

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes --- January 28, 2019
Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama

Commission Member Attendees: Mayor Walt Maddox-Chair; Judge Rob Robertson; Mayor Donna Aaron; Representative Rich Wingo; Representative Chris England; Jim Page; Claude Edwards; James Brown

Other Attendees: Alicia Rudolph, Tracy Criss, Scott Anders, Serena Fortenberry, Mason Bonner, Ron Davis, Eddie Pugh, Mark Nelson, David Kemp, Lee Garrison, Craig Williams, Clay Randolph, Jason Morton, John McWilliams, Bruce Higginbotham, Brad Matthews, Katy Metcalfe, Russ Ware, Edward Henderson, Brad Darden, Jacob Hudson, Glenda Webb, Susan Snowden, Tera Tubbs, Bill Poole, Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Meeting minutes from the December meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mayor Jim Page seconded by Rep. Wingo.

The January deposit from November 2018 sales tax collected was \$803,700, with a current bank balance of \$8,191,366. Further financial report was tabled until the February meeting after a motion by Mayor Aaron seconded by Jim Page. Motion carried.

TCRIC counsel Alyce Spruell discussed the audit draft that had been circulated to members. Jim Page moved, and Rep. Wingo seconded, to table further discussion of the report until the auditors could attend in February. Motion carried.

TCRIC counsel Nicole Hampton updated the Commission on the need for final expenditure numbers from each of the member entities with active projects in 2018 for the expenditure report prepared annually for ALDOT. Hampton will follow up with members individually from whom information is still needed.

Spruell stated that the post office box for the Commission needed to be renewed but that the USPS had requested formal action by the Commission to designate authority to renew the box. Judge Robertson moved to designate Rosen Harwood, PA as the Commission designee and remove Scott Collins as designee for all necessary USPS activity. After a second by Rep. Wingo, the motion carried.

Res. 19-002: Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Excess Funds from the Bear Creek Cutoff Road Project to Priority Intersection Improvements on SR-69 South

-Further details were given by ALDOT representatives regarding the new 69 South Turn Lane project authorized at the December 2018 meeting, including a chart of impacted intersections and their traffic count. Barden stated that ALDOT would set up the project to complete as many intersections as the funds remaining from the Bear Creek Cutoff Road project would allow. The cost estimates provided in Res. 19-002 are without survey. ALDOT expects limited utility involvement. Signals are not expected to be impacted. Construction would likely be possible to start in fall 2019 after survey, plans, etc. are completed. Rep. Wingo inquired about the anticipated scope of work, and Darden stated it

was 6-10 months. Rep. Wingo also asked about minimum bidders, and ALDOT representatives stated that ALDOT reserved the right to reject if only one bid was received. Rep. Wingo also stated that he would like to talk about the contracts used by ALDOT for TCRIC projects, including calendar days, liquidated damages, etc. ALDOT also stated that engineering would be completed in-house.

-Estimated cost of project is \$1.52M for construction plus 10% on surveys, plans, etc., so \$1.75M total. ALDOT and the County have discussed doing an alternate bid with additional turn lanes depending on the remaining dollars from Bear Creek Cutoff.

-The method for adjusting the budget in light of the structure of funding was discussed. The Bear Creek Cutoff Road project was originally approved in the amount of \$2,900,000. The budget currently reflects a budget of \$2,800,000.

-After a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Claude Edwards, Res. 19-002 was adopted.

-After a motion by Claude Edwards, seconded by Rep. Wingo, a budget amendment was adopted to reduce the Bear Creek Cutoff Road project budget to \$900,000 and a new line item for the Res. 19-002 project created in the amount of \$1,750,000.

Rep. Bill Poole raised whether signage could be placed on 69 South for projects occurring there. After a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Rep. Wingo, a motion carried to fund road signage as approved by the entities completing the projects on 69 South.

Tera Tubbs presented the outcome of the McWright's Ferry Road value engineering process. Based on an increase in concrete and steel costs, Mayor Maddox stated he was concerned with need to stay within existing Project NASCAR approved budgets. Tubbs presented a comparison of the existing design and a new proposal that includes a budget of \$10M less by creating an at-grade intersection rather than an interchange, lowering and shortening the bridge at North River, and downsizes the wide center on the two-lane road's existing design. The new proposed design has an estimated cost of \$42.4M with an estimated completion date of December 2022. The proposed design involves 65 acres of right-of-way rather than 109. BKI completed previous surveys and design, so they would continue to do re-design, if adopted, Tubbs stated. Judge Robertson asked about whether the shared use path proposed is allowable under HB 600. Tubbs stated it was part of FHWA requirements. Judge Robertson inquired further about whether it might be eligible for grant dollars. Mayor Maddox stated that it would be included under the proposals for TAP grants if possible. Jim Page inquired about which proposed design would be best long-term, and Tubbs stated the new proposal. Spruell inquired about whether the project would still meet federal specifications, and Tubbs stated it would.

Mayor Maddox opened the floor for public comment. None was received.

After a motion by Mayor Aaron, seconded by Jim Page, the Commission went into executive session at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the good name and character of a Commission contractor, as well as competitive contracting matters.

After a motion by Mayor Aaron, seconded by Rep. England, the Commission left executive session at 9:15 a.m.

No further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.