized are coming from both outside consultants, as well as reported costs from ALDOT Design Bureau; detailed preliminary engineering estimates have not typically been requested from Design Bureau but we are asking them to turn in detailed cost estimates just like our outside consultants are doing.
- James Brown's office is working to watch costs closely and protect TCRIC money.
- ALDOT is still anticipating no additional ROW needed on all of the Hwy 82 project excluding Skyland Blvd, but there are some additional options for assistance that could require ROW but that the Commission may want, such as widening the ditch near the mobile homes across from Blue Plate Diner so that less water collects there.
- Largest challenge to completing these preliminary estimates by Nov. 30 will be some of the bridge designs that are quite complex.

James Brown stated that TCRIC will need to consider whether some bridge widening could be done first if money is available. Alyce Spruell asked Mr. Brown to provide firm request details for November meeting.

Alyce Spruell provided an update regarding funding agreements for 2017 authorized projects.

- Bear Creek Cutoff Intersection Improvements: Nov. 4 letting
- Martin Road Intersection Improvements: ALDOT permit process initiated and will be on expedited ALDOT approval process.
- McFarland-Hargrove: Finalized agreement is awaiting signatures and will be on expedited ALDOT approval process.
- Union Chapel: Awaiting EIS reply from FHWA
- JWP/MLK: Agreement in process.
- McWright's Ferry: Agreement in process.
- Bear Creek Cutoff Road: County is looking at potential interim work to assist with traffic flow and needs City coordination for the same.
- Charlie Shirley Road: Design issue delay

Spruell informed the Commission that the FAST Act funding revealed three projects with dedicated funds that was less than 10% used—

1. Pedestrian Improvements for Northport: \$191,979 remaining Obligation Authority
2. Tuscaloosa Eastern ByPass: \$3,306,694 remaining Obligation Authority
3. McWright's Ferry Road: \$965,135 remaining Obligation Authority

These projects have been repurposed for all Tuscaloosa County projects, including added lanes to I-59 from McFarland to Buttermilk, resurfacing US 43 from 12th St. to University Blvd and for engineering on I-59 added lanes from Black Warrior Pkwy to McFarland. These monies must be obligated by September 2019 and cannot be repurposed again.

A discussion continued about the Tuscaloosa Eastern Bypass and whether there was a creative way to attack the project to keep it alive since it needs to be added to the long-range plan document with MPO but dedicated dollars are needed to do that. The Commission agreed that a TEB work session should be scheduled, and David Norris should be encouraged to attend TCRIC meetings.

The Commission tentatively set its next meeting for Monday, November 28 at 7:30 a.m.

Judge McCollum adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.