

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)  
Meeting Minutes—April 21, 2017  
Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex

Judge McCollum called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, John Powell Webb, John McWilliams, Eddie Pugh, Brad Darden, Jason Morton, Glenda Webb, Wendy Shelby, Alicia Rudolph, Michael Pohlod, David Norris, David Kemp

Meeting minutes from the March 27 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Chris England.

TCRIC Counsel Alyce Spruell noted that the April tax revenue deposit was \$638,700.00. Spruell anticipates a more lengthy financial report at the next meeting by TCRIC accountant, Rick Harbin.

Per the Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission by-laws, the Commission elected officers for the coming year. A motion was made by Mayor Aaron to keep officers as-is (Judge McCollum as Chairman and Mayor Maddox as Vice-Chairman) for a second year. Senator Allen noted that the critical issues with ALDOT make it imperative that the Commission stay the course and can benefit from Judge McCollum's relevant expertise. Mayor Maddox stated that he preferred the idea of rotation so that all stakeholders could be involved in important details of the Commission.

**Vote:** Gerald Allen seconded the motion by Donna Aaron; Motion passed 4-3 with Mayor Maddox, Chris England and Jim Page voting nay.

The Commission reviewed updated ALDOT project grid sheets. ALDOT representatives and Spruell pointed out a few highlights—Martin Road project is now in ROW acquisition anticipated to take 30-60 days; Union Chapel Road project is also headed toward ROW acquisition soon. Bear Creek Road project that has been funded will begin construction soon. Spruell referred the Commission to the newly updated grid sheets provided at the meeting for other project update questions.

A more extensive discussion was held regarding updates to the SR-69 South project. ALDOT is working through issues with the pedestrian crossings as it relates to the railroad company. The current solution is to design the bike/ped over the West side of the bridge. The price increase shown on the grid sheets is related to ITS needs, specifically related to fiber installation and upgrades. Tuscaloosa City Attorney Glenda Webb asked ALDOT when utility relocation contracts could be expected between COT and ALDOT. ALDOT representative David Kemp responded that those contracts would come after the 65% meeting in May but that there will be ample time for utility relocation since the contractor likely won't be onsite until after the first of 2018. Mayor Maddox inquired about whether TCRIC would be required to put our half of the project funding at the time

of letting in November and if so, whether the Commission needed a bond rating, etc., to know its options. Spruell responded that the working budget needed to be revisited to know exactly where cash flow will stand at that point and stated she would follow up with Harbin regarding analysis of the same. ALDOT believes the current cost estimate should be very close to the accurate number, but that we should know more once ROW and utilities can begin after May plan review meeting. ALDOT also stated that sample drilling is in process but has not shown any surprises yet. ALDOT hopes that the environmental document will be moving towards completion in May.

The Commission briefly discussed the implications of the change in gubernatorial administration on ALDOT leadership.

The Commission discussed public affairs and the draft annual report. Jim Page and Brad Darden are working on a design for project signage.

**Vote:** A motion was made by Jim Page to approve the report as drafted. Gerald Allen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the Northport Community Center. Spruell will circulate other proposed meeting dates to Commission members.

Judge McCollum adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.