

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes --- February 25, 2019
Tuscaloosa City Hall, Daugherty Room

Commission Member Attendees: Mayor Walt Maddox-Chair; Mayor Donna Aaron; Representative Chris England; Claude Edwards; Jim Page; Judge Rob Robertson; Representative Rich Wingo; James Brown (ex officio)

Other Attendees: Tracy Criss, Senator Allen, Michael Pohler, Scott Anders, Serena Fortenberry, Dennis Stripling, Kevin Kane, Eddie Pugh, Mark Nelson, David Kemp, Lee Garrison, Clay Randolph, Jason Morton, John McWilliams, Bruce Higginbotham, Ron Davis, Robert Spence, Brad Matthews, Russ Ware, Edward Henderson, Brad Darden, Wallace McAdory, Glenda Webb, Alex House, Maria Wilson, Susan Snowden, Tera Tubbs, Bill Poole, Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Meeting minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Jim Page seconded by Rep. Wingo.

The February deposit from December 2018 sales tax collected was \$819,200, with a current bank balance of \$8,805,566.47. The Special Sales Tax Board has begun allowing electronic deposits of monthly amounts, and it is anticipated to begin for Road Commission payments beginning in March 2019. Spruell has provided the Tax Board with the relevant information to set-up.

Res. 19-003: Amendment #1 to the Fiscal 2019 Resolution Budgeting and Designating Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission Funds for Certain Priority Projects

-After a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Claude Edwards, Res. 19-003 was adopted.

Res. 19-004: Resolution Authorizing the Payment of \$849,252.48 Reimbursement to Tuscaloosa County for Road Improvements on Bear Creek Cutoff Road

-Final numbers of expenditures for the Bear Creek Cutoff Road Project were provided to the Commission by Tuscaloosa County in a memorandum requesting reimbursement of those expenditures pursuant to Res. 18-003 and the associated joint funding agreement.

-Expenditure request in the amount of \$849,252.48. Pursuant to actions at the December TCRIC meeting and Res. 19-003, the budgeted amount for this project is currently \$900,000.

-After a motion by Judge Robertson, seconded by Claude Edwards, Res. 19-004 was adopted.

Res. 19-005: Resolution Approving Projected Cost Change for McWright's Ferry Road Project

-At the January 2019 TCRIC meeting, City of Tuscaloosa representatives presented the outcome of the McWright's Ferry Road value engineering process, which included a comparison of the existing design and a new proposal that includes a budget of \$10M less by creating an at-grade intersection rather than an interchange, lowering and shortening the bridge at North River, and downsizes the wide center on the two-lane road's existing design.

-A four-lane bridge will likely be bid as an alternate to the design.

-The Commission voted to approve and adopt the new design as discussed after a motion by Chris England seconded by Donna Aaron.

Res. 19-006: Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of \$150,000 to ALDOT for Preliminary Engineering Costs on Intersection Improvements on SR-69 South

-At its December 2018 and January 2019 meetings, the TCRIC approved a project and budget to improve certain intersections along SR-69 South south of Skyland Boulevard.

-ALDOT has requested an advance payment of \$150,000 to contribute to the preliminary engineering costs for the project.

-The resolution authorizing the project budget approved the expenditure up to the amount of overrun for the Bear Creek Cutoff Project, which is near \$2M. The Commission has approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,750,000.

-Rep. Wingo inquired about whether it was being handled in-house, and ALDOT confirmed that it is.

-Mayor Maddox inquired about the timeline of the project, and ALDOT representatives stated it would likely be let in late 2019.

-\$0 has been expended on the project to date. The actual construction costs only (not including PE, right-of-way, or utility costs) are currently estimated at \$1.54M.

-After a motion by Rep. Wingo, seconded by Judge Robertson, an expenditure of \$150,000 for preliminary engineering for the project was approved by Res. 19-006.

Project updates were provided as follows:

Brad Darden provided updates for ALDOT. Mayor Maddox inquired about the Lurleen Wallace Blvd project, and James Brown stated that a recent meeting occurred at ALDOT to try and expedite the project to minimize concerns for business owners. Darden stated that the plans at the University Blvd Interchange at US-82 are moving again now that the BUILD grant has been resolved, as well as other projects along the US-82 corridor. The I-59/20 project is running about six months ahead of schedule. Lurleen is looking at a year from now to be completed, and a year after that for I-59/20. Brown also stated concerns about the intersection on US-82 at SR-69. That intersection really needs a diverging diamond upgrade. Brown stated that if the Commission would like to provide preliminary engineering funding that would be of benefit.

Tera Tubbs provided updates for the City of Tuscaloosa. The parties from the BUILD grant have decided to pursue an INFRA grant with the same University Blvd project. The application is due March 4. It includes significant drainage work (~\$11M estimate), intersection improvements (~\$16M), technology, improvements to Hillard Drive, and other related work totaling \$32M (with a 24% match, which includes the ATRIP funds). The TCRIC \$1M currently budgeted for this project can't be shown as a match because it will be used for right-of-way. The City would like to request letters of support from the TCRIC, County, and City of Northport. After a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Claude Edwards, the TCRIC agreed to go on record as a supporter of the project.

Signal pole delivery has been delayed on Hargrove, but all lanes on McFarland are now opened. Public meeting on Jack Warner Pkwy project is still in the planning process. Mayor Maddox will circulate further details.

Bruce Higginbotham provided updates for the City of Northport. The Union Chapel utility bid came in at approximately \$404,000. This was about \$100,000 under budget. That should be approved by the City Council on Monday night.

Scott Anders provided updates for Tuscaloosa County. Watermelon Road/Union Chapel was let as an ATRIP project. It should be about a 3-month project but it should nearly double the capacity of the intersection.

Mayor Maddox opened the floor for public comment. None was received.

Mayor Maddox requested that the body go into executive session to discuss ongoing negotiations with ALDOT. After a motion by Judge Robertson seconded by Mayor Aaron, the Commission went into executive session at 8:00 a.m.

After a motion by Rep. Wingo, seconded by Jim Page, the Commission left executive session at 8:45 a.m. No further business was conducted. Mayor Maddox adjourned the meeting after motion and second by the same.