

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes --- March 25, 2019
Northport City Hall

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

Other Attendees: Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, Scott Anders, Edward Henderson, Clay Randolph, Tracy Criss, Michael Pohlod, Ron Davis, Robert Spence, Glenda Webb, Jason Morton, Matt Calderone, Eddie Pugh, Brad Darden, Bruce Higginbotham, Gerald Allen, A.J. McCampbell, Dennis Stripling, Bill Poole, Jarrod Milligan, Steven Polunsky, Shashi Nambisan, Wallace McAdory, John McWilliams, Cynthia Almond, Phyllis Odom, Kathryn Anderson, Brad Matthews, Tera Tubbs

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

The March deposit from January 2019 sales tax collected was \$674,900, with a current bank balance of \$8,275,957.99. TCRIC accountant Rick Harbin reported that the total collections from calendar year 2018 were up 2% from calendar year 2017. Harbin also reported that payments were made to Tuscaloosa County on the Bear Creek Cutoff Rd project and ALDOT on the preliminary engineering costs on the 69 South turn lane project funded from the overage on the Cutoff Road project. After a motion by Judge Robertson seconded by Rep. Wingo, the financial report was adopted.

Project updates were provided as follows:

Brad Darden provided updates for ALDOT.

- Lurleen Wallace: Non-TCRIC project. Utility work is complete, and University Blvd is supposed to be reopened soon. Bryant Drive has about 6-8 more weeks; 12th St has about 8 more weeks. December 2019 is still the projected completion date. Some discussion was had about whether there was a revised sequence in the works for when the traffic changes.
- I 20/59: Non-TCRIC project. Work on the overpass is continuing, also currently working on barrier rails and asphalt. The project is still ahead of schedule and due to be complete in approximately 18 months.
- Skyland Blvd: Non-TCRIC project. ALDOT will be adding turn lanes from the McFarland intersection to the Sam's Club entrance with a fairly quick construction time likely to let this summer.
- US-82 at Watermelon Road: This design continues to be developed by ALDOT with a consolidated construction timeline. There is no target letting date yet because funding has not been secured.
- Mayor Aaron asked about the roundabouts in downtown Northport that were removed from ALDOT plans, and James Brown stated it was delayed indefinitely due to funding. Mayor Aaron also expressed concern about the thru truck traffic coming through downtown.

Bruce Higginbotham provided updates for the City of Northport. The Union Chapel construction will let Friday with a few months of construction. Plans on Charlie Shirley are at 85-90% complete, and the City plans to bring to the TCRIC soon.

Tera Tubbs presented the current design and proposed cost estimate changes for the City-led TCRIC project on Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK, Jr. Blvd. The project will widen train trestles with steel girders and add sidewalks on both sides. The total updated cost estimate is \$32,000,000, with bidding in two packages, roadway 1 in October 2019 and roadway 2/bridge in March 2020, with all construction estimated to be complete in November 2021. The City will also be constructing additional Riverwalk on the northern end from its own funds. The resolution proposed keeps total TCRIC contribution to JWP/MLK and McWright's Ferry Road at the same level based on the reduction of price approved at the previous meeting for McWright's Ferry Road. Discussion was had about whether concrete could be used instead of asphalt, but Tubbs stated it could not because of the soils (would require re-peaving every 7 years). Job will be statewide advertisement based on estimate. Tubbs stated the project would be more economical bid as one project, rather than two, but the railroad could cause further delay to do so that way. Mayor Maddox stated the City would likely go to the bond market later this summer including this project, and may not need the total TCRIC contribution in FY 2019, even though it has been committed to the project. Jim Page inquired about the source of additional cost, and Tubbs stated the additional sidewalks and related lighting and an additional signal were the primary sources.

Res. 19-007: Resolution Approving Projected Cost Change for Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK, Jr. Drive Project

- Amends total approved cost from \$23,300,000 to \$32,000,000
- Reflected in budget amendment but does not change annual contribution because of related decrease in the McWright's Ferry Road budget.
- After a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Claude Edwards, Res. 19-007 was adopted.

Mayor Maddox requested that the body go into executive session to discuss ongoing negotiations with ALDOT. After a motion by Rep. England seconded by Mayor Aaron, the Commission went into executive session at 8:15 a.m.

After a motion by Rep. Wingo, seconded by Jim Page, the Commission left executive session at 8:38 a.m. Mayor Maddox entertained a motion from the Commission to authorize Mayor Maddox to enter into an amendment to the ALDOT agreement to further detail the split of funding for the SR-69 South Intersection Improvements at Skyland Blvd. After a motion by Rep. Wingo, seconded by Rep. England, the motion passed unanimously.

Res. 19-008: Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of \$750,000 to ALDOT for Right-of-Way Costs on Intersection Improvements on SR-69 South

- Expenditure request in the amount of \$750,000. Pursuant to the current budget, the budgeted amount for this project in FY 2019 is \$2,800,000, none of which has been expended to date.
- After a motion by Rep. England, seconded by Rep. Wingo, Res. 19-008 was adopted.

Res. 19-009: Amendment #2 to the Fiscal 2019 Resolution Budgeting and Designating Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission Funds for Certain Priority Projects

-After a motion by Rep. England, seconded by Rep. Wingo, Res. 19-009 was adopted.

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

Mayor Maddox adjourned the meeting.