

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—May 13, 2016, 7:30 A.M.
Tuscaloosa City Hall-Daughtery Room

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

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

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Commission's legal counsel; Nicole Bohannon, Commission's legal counsel; John Powell Webb; Susan Snowden; Carly Strandridge; Mike Wright; Tera Tubbs; Bruce Higginbotham; Eddie Pugh; Matt Calderone; Dan Blakely; Scott Collins; Larry Nettles; Glenda Webb; Jason Morton

MAYOR MADDUX-PROJECT NASCAR AND MCFARLAND BLVD PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Maddox made a presentation to the Commission regarding three projects: first, improvements to McFarland Boulevard at the Hargrove Road intersection; second, the extension to McWright's Ferry Road; and finally, improvements to Martin Luther King, Jr./Jack Warner Parkway. Data for Maddox's presentation was pulled from the City of Tuscaloosa, ALDOT, BKI, and the MPO.

- McFarland/Hargrove: This project was originally an ALDOT access management project. Under Mayor Maddox's proposal, the City would front water/sewer and ask TCRIC for reimbursement of the remainder of the project at an approximate cost of \$2.2M (although the City hopes it can complete the project for less). The City would be responsible for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.
 - MCFARLAND BLVD ACTION
 - The Commission unanimously authorized Alyce Spruell to negotiate with the City of Tuscaloosa in regards to the City's oversight of the entire McFarland Blvd/Hargrove Road project as presented (Motion by Walt Maddox, Seconded by Jim Page).
- McWright's Ferry and MLK/Jack Warner, or "Project NASCAR," was also presented by Mayor Maddox. Mayor Maddox is presenting in advance of the June meeting where he expressly requested that the Commission consider approving these projects be completed by the City of Tuscaloosa with reimbursement from TCRIC. Again, City would handle design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. Mayor Maddox estimated an over \$9M savings if the City completes these compared to ALDOT.
 - MLK/Jack Warner:
 - These improvements will allow for the western portion of the Riverwalk to be continued, will expand the stretch near the Amphitheatre to four lanes, and improve the railroad trestle situation.
 - McWright's:
 - McWright's would actually be moved from the existing road with the eventual goal of a four-lane divided highway. The right-of-way is anticipated to be the biggest issue.

Judge McCollum expressed concerns over McWright's not complying with federal regulations because of the loss of dollars in the future. David Kemp explained that by failing to use federal acquisition standards (i.e., relocation act, appraisal review, etc.), you use currently-allocated federal dollars.

- Mayor Maddox noted that he doesn't believe those funds will ever be realized and would like to hear any other argument for keeping within these standards.

ALDOT AGREEMENT/FUNDING

Senator Allen and Ms. Spruell provided the Commission with an update regarding negotiations with ALDOT. Ms. Spruell was optimistic about the progression of phone conversations but was still working to get a paper draft that was workable with ALDOT. Her biggest concern was that the latest paper copy did not pin down when ALDOT would start funding.

Spruell also distributed the most recent ALDOT spreadsheet, as updated by Nick Crane, listing the priority projects, along with cost and time projections. Spruell plans to present at the next meeting details for each project with scope of work, etc., including what is shovel-ready based on varied stakeholder perspectives.

- Judge McCollum agreed that this is an important step to take when considering Mayor Maddox's project Nascar proposal.

NORTHPORT MITT LARY REIMBURSEMENT

Mayor Herndon expressed that Northport would like to be paid over two years, rather than three, if possible. Judge McCollum stated that fund allocation should occur as they come in, and if the Commission can get the repayment done sooner than three years, that would be his preference.

- Jim Page requested to see Mayor Maddox's funding projections if Northport were to be repaid in two years.

Mayor Herndon also mentioned state funds previously committed to Martin Road. David Kemp confirmed that approximately \$300,000 had been committed by ALDOT if County paid the rest, but issue was with the water lines. David believes that \$300K to still be available if project moves forward.

Meeting minutes from April 29 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Dara Longgear seconded by Gerald Allen.

The Commission set its next meeting for Friday, June 10, at 7:30 a.m. at the ALDOT West Regional Office.

Judge McCollum adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.