

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—April 11, 2016, 7:30 A.M.
Northport City Hall Conference Room

Judge McCollum called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

Attendees: Judge Hardy McCollum, Chair; Mayor Walt Maddox; Mayor Bobby Herndon; Jim Page; Senator Gerald Allen; Representative Chris England; James Brown; David Kemp; Alyce Spruell; Nicole Bohannon; Scott Collins; Glenda Webb; Ron Davis; Robert Spence

Meeting minutes from February and March meetings were approved.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

HB 348: Representative England provided an update to the committee on the bill that amends the effective date for the Commission and resolves some BIR/publication issues. The bill is pending in the Senate and the goal is to have it passed in the coming weeks.

HB 349/SB 180: Mr. Page provided a brief update on 349 and 180; the major issue being cloture with the revenue bill. Representative England also expressed concern about votes on the revenue bill.

SB 267: Senator Allen provided an update on Senator Hightower's SB 267 bill related to appropriation of BP settlement funds. While it is still in the early stages, it provides for regional monies that could be additional funding streams to consider.

ALDOT AGREEMENT

Senator Allen and Ms. Spruell provided the Commission with an update regarding negotiations with ALDOT. The two met with ALDOT representatives two weeks ago. Primary takeaway from the meeting was that the agreement will likely not take effect until after the Huntsville agreement is paid out in 2018 (so 2019 for possible funding to come down for us). The goal is to have a draft by the 4/29 meeting.

BONDING/FUNDING

Ms. Spruell discussed the two state bonding mechanisms currently in discussion—the mechanism created by SB 320 last year and the State Infrastructure Bank. While the highway authority is pushing the infrastructure bank, there may be a timing issue because they are not set-up yet.

A detailed discussion regarding the approach to project funding ensued. Goals are to establish projects and a funding source as soon as possible but also be sure that Tuscaloosa is getting proper ALDOT credit for funds being expended. The discussion included a desire to be sure that state projects are confirmed with an accelerated letting date. Mayor Maddox expressed a desire to explore having some totally local projects ready to go on a parallel track of sorts, including McWright's Ferry and MLK/Jack Warner.

Mayor Maddox proposed that at the next meeting the City of Tuscaloosa present projects it is ready to move forward on and encouraged other Commission members to propose alternative action plans, if they desire.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

TCRIC Bank Account

The \$25,000 has been transferred from the City of Northport into the TCRIC account. The City of Tuscaloosa will issue the \$30,000 already approved once Scott sends a W-9 for TCRIC to the city for their vendor disbursement needs.

Website

Scott Collins previewed for the Commission the website designed by the Nine Agency. The draft will allow us to provide a “schedule of work” for each project, as well as a map showing the projects. Jim Page and the Chamber are willing to handle the maintenance of the website.

- Action needed: The agreement for payment with Nine will need to be reviewed and signed at the first opportunity for official action by the Commission.
- Action needed: The Commission needs some sort of agreement in place about approving content for the website. A discussion also may need to occur about when the website strategically needs to go live based on project timelines.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 29 at 7:30 a.m. at Tuscaloosa City Hall. Goals for the meeting will be approval of by-laws and D&O insurance (3 quotes to be provided by Scott), assuming HB348 has been passed. Additionally, the goal will be to have a draft ALDOT agreement for Commission review at the 29th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.