

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—September 25, 2017
West Alabama Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Commission Member Attendees: Walt Maddox-Vice Chair; Donna Aaron; Jim Page; Senator Gerald Allen; Representative Chris England; Dara Longgrear; James Brown

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, David Kemp, Tera Tubbs, Glenda Webb, Al Spencer, Scott Anders, Robert Spence, Jerry Tingle, Mark Nelson, Bruce Higginbotham, Ron Davis, Eddie Pugh, Brad Darden, Mike Wright

Meeting minutes from the August 28 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Chris England seconded by Gerald Allen.

A brief financial update based on a memo from TCRIC accountant Rick Harbin and an expenditure report drafted by Nicole Hampton was provided by Alyce Spruell and Hampton. There is approximately \$3.9M on hand after a September deposit of \$626,100.00 with no outstanding September bills left to be paid. Mayor Maddox inquired about the accuracy of the average revenue amount being used for budgeting, and Spruell confirmed that the amount was larger than the September 2016 deposit, so Harbin is still comfortable with \$700K as the average monthly revenue projection. Hampton explained that the expenditure report provided was with the goal of beginning discussion of where the Commission stands for cash flow. Mayor Maddox requested that Mike Wright be able to take the report and use in their system to show generated versus anticipated revenues and encumbrances as a cover sheet with back-up documents included. Wright inquired about whether the JMF audit would be a 3 and 12-month audit because of the 3 months of FY 2016 revenue or a 15 month, and Spruell stated it would likely be a 15-month audit.

Spruell also updated members on the state infrastructure bank, which has now held its first meeting and is considered operational but still does not have regulations or procedures in place. Spruell also discussed other possible grant opportunities and that we hope to hear back on the technology grant related to 69-S soon. Mayor Maddox asked about a possible bond rating for the Commission and Spruell stated that while the Commission will not have a completed audit until November, she hopes that the 2016 disbursements may be sufficient to give a year of financial data necessary for further borrowing information. Maddox expressed his concern about the Commission's ability to obtain a high rating and the benefit of potentially using an entity rating if any entity can take the Commission's debt on its books. Jim Page inquired about possible time tables on the infrastructure bank, and Spruell stated that she was unsure but that Senator Orr was working on related legislation for the session that begins in January. Maddox also inquired about whether the 69-South project will have to be funded up front, and Spruell stated it depends on how the project is funded. Further discussion occurred surrounding 69-South funding mechanisms and time table for a decision related to the same. Mark Nelson inquired about the Tuscaloosa Port Authority, and Spruell stated that she would be reviewing records related to the Authority before the next meeting.

Brad Darden provided an update on current TCRIC-ALDOT projects. Hwy 69 South/Skyland Blvd. intersection has just received 85% plans from the consultant, which are being reviewed by ALDOT, with a current estimated letting of summer 2018. The environmental document has been submitted but not returned from FHWA yet. US-82 (McFarland Blvd) from Rice Mine to Campus Drive, which is the project that includes the Woolsey Finnel Bridge, is in design. The construction underway on the Bear Creek Road intersection is still progressing on time, with a November estimated completion. Contractors have been paid approximately 50% of the bid award amount and are at approximately 60% of time completion. Darden also provided updates on the other ALDOT Tuscaloosa projects that are not TCRIC projects. The 20/59 project from west of McFarland Blvd to Buttermilk Road let the Friday prior to the meeting, with a bracket estimate of \$61-75M and estimate completion in 2020. Lurleen Wallace project letting has been moved to early 2018, with an estimated cost of \$20.5M. The work at the intersection of Hwy 43/Mitt Lary Road is adding a second southbound lane from Christ Harbor UMC through the intersection through a partnership between ALDOT, City of Northport, and Tuscaloosa County and an estimated cost of \$1M. Utility relocation is underway at the Mercedes overpass project with an estimated completion of fall 2018.

Senator Allen requested an update on the railroad crossing on Bear Creek Cutoff Road, which Mayor Maddox noted was part of the 'Phase 2' project in the FY 2018 working budget. Spruell stated that she hoped to have more on a potential project for this road at the next meeting based on work done by the County. Senator Allen also expressed concerns about the need to widen US-11.

Representative England inquired about the Kauloosa Avenue turn lane project, and James Brown confirmed that the project was not being funded by TCRIC, but that ALDOT has determined that even limiting construction to 9 am-2 pm was not enough to relieve the congestion being caused by the work.

The Commission discussed the need for more comprehensive communications strategy, and James Brown and Mayor Maddox stated they would connect their public information officials to work on the same. Jim Page updated the Commission that the road signs for commission projects are hopefully close to resolution after some discussion related to relevant FHWA regulations. Page hoped the signs would be in production by the next meeting.

Jerry Tingle inquired about when Tuscaloosa County would be repaid for its \$2.5M up-front payment on Bear Creek Cutoff Road, and Spruell stated it would be at the project's conclusion per the agreement between the County and the Commission.

Mayor Maddox stated that for the next meeting, he would like to review the amounts related to collections, the budget status, and would discuss with his communications staff possible avenues to move the communications strategy of the Commission moving forward.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 30 at 7:30 a.m. at Tuscaloosa City Hall.

Mayor Maddox adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.