

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—September 26, 2016
Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex Building

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

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

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Ron Davis, John Powell Webb, John Downer, Jerry Tingle, John Earl, Wallace McAdory, David Kemp, Eddie Pugh, Jason Morton, Tommy Nettles, Rick Harbin, Representative Bill Poole

Meeting minutes from August 22 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Bobby Herndon seconded by Gerald Allen.

Accountant Rick Harbin gave an accounting report to the Commission, reporting a first deposit from the July 2016 tax collections, received in September, in the amount of \$622,600.00. After bill payments, including reimbursing the entities pursuant to Res. 16-018, the TCRIC account remains at approximately \$555,287.00.

RES. 16-017: Resolution Authorizing TCRIC Accountant to Serve as One Signature on Expenditures from TCRIC Checking Account

It was clarified that this still requires a signature from either Judge McCollum or Mayor Maddox on checks, but simply allows Rick Harbin to serve as the second signature required by prior resolution of the Commission.

The resolution passed unanimously after a motion by Bobby Herndon seconded by Gerald Allen.

RES. 16-018: Resolution Authorizing the Reimbursement of City of Tuscaloosa, City of Northport, and Tuscaloosa County Commission for Initial Operating Costs

It was stated that these expenditures relate solely to operating reimbursements provided by the entities up front, no specific project funding.

The resolution passed unanimously after a motion by Bobby Herndon seconded by Gerald Allen.

TCRIC Counsel, Alyce Spruell, updated the Commission that priority projects memorialized in resolutions from the past TCRIC meeting are being finalized in agreements with the individual entities involved. The goal is to have those agreements completed by the next TCRIC meeting. She informed the Commission that according to ALDOT, the Bear Creek intersection was still anticipated to be let in November. ALDOT hopes to have hard numbers and possibly letting dates on several additional projects by the October meeting.

- Senator Allen inquired as to whether there were specific plans as to Kauloosa Avenue to help with traffic during 69S construction. Mayor Maddox stated that while there were no budgeted improvements to the road at this time, the City would consider those needs as defined construction dates come together.

- ALDOT reported that the goal date for letting 69S is July 2017. A member of the public inquired as to the length of this type of project and ALDOT responded approximately two years.
 - Mayor Maddox inquired about right of way and railroad permits involved, and ALDOT representatives stated that they do not anticipate a major problem with right of way and that railroad permits would typically come after the design phase, but that there will be some utility relocation. Mayor Maddox also inquired about business access during construction, and ALDOT stated that public involvement would be a part of planning before construction began.
- Judge McCollum raised the need to keep the Tuscaloosa Eastern Bypass on the Commission's radar. Discussion occurred surrounding possible dates to see new environmental document on the project, and ALDOT representatives suggested late next year might be possible.
 - Mayor Maddox requested that Spruell learn the status of cost for the Eastern Bypass.

The Commission reviewed a draft Quarterly Report, due at the end of the quarter pursuant to the Commission's by-laws. Jim Page raised whether votes on other administrative matters should be memorialized there. Rick Harbin stated that there would not be a financial statement attached to the quarterly report, but Spruell confirmed that one was not necessary at this time.

- Representative England moved to approve the draft as written; Senator Allen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Spruell updated the Commission on research related to the August redistributions of federal funds allocated to state projects. Spruell is working to get a list of the projects being reallocated in Alabama and the redistributions that are occurring from ALDOT but has had to make an Open Records Request for the same. Spruell also discussed TIFA and the possibility for federal funds through the use of the same in the future. Judge McCollum request that Spruell circulate materials on TIFA to the Commission.

Discussion surrounding the public affairs outreach of the Commission and its website occurred. Nicole Hampton, TCRIC counsel, informed the commission that meeting notices are now being emailed to anyone added to our notice list, as well as all minutes and agendas being live on the website. The next matter to decide will be what project information to include on the website and the finality of certain documents before they are posted. Judge McCollum stated that as long as items are posted as 'drafts' or 'plans', it should be fine. Jim Page stressed the importance of additional social media presence once construction begins.

Judge McCollum inquired about the long-term planning meeting held by ALDOT last week. James Brown stated that the majority of issues addressed involved transit and that another round of similar meetings would occur next spring.

John Downer expressed concern with the timing of 69S work. James Brown and Judge McCollum responded, stating that the order of the projects really has to do with ALDOT's internal systems and what projects are physically ready to go. Downer also expressed concern

over the time of the Commission meetings and requested that meetings be advertised in The Tuscaloosa News.

Mayor Herndon raised the toll bridge and the possibility of it being made public as an issue effecting Lurleen Wallace. Mayor Maddox agreed that it affects Hwy 82 as well, and also raised IDA concerns that arise from a toll bridge. The Commission asked Spruell to do more research in anticipation of the next meeting as to this.

The Commission tentatively set its next meeting for Monday, October 24th at 7:30 a.m.

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