

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)  
Meeting Minutes—March 26, 2018  
Cyber Hall/Alabama Transportation Institute

Commission Member Attendees: Hardy McCollum-Chair; Donna Aaron; Jim Page; Senator Gerald Allen; Claude Edwards; Representative Chris England; James Brown

Other Attendees: Nick Crane, Nicole Hampton, Alyce Spruell, Deidre Stalnaker, Lisa Moore, Mike Wright, Eddie Pugh, Rep. Bill Poole, Rep Rich Wingo, Glenda Webb, Tera Tubbs, Jason Morton, Mark Nelson, Tracy Criss, David Kemp, Brad Darden, Bruce Higginbotham, John McWilliams, Justice Smyth, Ron Davis, Cynthia Almond, Rep. AJ McCampbell, Senator Bobby Singleton, Louis Cardinal

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

Justice Smyth, Outreach Director for the Alabama Transportation Institute, presented to the Commission about the Institute and its upcoming initiatives and projects.

Louis Cardinal presented to the Commission about the status of the Alabama State Infrastructure Bank (SIB). The SIB will operate essentially like a state revolving loan fund with capitalization from monies previously pledged to the Alabama Federal Aid Highway Authority that can be reallocated. Cardinal reported that the guidelines for implementation have not been finalized but that the governing body would be meeting again soon to work toward finalization. The SIB believes Tuscaloosa would be a strong pilot project. Cardinal reported that they hope to have a pilot loan in place by August or September 2018. He reported that the loan would work through the pledge of tax dollars to be received and would not be on any Road Commission entity's books, although it would still be part of the Commission's debt ratio.

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

The Commission had approximately \$7.2M on hand in bank after the payment of March bills.

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

- US-82 projects: Waiting on environmental document and hope to have in approved form in next couple of months
  - SR 69 to Rice Mine is expected to be the first portion of the project ready to let, followed by Rice Mine to Campus Drive, which includes widening the bridge, which is its own project. The bridge project has a best-case scenario for letting in mid-late 2019 with a couple of years of construction.
- US-82 at University Blvd: Project moving toward ROW acquisition with intent to let mid-summer.
- SR 69 S at Skyland Blvd: 182 submittal is complete so ROW will soon follow; re-review of portion of environmental document underway; still on track for late summer letting.

- Bear Creek Intersection: Hoping to wrap up in next month, but weather delays and some project addendums have slowed completion. Contractor costs still estimated to finish around the bid price.
- Martin Road: Embankment instability and subsequent repair required additional road bed work with a cost of an additional \$400,000; Tuscaloosa County hoping some of that repair cost will be reduced from original bid. Utility relocation underway.
- 69 S Add lanes: Concrete removal underway so project should be moving quickly.
- Lurleen Wallace: Although not a TCRIC project, is an ALDOT commitment in TCRIC-ALDOT agreement. Project is scheduled to let this Friday.

Tera Tubbs provided an update on the Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK project being managed by the City of Tuscaloosa. The plans are close to final design and working on ROW on bigger tracts. She estimated construction could begin in about 9 months. Senator Singleton noted that this project was important to the passage of HB 600 and that the project should be prioritized. Tera stated that railroad approval was not complete. She also updated the McWright's Ferry Road project as in ROW acquisition and proceeding to final design.

Mayor Maddox inquired about whether the Woolsey Finnell Bridge would be paid for by ALDOT or TCRIC, and Brad Darden stated that it should be ALDOT's responsibility based on the 6 year timeline in the TCRIC-ALDOT agreement and the anticipated letting of the project.

Spruell reported that she had had approximately 10-12 responses from bond counsel and 5 from financial advisors/project managers in response to request for RFPs. She will follow-up with Commission on next steps.

Representative England inquired about the status of potentially hiring an executive director, which was discussed several months prior, and requested that it be placed on the Commission's next agenda. He also expressed concerns about the need for a budget amendment to accompany all financial resolutions. Mayor Maddox requested that the budget group reconvene for a work session prior to the next meeting.

Jim Page encouraged attendees to stay and participate in the tour of the ATI facility.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Next meeting: April 30 at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex at 7:30am.