

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—June 26, 2017
Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex

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

Commission Member Attendees: Judge Hardy McCollum, Chair; Donna Aaron; Jim Page; Senator Gerald Allen; Dara Longgrear; James Brown

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Rick Harbin, Jay Logan, Wallace McAdory, Jason Morton, Glenda Webb, Tera Tubbs, Mike Wright, Bruce Higginbotham, David Kemp

Meeting minutes from the April 21 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Jim Page.

TCRIC accountant, Rick Harbin, provided the Commission with a financial report and printed financial statements ending March 31, 2017. As of March 31, the Commission's net assets total approximately \$3,000,000. There is approximately \$2,500,000 on hand after a June deposit of \$659,300.00.

The Commission's Chubb insurance policy issued by The Fitts Agency last year after the Commission's bidding process was up for renewal. TCRIC legal counsel Nicole Hampton informed the Commission members that a review of the renewal policy concludes it is substantially the same, included the same policy limits and same premium amount.

Vote: Dara Longgrear seconded a motion by Gerald Allen that the premium be approved for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

ALDOT representative David Kemp and legal counsel Alyce Spruell provided the Commission with project updates and proposed use of project information "maps" for the TCRIC website.

Spruell explained that the maps presented to the Commission were in concept form from Kristina Franklin (ALDOT) to provide the public with better information about the status of TCRIC projects in response to some public comments received. The maps include blocks of text to provide the status of various stages of project development. The Commission members agreed in principal to the addition of these types of maps to the website and gave technical representatives authority to continue work for the same purpose. General improvements and edits to make the documents more public-friendly were discussed. Updated versions to incorporate those suggestions will be circulated before posting.

David Kemp then provided updates on the projects themselves. The Martin Road project is working through major water line relocation and the County's development of the right-of-way map. The US-82 work near the University Blvd ramp has been changed, such that the new entrance to DCH and the closure of the Bryant Drive turn previously contemplated will not occur because of problems with nearby businesses. Kemp reminded the Commission that the project cannot be further delayed because of the use of A-TRIP funds that are time-limited. The pedestrian bridge that was part of the project will now be a separate project by UA, although it could very well be

let at the same time as this work. City of Tuscaloosa representatives inquired about whether there was a contractual obligation for UA to build the bridge because of the City's obligations to build related sidewalks and Kemp stated that the contract is not fully-executed but that yes, they would be obligated to build. The project at Union Chapel Road is currently in right-of-way acquisition. Based on at least one parcel likely needing to go to condemnation, the letting previously scheduled for this fall has been moved to January. The project at Bear Creek Road currently in the construction phase is on schedule but needs a TCRIC sign.

The project at 69 South is now anticipating a Spring 2018 letting. This is primarily based on the issues related to bridge design and the need to move major utilities. Gerald Allen asked whether the utilities could be started before letting, as discussed at the last meeting? The utilities are primarily COT and Alabama Gas. Tuscaloosa city attorney, Glenda Webb, stated that COT has just received its agreement with ALDOT for utility relocation and that COT had to find funding to front those costs but that the relocation is now in design. Rich Wingo is assisting with Alabama Gas and the next submittal there is close. Kemp stated that additional help may be needed from Commission when it is time for the railroad submittal (which he believed was KSS property leased to WatCo), because the railroad now only considers plans once final. Right-of-way was discussed. Kemp stated that the environmental submittal is expected next month, which should be followed by approval to begin acquiring the ROW. The final right-of-entry needed has been signed. Webb pointed out that COT needed to be removed from the right-of-entry list on the project map draft provided because of the pedestrian walkways being moved to the west side of the project.

Judge McCollum raised concerns about 69 South being delayed while the McFarland Blvd project involving the crimson arches being let beforehand and inquired about whether there was anything the TCRIC could be doing since 69 South is a flagship project for the Commission. Kemp stated that he did not believe so, that there were lots of issues of where to send utilities, etc. that have delayed 69 South, and that he would provide more in-depth utility updates at the July meeting. Kemp also mentioned that the lighting company doing the crimson arches have lots of capabilities that may interest the Commission in the future and McCollum asked Kemp to bring more information about it to the July meeting.

Kemp also provided an update on the Lurleen Wallace project. The PS&E is at approximately 85% and the project still intends to let this fall, although construction is not expected to begin until after football season. Jim Page asked about the impact of the project on structures on the road, specifically because of the drive-thru on FUMCT. Kemp stated that they are working with 2 historic buildings that are impacted and that the columns on FUMCT were built in the right-of-way, but ALDOT believes they can remove them during the project instead of having FUMCT remove themselves. Glenda Webb asked for clarification that the project is not being contemplated for Road Commission funding and Kemp and McCollum confirmed that it is not, but that it is a project for which ALDOT wants to keep the Commission abreast.

Jim Page gave an update on TCRIC signs at project sites. He and Brad Darden (ALDOT) have determined that COT does not have the capability to create the signs at the size needed (6" x 10"). ALDOT can create the signs for approximately \$1,300.00 each. Multiple signs would be needed but design can be such that they could be reused. Page stated that they have talked with some local designers about logo possibilities, but wanted to get approval from the Commission regarding the

funding first. McCollum stated that it seemed the Commission was in agreement this needed to happen, so it seemed to be a good idea to move forward. Page and Darden will work to bring design possibilities to the July meeting.

Vote: A motion was made by Donna Aaron to approve the expenditure of funds for signs. The motion was seconded by Gerald Allen and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Friday, July 28 at 7:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Annex.

Judge McCollum adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.