

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—January 29, 2018
Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex Auditorium

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; Claude Edwards; Representative Chris England

Other Attendees: Scott Goldsmith, Kasey Powell, Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton, David Kemp, Tera Tubbs, Glenda Webb, Scott Anders, Mark Nelson, Bruce Higginbotham, Eddie Pugh, Mike Wright, Jason Morton, Rick Harbin, Susan Snowden, Deidre Stalnaker, Craig Williams, Clay Randolph, Brad Darden, Alicia Rudolph, Bill Poole, Lisa Moore

Meeting minutes from the November 27 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Gerald Allen seconded by Donna Aaron.

ALDOT representative Brad Darden provided the Commission with updates on current TCRC projects.

- The project completion date for the project at Bear Creek Road intersection has moved to February 28. The signals at the project are now operational. Spruell reminded the Commission of the one change order on the project that is now approximately \$70,000.00, although its impact on the final cost is still to be determined. David Kemp stated the change order was based on some additional work on a 12th Avenue turn lane and the cost is based on the ongoing negotiations with the contractor for the project. If an agreement is not reached with the contractor, ALDOT forces will complete the additional work themselves.
- Darden reviewed in detail each portion of the US-82 project. The environmental document that covers Rose Blvd to James Harrison Pkwy is still in process. Otherwise, the parameters are currently defined as follows:
 - Hwy 69 to Rice Mine Road: PE plans are almost at 90%, which puts them ahead of the environmental document. This portion will likely be the first to let of the US-82 projects.
 - Rose Blvd to Hwy 69: Plans are in process, but this portion is farther behind 69 to Rice Mine and Rice Mine to Campus Drive.
 - Rice Mine to Campus Drive: This will be split into two projects due to the bridge work. The plans for this segment are at about 30%.
 - Firestone to James Harrison Pkwy: This portion is also a bit behind some of the others, with an estimated possible letting timeframe of 2020.
- Hwy 69S/Skyland Blvd intersection project has a bridge submittal and final back check this week, putting the plans at approximately 90%. Kemp also stated that the next big piece of the project will be ROW acquisition, which includes about 7 or 8 tracts, with all but one being commercial.
- SR-69N/Martin Road is still in ROW acquisition, and the water line will be relocated soon.
- Right of way is also still in process for the project at SR-69N/Union Chapel Road, with 2 tracts remaining.

- Plans are now underway for SR-69N/Charlie Shirley Road. ALDOT anticipates letting to be possible on that project in Spring 2019.
- The letting on ALDOT's project on Lurleen Wallace Blvd has been pushed to the fall due to federal funding issues.
- The project on Hwy 69S to pave the shoulders and create two additional lanes, along with some access management work, was discussed at the November meeting. At that time, the project had an estimated cost of \$1.5M. ALDOT had \$800,000 to contribute to the project. Subsequent to that meeting, the Tuscaloosa County Commission agreed to front the remainder of the project cost.
 - The project bids were opened last week, with a low bid of \$1.1M. David Kemp confirmed that the ALDOT funds would still be available.
 - David Kemp stated he would confirm the number of working days on the project, but that generally, construction begins about 60 days after bid, and he believed the project time frame was approximately 3 months.
 - The Commission will have an action item in February regarding the project funding that is being fronted by the County.

Scott Goldsmith, the Commission's auditor representative from JamisonMoneyFarmer, told the Commission that the members would receive a draft of the audit report for FY 2017 and the portion of FY 2016 by tomorrow at the latest. Goldsmith stated that the only significant difference from what the Commission has typically seen in financial statements from the accountant is that Mitt Lary Road has been booked as a liability. Goldsmith stated that JMF representatives would answer any individual questions and anticipates returning to the February meeting for a final presentation of the audit report.

TCRIC accountant Rick Harbin provided a financial report to the Commission. The Commission currently has approximately \$6.1M on hand after a January deposit of November collections in the amount of \$749,900.00 with no outstanding January bills left to be paid. Harbin anticipates a large deposit in February for December collections, at which time the amounts collected in calendar years 2016 and 2017 can be compared for growth. Harbin believes the accounts should be a few hundred thousand dollars ahead of where it was at the end of the previous year. Harbin went on to state that he had been working with the Mayors and Judge McCollun, along with TCRIC counsel, Alyce Spruell, and Nicole Hampton, to prepare a draft budget for FY 2018 and FY 2019 based on the various discussions with the Commission. Harbin would like to have a working budget meeting between now and the February meeting.

Spruell presented to the Commission a proposed amendment to the Commission by-laws regarding setting a standard budget process to follow. Spruell stated that she would like input on edits to the same from the respective entities' legal counsel. Judge McCollum pointed out that the amendment as drafted gives the freedom to go back and alter the budget but only with Commission approval and when a source for the expense can be shown. The amendment will be considered for a vote at the February meeting, hopefully alongside the FY 2018 budget.

Spruell and Harbin also briefly discussed an update on possible financing options. Judge McCollum stated that the completed audit will be key to determining how to finance the Hwy 69 South project, which is the obvious place where long-term financing will be needed.

The Commission received a draft January 2018 quarterly report for review, along with a draft of the end-of-year expenditure report to ALDOT required under the TCRIC-ALDOT joint funding agreement. Final drafts will be circulated by email for Commission approval.

The ALDOT expenditure report was done orally last year through a meeting with Spruell, Senator Allen, and Don Arkle, of ALDOT. Because a large number of expenditures have begun this year, however, it was important to do a full written report. Judge McCollum noted how important this report was to show ALDOT that the Commission is upholding its end of the bargain and to keep them accountable for the joint funding agreement. Spruell noted that this format was useful to the auditors also to understand how the various projects' funding has been structured, so she hoped it would also be good for ALDOT.

Spruell pointed out to the Commission that the legal services contract ends at the conclusion of February such that the Commission needs to be considering what it would like to do moving forward. Mayor Maddox stated that in addition to continuing legal services, he believes the Commission needs a financial advisor or investment banker to be engaged through the RFP process. Mayor Maddox stated that the City also used an engineering contractor for the influx of work after the 2011 tornado, and that that may be a model the Commission wants to consider. Spruell was asked to draft some RFPs for consideration and stated she would ask some of the Commission entities for examples from past use, along with looking to other road commissions nationally for guidance.

Judge McCollum asked Scott Anders with Tuscaloosa County to provide an update on the progress on the Bear Creek Road/Bear Creek Cutoff Road project that was presented in infancy at the November meeting. Subsequent to that meeting, the Tuscaloosa County Commission agreed to front the funding for the project that currently has a \$2.8M cost estimate. Anders stated that they are continuing to work with the City of Tuscaloosa and the railroad to work on project parameters and design. The railroad is being extremely helpful and has preliminarily offered to donate some materials. The railroad is going to allow paving over the existing tracks but wants to maintain its right-of-way.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 26 at 7:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Annex, with a possible finance working meeting between now and the next meeting. Judge McCollum suggested the Commission try to meet on the last Monday of each month for the next several months during the legislative session.

Judge McCollum adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.