

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—February 24, 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 Longgear; James Brown

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, John Powell Webb, Ron Davis, David Norris, Glenda Webb, Tom Bobitt, David Welborn, Rich Wingo, Eddie Pugh, David Kemp, Rick Harbin

Meeting minutes from the January 20 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Walt Maddox.

Rick Harbin provided a financial update to the Commission. On an accrual basis, the Commission has approximately \$4.2M in assets. Based on revenue of last three years of the special tax board, the Commission can estimate its budget moving forward with a monthly amount of \$700K.

Nick Crane updated the Commission regarding the project design on 69 South. Crane provided a new map of the design with an itemized list of status updates. Projected letting is now November 2017. ROW is overall in a good place with the approximately 4-6 property owners involved. Utility relocation at issue because of sewer line near Bobby Park property. ALDOT is still waiting on a response to the last documents provided to the railroad. Retaining walls are largest change in design since December review. Responding to a question about actual construction dates, ALDOT stated that the start date is typically 2 months after letting and on this project, ALDOT anticipates 2-2.5 years of construction. The Commission discussed briefly the need for a funding plan for 69 South given the approaching letting date.

TCRIC Counsel Alyce Spruell provided an update regarding Bear Creek Intersection. The Commission has previously approved an agreement for Tuscaloosa County to provide funding up front for the intersection. Estimates at that time put the project at \$2.4M. County provided \$2.5M to ALDOT, but the bid bracket when released by ALDOT was \$2.6-\$3.3M. After some negotiations with ALDOT related to CE&I, the project cost is at \$3.3M. Choices for the Commission were to either pay the additional \$883,113 or reject the bid and have the initial \$2.5M returned and start over. ALDOT saw no reason to consider the bid extraordinary and suggested accepting the bid. Commission members inquired about why the funding has to be provided up front and ALDOT has stated that a state regulation requires the same.

Vote: Gerald Allen made a motion to pay the additional funds; Second by Donna Aaron. Motion passed unanimously to fund the additional \$883,113 so that the bid could be accepted.

The Commission talked generally about needs for updating the initial working budget adopted last fall. The amount budgeted for 2017 operations can likely be reduced, Hargrove Road may be able to change payment structure from what was originally laid out, Union Chapel money will be

needed soon and University Blvd may or may not be including the portion of the project for which ROW funding had originally been budgeted.

ALDOT pointed out that the number of projects going at once are also going to continue to drive up bids. Walt Maddox pointed out that regardless, delays are a bigger cost risk than the actual project costs.

McWrights and JWP agreements have been finalized and are ready for signature. Judge McCollum raised a question about whether the agreements bind the Commission even if they have no funds available. Glenda Webb, counsel for the City, responded that the agreement adds time limitations for the Commission to reimburse the city but that any payments would still be pursuant to the budget.

Spruell referred the Commission to the newly updated grid sheets provided at the meeting for other project update questions.

The Commission briefly discussed the proposed gas tax being considered by the legislature.

Dara Longgear asked ALDOT if it could be sure some clean-up funds were used on Hwy 11 near Exit 79 on I 20/59. ALDOT confirmed they would look into it further.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 27, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at the Annex.

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