

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes --- December 17, 2018
Tuscaloosa City Hall Daugherty Room

Commission Member Attendees: Mayor Walt Maddox-Chair; Judge Hardy McCollum; Mayor Donna Aaron; Senator Gerald Allen; Representative Chris England; Jim Page; Claude Edwards

Other Attendees: David Kemp, Susan Snowden, Rob Robertson, Rick Harbin, Wallace McAdory, Ashley Tu, Jonathan Mills, John McWilliams, Bruce Higginbotham, Clay Randolph, Scott Anders, Mark Nelson, Alex House, Eddie Pugh, Rich Wingo, Brad Darden, Bill Poole, Glenda Webb, Alicia Rudolph, Lee Garrison, Alyce Spruell, Nicole Hampton

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Meeting minutes from the November meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mayor Aaron seconded by Senator Allen.

Mayor Maddox presented the proposed FY 2019 budget developed by the Finance Committee. The proposal contemplates a 1.5% revenue increase annually. The budget was reviewed by line item and edited where appropriate. The US-82 at University Blvd estimate is a reduced cost share based on the latest ALDOT estimates for what will be needed above the available ATRIP funds. The US-82 projects without funding identified were discussed. Alyce Spruell explained that these would be contemplated as being paid for by ALDOT as part of their contribution to the TCRIC-ALDOT agreement. ALDOT would likely come back to the Commission for assistance once net revenue increases around FY 2023. The anticipated cost savings on the Bear Creek Cutoff project is not reflected in the budget and therefore, a conversation was had regarding potential uses of that funding. Judge McCollum inquired about whether the potential use for that savings (69 South intersection turn lanes) should be addressed prior to the budget's adoption, but Mayor Maddox requested the budget be approved prior to finalization of the additional project for the leftover funds. A resolution accompanying the budget was presented.

Res. 19-001: Resolution Adopting Fiscal Year 2019 Budget of the Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission

VOTE: After a motion by Rep. England seconded by Claude Edwards, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mayor Maddox entertained a motion to suspend the rules to adopt a resolution to use the Bear Creek project cost savings for turn lanes on SR-69 South priority intersections, subject to the adoption of the expenditure and project by the TCRIC.

VOTE: After a motion by Judge McCollum seconded by Senator Allen, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Scott Anders and Mark Nelson briefly discussed the need for the priority intersections to be completed on 69 South and have been working with ALDOT for finalization of estimates and priorities related to the same. Final presentation of the proposed work, within the scope of HB 600, will be presented at the January meeting.

The financial information on the meeting agenda was reviewed by Rick Harbin. The Commission saw a 4.05% increase in revenue from FY 2017 to FY 2018. The current cash-on-hand is approximately \$7.5M. A financial statement was presented and accepted, after a motion by Senator Allen, seconded by Judge McCollum.

Brad Darden provided an update on the US-82 at University Blvd project and presented three US-82 proposals from ALFOT.

1. 82 at University: Back to original project since we didn't get BUILD grant (hoping to get feedback on why we didn't get it—David Kemp: others looked to have more economic development); ATRIP funds = \$6.8M and project estimate currently at \$6.2M; it is at the construction submittal
2. Each of these projects is part of the existing plans for the entire US-82 corridor but have been broken out into separate, standalone projects for consideration and efficiency. The work contemplated in the presentations would not have to be duplicated and/or removed to complete the other existing designed work on US-82.
 - a. Watermelon Rd at US-82: The largest part of this project would create dual lefts from US-82 eastbound onto Watermelon Road. It would also seek to reduce problems during peak hours with through time on Watermelon, as well as reduce access by creating a cross-over to avoid travel between the two service roads on either side of 82. David Kemp confirmed that ALDOT's Chief Engineer has approved ALDOT payment for the preliminary engineering on this project but would anticipate a request to the TCRIC for all or part of the construction funding. There is no ROW involved, only utility work. Total cost including utility relocation and construction is approximately \$5M based on current estimates. Mayor Maddox inquired about its fit with the existing MLK project that is being cost-shared between several entities, and ALDOT stated it would fit with the plans but would not be picked up into the same project.
 - b. Hwy 43 at US-82: This project would assist with heavy movement coming in from Hwy 43 and going eastbound on US-82 (includes three lefts and 2 rights from 82 onto 43 (including a continuous right turn with an island between)). It would also create a second left turn from Main Street onto US-82 westbound. The project would likely require some ROW. Current estimate depends on how far continuous right goes up Hwy 43. ALDOT anticipates a request to the TCRIC for approximately \$150K of PE costs for this project.
 - c. SR-69 at US-82: This project would include a diverging diamond design for high volume of left turns. The intersection is a currently a Level E of service and will be at Level F in the next few years. This project would keep the intersection at Level A into 2030s. Estimate at the moment is \$40M but very conceptual, as much of it depends on cost of the US-82 overpass. ALDOT anticipates a request to the TCRIC for approximately \$150K of PE costs for this project.

Bruce Higginbotham gave an update on the Union Chapel Rd/SR-69 North project. The publication for utility relocation will occur this month. The project is scheduled for letting in February 2019. The City intends to present a proposal on Charlie Shirley Rd/SR-69 North in January.

Glenda Webb reviewed the City of Tuscaloosa's work. Hargrove Road is planned for construction completion in Spring 2019 and is proceeding within budget. JWP is still within right-of-way acquisition. The City plans to present changes to the McWright's Ferry Road project at its January 2019 meeting.

Alyce Spruell provided a compliance update. The quarterly report has been provided to the Commission in final form (draft circulated in November) and will be posted to the website if no further edits are received from the Commission. The draft audit is expected this week. RFPs for financial advisors with a January deadline will be distributed. The selected advisor would not be able to issue bonds for member entities during its engagements. The RFP will be posted to the website.

Judge McCollum was thanked for his service at his last meeting before he leaves office in January.

Jim Page discussed the need for proactive communications on Lurleen/82 project timing. John McWilliams encouraged the Commission members to direct members of the public to www.lurleenproject.com. Mayor Maddox stated that the City was about to launch a more aggressive social media campaign regarding various road projects.

Meeting dates for January and February surrounding the legislative calendar were discussed. Spruell will circulate dates.

Senator Allen moved for the Commission to move into executive session to discuss the Commission's contractual obligations and negotiations regarding potentially competitive funding dollars from ALDOT. Jim Page seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

After a motion by Rep. England, seconded by Gerald Allen, the Commission left executive session.

The meeting was then adjourned by Mayor Maddox at 9:10 a.m.