

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes—June 25, 2018
Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex

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

Other Attendees: Wallace McAdory, Steven Polunsky, Shashi Nambisan, Scott Anders, Chris Grace, Carly Standridge, Jason Morton, Wyman Turner, John McWilliams, Deidre Stalnaker, Brad Darden, David Kemp, Bruce Higginbotham, Rob Robertson, Glenda Webb, Tera Tubbs, Susan Snowden, Ron Davis, Mark Nelson, Rich Wingo, Serena Fortenberry, Nick Corrao, John Powell Webb.

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

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

Rick Harbin provided a financial report to the Commission. The distribution received in June (April revenue) was \$708,300. Six months ending March 2018 averaged approximately \$740,000 per month in collections (about 7% higher than projected). Current bank balance is \$8.7M. Commission members also have copies of relevant financial statements for anyone who needs.

Shashi Nambisan, Executive Director of Alabama Transportation Institute, introduced Steven Polunsky who just started as the Transportation Policy Institute director, coming from Texas A&M's transportation policy center.

Project Updates

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

Bear Creek Intersection: Permanent traffic stripes are down and signals are working, still a bit of scoring left to do; the project is nearing the end of construction and project will hopefully close in next month. ALDOT has provided notice to the TCRIC that June 2018 project expenditures have resulted in \$157,411 of overrun, with less than \$100,000 in remaining costs projected. This is primarily due to project change orders that have occurred during the life of the project. Final project audit and expenditures will likely be available from ALDOT in July, at which time the Commission will consider a resolution for approval of the cost overruns.

- SR 69 S at Skyland Blvd: The project is now projected at an early fall letting. As soon as right-of-way is funded, it will be authorized to begin. The project is now in the value engineering process, and the presentation for its conclusions will be held on July 13. Value engineering has not delayed the time frame.
- 69 S Add lanes: Project is near complete; one crossover that was involved is completed.
 - Judge McCollum noted that this project has made a positive impact on the traffic flow along 69 South.

- US-82 projects: Waiting on environmental document and hope to have in approved form in next couple of months. The environmental document is with SHPO and then will be returned to FHWA for review (although they do have the draft document now).
 - Rice Mine to Campus Drive just completed a 35% plan review and is working on a potential design change near Jack Warner.
- Lurleen Wallace: Not a TCRIC project, but David Kemp stated he expects construction work to start in mid to late-July, with calendar end date in December 2018.

Scott Anders provided updates on road projects being led by Tuscaloosa County.

- Martin Road should be wrapping up major construction in approximately 3 weeks. Paving contractor is out today. Temporary closures for permanent striping, etc. will still occur but should be totally wrapped before school starts. Tuscaloosa County has provided notice to the TCRIC that April/May 2018 project expenditures have resulted in a projected overrun of approximately \$278,000 from the \$1.1M project cost previously approved by the Commission. This projected overrun could resolve itself depending on total costs incurred by ALDOT, who has committed \$300,000 to the total project cost and expended approximately \$20,000. Commission members were provided a memorandum with further explanation from counsel.
- Bear Creek Road: Physical crossing has been upgraded that should minimize maintenance moving forward; preliminary steps to move water line on west end is beginning today; intersection of Bear Creek and Bear Creek Cutoff will start clearing right-of-way in next week. The County is pushing to be done in approximately six weeks before school starts. One item still at issue is the flashing lights at the railroad crossing, and the County is still working with Watco on that.

Tera Tubbs provided an update on the City of Tuscaloosa projects.

- McWright's Ferry Road is still under design, and an appraiser has been selected to start working on ROW issues.
- Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK project—ROW is moving forward, and written agreements with railroads have been completed. Most all of the tracts along Jack Warner are acquired and still working on some tracts along MLK because of some estate issues.
- BUILD Grant: COT is applicant, but the proposal has been developed as a collaboration with UA, DCH, ALDOT, KCS, and NS. ATI got the group together to brainstorm how to get the project proposed. Tubbs first provided background on BUILD grants. The proposal includes the planned projects along the University Blvd/US-82 interchange with the idea to improve the areas along the interchange that are not TCRIC projects, including water improvements to and near DCH, drainage issues near railroads, bridge on University over US-82 (including higher elevation which will allow for more lanes and better freight movement on US-82 in the future and pedestrian walkways), and Hillard Drive improvements, among other things. The project totals \$32M in requested funding, with \$7.7M of project matching from COT, ALDOT, UA, and DCH. Application is due July 19; results won't be received until December 2018.
 - Tubbs requested that the TCRIC submit a letter of support for the application.
 - McCollum requested motion for the same; Representative England moved and Senator Allen seconded. Motion passed, and Spruell will draft a letter of support for the Commission.

- Spruell inquired about whether the cost for the bridge is over and above the ATRIP funds. Brown stated that the intention is to go ahead with improvements that can be done with ATRIP funds but also complete a new bridge that would have been too costly for the ATRIP funds. Volkert estimate for ATRIP project currently is \$7.8M, which would not include the cost for a brand-new bridge as presented in the BUILD proposal.
- Nambisan also requested that TCRIC champion the project with the legislative delegation when possible.
- TCRIC would be contributing above the cost of ATRIP funds for work still needed for the existing project.
- Jim Page inquired about how the project would be prioritized if we only received partial funds. Tubbs stated it would depend how much is received to determine which components can be prioritized. She believes the bridge, and Hillard and waterline improvements, would be the prioritized areas. That will also impact match amounts.
- Community engagement meeting for the project will be this Thursday, June 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Tuscaloosa City Hall.

Bruce Highinbotham reported on the two projects the City of Northport is leading.

- Union Chapel Road: In the last phase of ROW (one parcel is in condemnation). Once that is completed, project will move forward. Hope was to start utilities ahead of schedule, but most of the utility work involves the parcel that will have to be condemned. Project currently scheduled for a September 2018 letting, but that could be pushed depending on speed of condemnation.
- Charlie Shirley Road: CON and ALDOT have recently had a project status meeting about the plan. The engineer has provided a new estimate based on 30% plan review, which estimates construction at \$2.5M and utilities at \$1.5M (CON and Carroll's Creek). That project will be prepared for letting some time in 2019.

Alyce Spruell informed the Commission that the insurance renewal has been received and came in at \$5,243, which is less than previous years. That will be on the July agenda for approval.

Committee meetings have been held since the last meeting. A contracts committee meeting has been tentatively set for Tuesday, July 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Northport City Hall. Finance is hoping to meet again in July for a proposed budget in August.

Spruell and Darden discussed that additional project signage needs to be ordered for SR-69 North, SR-69 South, US-82, and Bear Creek Cutoff Road. The signs can be reused at other locations, depending on how long they want the signs to be left out. Signs will be about the same cost as previous signs. It takes about three weeks to go from production to installation. Darden will also find out cost of just moving signs, rather than new production.

- Page moved for production in format that can be reused at other project locations, the motion was seconded by Senator Allen and passed unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned. Next meeting: July 30 at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex at 7:30am.