

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—January 20, 2017
Courthouse Annex

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

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

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Joseph Rose, Robert Spence, John Powell Webb, Ron Davis, Jason Morton, David Norris, Ronnie Robertson, Glenda Webb, Tera Tubbs, David Welborn, Rich Wingo, David Courington, Philip Lee, Eddie Pugh, Harrison Taylor, Bill Poole, David Kemp, Wallace McAdory

Meeting minutes from the December 19 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Dara Longgrear.

TCRIC Counsel Alyce Spruell informed the Commission that the bank account currently has a balance of \$3.4M. A full financial update from Rick Harbin will occur at the next meeting. Only normal administrative expenditures have occurred thus far in January.

RES. 17-001: Resolution Amending Prior Resolution 16-014 regarding Jack Warner Parkway/Martin Luther King Road Improvement Project to update the cost to \$23.3M.

RES. 17-002: Resolution Amending Prior Resolution 16-016 regarding McWright's Ferry Road Project to update the cost to \$54.5M.

Resolutions 17-001 and 17-002 were discussed contemporaneously. Jack Warner Parkway was previously approved in the amount of \$18.8 million, while McWright's Ferry Road had a previous approval of \$58 million. City of Tuscaloosa attorney Glenda Webb confirmed she was comfortable with resolution language, but that project agreements were still forthcoming as a result of ongoing negotiations between Webb and TCRIC counsel. Webb stated that current language in the agreement regarding reimbursements prior to project completion were insufficient to protect the City. Spruell stated that she believed the initial agreement to have been that funds would be repaid at the completion of the project. The changes in project cost are a result of more detailed estimates completed by the City of Tuscaloosa's contractors. A discussion was held about how cost overruns should be handled in the agreements. Mayor Maddox expressed concern about delays in the agreements when the Commission has previously adopted a comprehensive funding plan. Judge McCollum inquired about whether ongoing actions were being prevented and Mayor Maddox responded affirmatively, stating that the City had been trying to move the projects forward since August. Judge McCollum expressed a desire to be sure the agreements were working within the Commission's legislative constraints, given that 3 projects alone exceed the \$100M obligation of TCRIC in the ALDOT Agreement.

State Representative Rich Wingo posed a general question about the structure of the agreement with the projects. It was explained that the City will take responsibility for funding the projects up front and TCRIC will reimburse. Mayor Maddox noted that this anticipates the fact that City has a higher rating than the Commission will have. Maddox anticipated that debt service on Jack Warner Parkway project will be \$1.4 million, with TCRIC beginning to pay in Fiscal Year 2018. TCRIC payments as to McWright's Ferry Road would not begin until FY 2019, with a \$2.7 million debt service. Wingo expressed concern over whether the Commission is sufficiently protected to be able to complete other projects in addition in the event cost overruns become an issue. Spruell stated that there are built in notice requirements in the event of overruns. Conversation occurred about how the debt service on these larger projects will restrict other cash flow.

Wingo also inquired about the status of the Hwy 69 South cost estimate. The public involvement meeting for that project would occur the following Thursday, the 26th, and Commission members could come-and-go on Wednesday, the 25th, to the ALDOT office to review the current design. ALDOT is still hoping to have a final plan and begin letting in fall 2017, but it is unclear whether that is possible because of ongoing Right of Way issues.

Resolutions 17-001 and 17-002 were passed unanimously after a motion by Chris England seconded by Jim Page.

RES. 17-003: Resolution Approving for Reimbursement to the City of Northport for the Mitt Lary Road Project in the amount of \$7.8M

-It was clarified that the hard copy of the resolution had a higher amount than the exhibit as a result of a typographical error, and that the resolution would be changed to match the exhibit, showing a total of \$7,754,557.39. Northport has provided detailed expenditures for review of the auditors at the necessary time and has answered any questions previously raised by Commission members.

-The resolution will allow TCRIC to enter into an agreement with Northport to begin the monthly repayment in January 2017.

-The resolution, as amended, passed unanimously after a motion by Dara Longgrear and a second by Jim Page.

Related to the discussion of the Hwy 69S project, ALDOT reminded the Commission that its public information meeting regarding the project will be held January 26, 2017 at Hillcrest High School.

Judge McCollum suggested the Commission cancel its January 30 meeting based on availability of ALDOT staff to discuss Hwy 69S project design next Wednesday afternoon with any interested Commission members. The Commission members agreed and as such, the January 30 meeting was cancelled.

Spruell will circulate dates for a February meeting.

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