

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - February 24, 2020
Tuscaloosa City Hall – Daughtery Conference Room

Commission Member Attendees: Judge Rob Robertson – Chair; Mayor Walt Maddox; Jim Page, Randy Skagen

Other Attendees: Kim Palm; Nicole Hampton; Alyce Spruell; Kelly Johns; Dennis Striplly; David Kemp; John McWilliams; Wallace McAdory; Steven Polunsky; Brad Darden; Bill Poole; Ron David; Edward Henderson; Clay Randolph; Scott Anders; Jason Morton; Eddie Pugh; Lee Busby; Glenda Webb; Tera Tubbs; Kathryn Anderson.

Judge Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:30am. Minutes of the January 27, 2020 TCRIC Commission meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Randy Skagen.

Kim Palm presented an accounting report. The February 2020 deposit from December 2019 sales tax collected was \$837,500, with a current ledger balance of \$8,606,659. The February 2020 deposit was a 2.2% increase from February 2019. Mayor Maddox requested a Finance Committee meeting to update the budget plan; Judge Robertson agreed to call Finance Committee together. The accounting report was passed unanimously after a motion by Mayor Walt Maddox, and seconded by Randy Skagen.

Judge Robertson introduced Kelly Johns, as the TCRIC administrator, followed by Kelly Johns briefly addressing the TCRIC Commission.

A memo was presented, dated February 21, 2020, to extend legal services by Rosen Harwood. Jim Page made a motion to extend the services, as presented, for 6 months, at which time the Contracts Committee can recommend next steps. The motion was seconded by Mayor Maddox, and passed unanimously.

Res. 20-004: Budget increase for Improvements to Jack Warner Parkway/Martin Luther King Boulevard: Tera Tubbs presented the updated plan, as presented to the Commission in January, that will include two phases: Phase 1 will include roadwork, sidewalks, lighting and landscape, and Phase 2 will include the bridge and spur roads.

The tentative timeline is Phase I letting in Summer 2020, with total construction lasting 12 to 18 months. Phase 2 will then bid before Phase I is complete. Tubbs reported that an updated timeline for the project would be shared at the next TCRIC meeting. She reported that the project is still expected to stay within the currently authorized budget. Three tracts remain pending for right-of-way for the project.

It was discussed that Tuscaloosa’s Western River Walk project would also be completed separate from the TCRIC project by the City during this same time frame.

It was discussed by the City’s consultant, Clay Randolph, that the railroad has been updated and preliminary design approval was expected in 60 days.

A Motion was made by Mayor Maddox to authorize the budget increase. The motion was seconded by Randy Skagen; the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 20-005: Budget Amendment #2 for FY2020: Randy Skagen moved to amend the budget resolution to reflect the additional \$544,607 approved by voice vote following the passage of Res. 20-004. Mayor Maddox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The second amendment to the FY20 budget passed unanimously.

Project updates

Judge Robertson reviewed the monthly project status report. He noted that the Mitt Lary Road project would be paid in full following the March 2020 payment to the City of Northport.

Randy Skagan stated that at the Union Chapel Rd project, there is an area of the roadway that has experienced settling, and a sign has been placed in the adjacent property reading "Please Fix". Ron Davis stated that the City of Northport would have its contractor investigate the issue.

Brad Darden from ALDOT then provided project updates.

- SR-69S Turn Lanes: Plans have been submitted for letting, and an early award after letting has been requested so that construction can begin as soon as school dismisses. No utility relocation is required and the project is expected to be 90 working days.
- SR-69S at Skyland Boulevard: Meeting with APCO and TCRIC with respect to funding related to utility relocations recently occurred. Right-of-way continues otherwise.
- US 82/ University: The City of Tuscaloosa has been awarded a grant for the bridge replacement, but the grant covers costs associated with construction only. The ROW has been authorized, but ALDOT anticipates most will be donated by the University. There are currently no funds to begin engineering the bridge design and approximately \$400,000-500,000 is expected to be needed. David Kemp explained the goal is for the bridge to be built off-site and walked into place to minimize traffic interruption, which will likely require a special contractor. ALDOT will have to set up a detour on a state route but will try to set local detours as well.
- US-82: 69 to Rice Mine Road: Project is in ROW acquisition. Cost savings are being investigated. This will be one of the first projects to utilize "Rebuild Alabama" funds. The project letting is currently planned for November 2020. The project will connect several existing service roads to limit points of impact on the roadway.

Ron Davis provided an update for the City of Northport on the SR 69-N at Union Chapel project. The gas station is still in the condemnation process, but it is not affecting the project schedule. Unsuitable soil and debris recently found behind the station could lower the condemnation cost.

Mayor Maddox asked Brad about the possibility of the City of Tuscaloosa planting trees on the southwest corner of McFarland Blvd and 15th Street. Brad replied that the City of Tuscaloosa should call ALDOT to discuss further.

Judge Robertson reminded Brad that the commission would like to see projects presented in calendar days, rather than working days.

Judge Robertson asked about the Lurleen Wallace project (not a TCRIC project); David Kemp stated that rain had set the project schedule back, and irrigation on the north-bound side was being installed, and work on the north-bound side of University Blvd has active work for a few more weeks. The project is expected to have all north-bound lanes open in early May 2020.

The session was opened for public comment.

- Representative Bill Poole reminded the commission that the McWright's Ferry project is a HB600 project.

The next TCRIC Commission meeting was previously scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2020, at the County Commission Chambers.

The TCRIC Committee meeting was adjourned after a motion was made by Mayor Maddox, seconded by Randy Skagan, followed by a unanimous vote.