

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)  
Meeting Minutes—April 30, 2018  
Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex

Commission Member Attendees: Hardy McCollum-Chair; Mayor Walt Maddox; Jim Page; Claude Edwards; Representative Chris England; James Brown

Other Attendees: Rep. AJ McCampbell, David Kemp, John McWilliams, Rick Harbin, Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Brad Darden, Rep. Bill Poole, Stephen Dethrage, Mike Wright, Tera Tubbs, Glenda Webb, Eddie Pugh, Senator Bobby Singleton, Mark Nelson, Scott Anders, Robert Spence, John Powell Webb, Wyman Turner, Chris Grace, Rob Robertson, Lisa Moore

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

Meeting minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Jim Page seconded by Walt Maddox.

Rick Harbin provided a financial report to the Commission. The distribution received in April (February revenue) was \$659,000. After the next distribution, the first quarterly financial statement for the calendar year will be ready. Average revenue over last six months was approximately \$737K. The current bank balance is \$7.9M.

Alyce Spruell provided a legal/compliance report on recent activities. Spruell and Gerald Allen met with Don Arkle to present the ALDOT annual report, pursuant to the ALDOT agreement which requires the report annually. Spruell reported that during the meeting, ongoing projects were discussed, particularly SR-69S at Skyland and how to facilitate funding and letting of that project. Spruell reported that subsequently there was a meeting with ALDOT Director John Cooper and two Commission members. The result of the meeting with Mr. Cooper was several options and opportunities for how to proceed with 69S. Judge McCollum emphasized doing as much as we could to show our compliance with the ALDOT agreement.

**Res. 18-001**

The Commission discussed Resolution 18-001 to provide an additional payment to Harbin & Stough for professional accounting services. Judge McCollum stated that the additional funds were based on requests for the firm to do more than initially engaged to do in the first six quarters of their engagement.

**VOTE:** After a motion by Chris England seconded by Claude Edwards, the resolution was adopted unanimously to approve a \$9,500.00 payment for additional services in the first six quarters of engagement and to increase the quarterly payment beginning with the second quarter of FY 2018 from \$750/quarter to \$1500/quarter.

**Res. 18-002**

The Commission discussed Resolution 18-002 to increase the funds approved for the US-82 access management at Hargrove Road project being overseen by the City of Tuscaloosa. The City provided the Commission with a memorandum of increased costs based on bids received. The resolution was shown in draft form and will need to be amended to show the correct final number

from the City's memo. The newly approved amount, a \$1,122,300 increase for a total TCRIC contribution of \$3,599,879, includes all engineering costs, the final cost on construction, and a 10% contingency. Judge McCollum inquired about where the additional costs came from, and Tera Tubbs stated the glaring differences between the estimate and the bids were signals, asphalt, slope paving, and encasement costs. The Commission discussed their concerns that this would be a sign of issues on future projects with the significant cost increase. Tubbs clarified that water and sewer costs on Hargrove are being paid by the City of Tuscaloosa, and water and sewer costs on US-82 are included in the TCRIC budget. Judge McCollum also confirmed that this rolls into the larger signalization projects on US-82 originally planned by ALDOT.

**VOTE:** Mayor Maddox moved to amend the resolution to match funding amounts with the memo and adopt the resolution as amended. Rep. England seconded the motion. The resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

### **Res. 18-003**

The Commission considered Resolution 18-003 to allow the Chair to enter into a funding agreement for the construction of improvements to Bear Creek Cutoff Road. This resolution was in follow-up to the November 2017 meeting where the Commission authorized Tuscaloosa County and City of Tuscaloosa representatives to continue with the finalization of a design selected at that meeting to return to the Commission for funding approval. Scott Anders from Tuscaloosa County discussed the proposed project layout attached to the resolution, which makes Bear Creek Cutoff Road a through road, improves the railroad crossing, adds cross bars and removes stop signs from the crossing, and creates an access road on SR-215. Commission members inquired about the previous design that removed the tracks altogether. Anders and Mark Nelson reported that that design became unviable due to other demands from the railroad company. Tera Tubbs stated that the current design is a good solution since unable to remove tracks. Nelson stated it has also been negotiated with the railroad company to move their train to a nighttime delivery on the 3-4 occasions per week that it is used. The railroad will be doing the work on the cross arms and stop signs and should provide a formal quote in the next week. Anders said the project will start when school is dismissed and will hopefully be completed by the start of the school year in August. The resolution would authorize the Chair to enter an agreement to reimburse the County up to \$2,900,000.

**VOTE:** Mayor Maddox moved to approve the resolution to authorize the Chair to enter into a funding agreement with Tuscaloosa County to reimburse up to \$2.9M for the Bear Creek Cutoff Road project. After a second by Jim Page, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

### **Res. 18-004**

The Commission considered Resolution 18-004 to allow the Chair to enter into an agreement to reimburse Tuscaloosa County for costs associated with the ALDOT-led project to pave additional lanes on SR-69 South. This resolution was in follow-up to the November 2017 meeting where the project was discussed by James Brown. After ALDOT finalized the project design, Tuscaloosa County separately agreed to fund \$700,000 of the project. The project is estimated to cost \$2,700,000. The County has asked TCRIC to reimburse its \$700,000 expenditure at the time of project completion, which is estimated to be June 2018.

**VOTE:** Rep. England moved to approve the resolution to authorize the Chair to enter into a funding agreement with Tuscaloosa County to reimburse \$700,000 for the add lanes project on

SR-69 South at the time of project completion. After a second by Mayor Maddox, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

ALDOT representative Brad Darden provided the Commission with updates on current TCRIC projects, incorporating the grid sheets of project status information provided to the Commission.

- US-82 projects: Waiting on environmental document and hope to have in approved form in next couple of months
  - SR 69 to Rice Mine: Once the environmental document is in hand, plan development for this specific stretch can be completed (probably around 85% now).
- US-82 at University Blvd: Project moving toward ROW acquisition with intent to let mid-summer. Mayor Maddox inquired about \$1M previously budgeted for the project, and Spruell clarified that that was discussed when the project included Hillard Drive and that the project has been significantly decreased such that ALDOT is working to build the full project with ATRIP funds allocated to it. The University of Alabama is now doing the Hillard portion in a separate project.
- SR 69 S at Skyland Blvd: The project is still on track for late summer letting. Utilities still need relocation and ROW still has to be acquired, but the plans themselves are in good shape.
- Bear Creek Intersection: Permanent traffic stripes are going down; the project is nearing the end of construction, but a change order to install delineator posts eastbound to keep cars from turning left from US-82 onto 12<sup>th</sup> Street from the acceleration lane has not been completed yet. This was a necessary safety change order. Mark Nelson inquired about the completion date as it relates to Tuscaloosa County's reimbursement of their \$2.5M contribution to the project, and Darden responded the end of May. Spruell clarified that the Commission only currently owes \$2.5M, as it has paid \$880K, for a total investment of approximately \$3.4M, and that the project is still projected to come in at or under bid cost.
- Martin Road: Delays have occurred because utility relocation has been delayed due to storms that have pulled power crews to other areas of the state. The project is still hoping to be completed by the end of summer. Spruell stated that based on the \$400K repair last month, \$1M is probably a conservative estimate for project costs right now.
- 69 S Add lanes: Construction is underway; the project has had significant overruns, which are an ALDOT responsibility, because of base failure. The project is looking to be complete in June as well. Representative England stated that he had been getting feedback on some cuts being too deep, including one right beside Publix. ALDOT stated it would work on getting those fixed.
- Lurleen Wallace: Although not a TCRIC project, the project is an ALDOT commitment in TCRIC-ALDOT agreement. The bid came in under estimate altogether, but the City of Tuscaloosa's portion for utility work was well over the estimate (utilities came in high, construction came in low). Mayor Maddox inquired about the project's 14% ALDOT administrative fee, and Darden confirmed that 13.6% is the standard for the state to bid and administer a project. Maddox asked whether that fee could be negotiated since the City Council will now have to consider the additional funds in the Capital Budget proposed at the end of May, and David Kemp stated it would be looked into. Darden also stated that because of the project's location downtown, it is best to do utilities at the same time so it can be phased through blocks downtown for traffic control issues and less construction

days. Maddox elaborated that this project will likely be the city's best opportunity for several decades to do water and sewer work on the street.

Darden and Kemp also pointed out that full TCRIC projects have NO ALDOT 13.6% charge for indirect costs. ALDOT still gets paid for CE&I actual costs. Kemp pointed out that part of the goal of the 13.6% is to build in some for contingency on overruns or change orders.

Tera Tubbs provided an update on the Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK project being managed by the City of Tuscaloosa. Watco and KCS, the two railroads involved, are currently reviewing plans. She estimated that offers have been made on approximately 80% of the relevant tracts for right-of-way and approximately 25% have been acquired. She also updated that the appraisers are working on the McWright's Ferry Road project so that ROW acquisition can begin soon.

Judge McCollum proposed the formation of two committees, finance and contracts. Per the TCRIC by-laws, such appointments must be made by name by a majority vote of the Commission.

**VOTE:** After a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Chris England, the Commission voted unanimously to name Mayor Walt Maddox, Senator Gerald Allen, and Claude Edwards to the finance committee and Mayor Donna Aaron, Representative Chris England, and Jim Page to the contracts committee. Per the by-laws, Judge McCollum, as chair, will serve as an *ex officio* member of both committees.

Mayor Maddox inquired about the leadership of committees, and Judge McCollum stated the mayor on each committee would be responsible for initiating the meetings of the committee. The committees will meet in accordance with the Open Meetings Acts. Spruell stated that if committees would notify her about their meetings, she would be sure proper notice was posted.

David Kemp informed the Commission that the week of Wed., May 16-Friday, May 18, Senator Allen is working on a ribbon cutting for the Brookwood Parkway.

Jim Page inquired about getting an updated cash flow spreadsheet by next meeting, and Mayor Maddox stated he was going to find time to call finance committee to work on that.

Judge McCollum asked Commission members to share dates they were unavailable for June, July, and August meetings with him.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Next meeting: May 21 at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex at 7:30am.