

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—October 30, 2017
Tuscaloosa City Hall-Daugherty Room

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

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

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, David Kemp, Tera Tubbs, Glenda Webb, Scott Anders, Mark Nelson, Bruce Higginbotham, Ron Davis, Eddie Pugh, Mike Wright, Cynthia Almond, Jason Morton, Rick Harbin, Susan Snowden, Katy Metcalfe, Bill Poole

Judge McCollum thanked Dara Longgear, retiring director of the Industrial Development Authority, for his service to the Tuscaloosa community and the Road Improvement Commission.

Meeting minutes from the September 25 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Jim Page.

The draft quarterly report was circulated with the agenda. Judge McCollum held approval until the meeting's end to give Commission members further opportunity to review.

TCRIC accountant Rick Harbin provided a financial update to the Commission. The Commission currently has approximately \$4.4M on hand after an October deposit of \$722,300.00 with no outstanding October bills left to be paid. Members also received an accounting of all disbursements from the Special Tax Board to date, which showed an average monthly deposit of approximately \$698,000.00. It also showed the actual cash collections in FY 2017 to be close to the projection for the year in the August 2016 adopted working budget. Harbin stated that a compilation report will be created next week after the November disbursement, which will be from September 2017 sales collected in October by the tax board. Harbin will turn his file over to JMF at that time for the audit.

Alyce Spruell stated that two meetings with Scott Goldsmith regarding the audit have occurred to review the items needed from the Commission and Harbin. The more complex portion of the audit will have to do with an analysis of the Commission's contingent liabilities in its existing funding agreements. Judge McCollum inquired about whether Harbin foresaw any issues with the audit, and Harbin responded that he expects the financial review to be very standard because of the consistent and clear deposit history.

David Kemp provided an update on current TCRC-ALDOT projects. The project at Bear Creek Road intersection currently under construction now has a projected completion date of 12/15/17. Spruell pointed out that there had been one change order of approximately \$50,000 to date on the project but that whether that will change the ultimate cost versus what the Commission has approved is to be determined in the event something else comes under budget. Spruell reminded the Commission that in addition to any overage that may occur, the Commission is responsible for

the \$2.5M repayment to Tuscaloosa County at the completion of the project. Martin Road and Union Chapel Road projects are both in right-of-way acquisition. Senator Allen inquired about when Union Chapel might actually let, and Kemp stated it may be spring based on ROW and utilities. Representative Bill Poole inquired about the continuing status of US-82/McFarland Blvd's expansion as a priority project for the TCRIC. ALDOT confirmed that preliminary engineering and design is continuing on US-82, particularly in the stretch including the Woolsey Finnel Bridge.

Although not a TCRIC project, the ALDOT project on I 20/59 has come in with a low bid of \$83.4M. All three lowest bids were within 6% of one another. That project had a bracket estimate of \$61-75M. Kemp reported that Brasfield Gorrie had been awarded the bid. Commission members inquired about whether local subcontractors would be used and Kemp responded that he had not seen a list of subs yet but that that may be discussed at the upcoming preconstruction conference. The Lurleen Wallace project, which is also not a TCRIC project, is still on schedule to let in early 2018.

The Commission had a lengthy conversation about the project at Hwy 69S/Skyland Blvd. intersection and how prepared the county would be to handle the relief needed while that project was in process. Kemp reported that the project had a 3-day plan review based on the 85% PS&E plans last week, and that revisions were submitted to the contractor based on that review. FHWA returned questions on the environmental document that have now been answered, and ALDOT is awaiting approval. Senator Allen restated his request for expedited review of potential work on Bear Creek Cutoff Road for use as relief during the 69S/Skyland project. Representatives from Tuscaloosa County discussed briefly the planning work done to date related to the Cutoff Road and also possible Duncanville School Road work. Mayor Maddox pointed out that the lack of debt service payments in this fiscal year that were contemplated in the adopted August 2016 working budget could provide some flexibility in funding some other road that would give relief for the 69S/Skyland project. Mayor Maddox motioned for consideration of any viable solutions on Bear Creek Cutoff Road that could be done before construction begins on 69S/Skyland at the next meeting. The Commission agreed that all relevant entities would follow-up on putting together options for the Commission's consideration with Tuscaloosa County taking lead, since it has already done the relevant preliminary work. James Brown also raised an add lanes paving project on 69S itself that could help relieve the Skyland intersection construction, which now has an estimated cost of about \$1.5M.

Mayor Maddox and Tera Tubbs, City of Tuscaloosa engineer, discussed the City of Tuscaloosa's notice to the Commission of additional funds budgeted for the US-82/Hargrove Road project. The project was initially authorized to be completed by the City of Tuscaloosa, with reimbursement from the Road Commission totaling \$1.75M. Tubbs provided the Commission with a memorandum outlining the additional costs, totaling approximately \$722,000.00. Tubbs stated the most significant portion of cost change occurred when design quantities were added to the project. Judge McCollum inquired about the additional water line relocation, and Tubbs stated that the additional turn lane would be on top of the line, which is not allowed by ALDOT. Spruell stated that now that the Commission had notice, the best next steps would be to draft a formal resolution amending the agreement amount that could be presented for approval at the next Commission

meeting. Glenda Webb, Tuscaloosa City Attorney, pointed out that the additional funds would also need to be accounted for in the working budget.

Mayor Maddox gave an update on working towards a communications strategy for the Commission. The City's communications director has had preliminary discussions with communications representatives for the Chamber of Commerce and ALDOT and has given a rough \$150,000 budget estimate for a full-blown campaign for the TCRIC projects. Mayor Maddox stated that he would have a formalized menu of options that the entities could collaborate on for the next meeting.

Jim Page updated the Commission that TCRIC signs have been produced for Bear Creek project (2 signs) and Mitt Lary, and one is currently in production for Martin Road.

The October quarterly report draft tabled earlier in the meeting was approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Donna Aaron.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 27 at 7:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Annex.

Judge McCollum adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.