

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - May 28, 2020
Tuscaloosa County Annex

Commission Member Attendees:

Judge Rob Robertson – Chair; Mayor Walt Maddox; Mayor Donna Aaron; Jim Page; Randy Skagen; Chris England; Rich Wingo.

Other Attendees:

Kim Palm; Alyce Spruell; Kelly Johns; David Kemp; Bill Poole; Doug Varnon; Eddie Pugh; Steven Polunksy; Russell Ware; Gerald Allen; Chris Grove; Clay Randolph; Craig Williams; Scott Anders; Glenda Webb; Ron Davis; Tera Tubbs; Kathryn Anderson (via telephone) and Brad Darden (via telephone).

Judge Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

Vote: Minutes of the April 27, 2020 TCRIC Commission meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Randy Skagen, seconded by Jim Page.

Kim Palm (of Carver, DeWitt and Palm) presented an accounting report. The May 2020 (deposit from March 2020 sales tax collected) deposit was \$784,400, which represents a 4.34% decrease from the May 2019 deposit. The current ledger balance is \$8,663,424. Mayor Maddox requested the budget be presented on a quarterly basis, by project, in addition to the current format.

Vote: The accounting report was passed unanimously after a motion by Mayor Maddox, and seconded by Rich Wingo.

Annual Report

Kelly Johns, TCRIC Administrator, presented a draft of the FY2019 Annual Report. The report was approved, after a motion made by Rep. England, and seconded by Rich Wingo. Judge Robertson asked that the approved report be sent to local Tuscaloosa County delegation.

Project updates

Johns gave an update regarding the TCRIC website: TCRIC resolutions are now available.

Johns also presented the monthly project status report, noting the following update since the April 27, 2020 TCRIC meeting:

- SR-69 South Turn Lane Additions: construction will start in June 2020. Johns received a copy of the ALDOT contract this morning, and will email a copy to each Commission member today.

David Kemp from ALDOT then provided project updates:

- SR-69 South Turn Lane Additions: An ALDOT pre-construction conference was held May 20th. The Contractor (GFC Construction) is expected to begin work by the 2nd week of June. The ALDOT contract has restrictions for lane closures after August 7, 2020.
- Bear Creek Cutoff Road: Kemp reported that a final cost value has been approved by the ALDOT central office, but has not be finalized due to additional documents needed from the contractor; the deadline for document submittal is June 6, 2020.
- SR-69 North at Union Chapel Road: Union Chapel Road (at SR-69 North) has been closed to connect Union Chapel to the new portion of Union Chapel. This closure is expected to last up to a month, but could be less.
- Lurleen Wallace Blvd (not a TCRIC Project): Final paving is expected to be completed in June 2020. The project impacts to local businesses were discussed. Kemp reported that ALDOT plans to review the project, to see what could have been done better and lessons learned.
- SR-69 South: Plantation Rd to I-359: The project plan includes keeping at least 2 lanes of traffic, in each direction, open at all times. Additionally, road construction will not begin until utilities are complete; utility work is not expected to cause any traffic-flow disruptions.

The option of project incentives for SR-69 South: Plantation Rd to I-359 was discussed. Mayor Maddox stated this area is one of the biggest sales tax corridors in the City of Tuscaloosa. It was discussed that businesses that may be impacted by the road-improvement project should be identified and evaluated; Mayor Maddox stated that he would gather data with respect to businesses in the area. Kemp stated that incentives can be put on a portion of project (i.e., building the bridge), or for the project as a whole. In order to evaluate the project, Kemp offered to provide a project sequence; Judge Robertson asked that Kemp provide the sequence. Jim Page recommended TCRIC reach out to ATI as a resource; Judge Robertson agreed.

Representative Bill Poole stated that the more money used for incentives on one project, may take away funds from another project, and gave the example of McWright's Ferry Road. Rep. Poole asked that the commission be mindful of other HB600 projects.

Mayor Maddox suggested the finance committee meet to review adjustments to revenue streams and demands.

There was general discussion about the construction process, holding the contractor responsibility, and contractor penalties.

Doug Varnon provided an update for the City of Northport on the SR-69 North at Union Chapel Road project. As previously reported, The Union Chapel Road project experienced an issue of unsuitable soil, requiring excavation. An overage of \$320,000 (\$64,000 from TCRIC) was previously approved. The nearby gas-station property is still in the condemnation process. The City of Northport has paid \$355,000 into probate court for condemnation. The final amount that will be due is unknown at this time, as the probate determination has been appealed. Varnon also reported that the City of Northport has requested reimbursement from ALDOT and is now waiting on ALDOT's approval.

Tera Tubbs, from the City of Tuscaloosa, then presented an update for the Martin Luther King/Jack Warner Parkway project.

Mayor Maddox gave a brief history of the concept of HB600 and Transforming Tuscaloosa County. Tubbs then presented diagrams illustrating the scope of the project: the project includes 4 lanes, divided, with sidewalk, from 21st Street, heading west, running under the Lurleen Wallace Blvd, and tying into Martin Luther King Blvd. The project has experienced delays due to changes with substructure and superstructure of the railroad bridge. The City of Tuscaloosa has been on weekly conference calls with Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS); recently, KCS approved the design layout (60% review).

Since the beginning of the project, the City of Tuscaloosa has identified the need for a pedestrian bridge over Jack Warner Parkway. To accommodate the pedestrian bridge, the alignment of Jack Warner Parkway will need to be adjusted. Tubbs stated that the bridge-alignment design will not change.

Res 20-008 Resolution Authorizing Budget Increase for Jack Warner Pkwy/MLK

The City of Tuscaloosa asked TCRIC for a budget increase, in the amount of \$371,080, for the realignment of a portion of Jack Warner Parkway to accommodate pedestrian access as previously explained. The City of Tuscaloosa is not requesting funds for the pedestrian bridge.

Sen. Allen reminded the commission that the scope of HB600 is for road improvement, and asked the commission to be mindful of Rep. Poole's earlier statement.

Vote: A motion was made by Mayor Maddox to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Randy Skagen and passed unanimously.

Res. 20-009: FY2020 Budget Amendment #3

Vote: A motion was made by Rep. England to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Randy Skagen and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Judge Robertson opened the session for public comment; there were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next TCRIC Commission meeting was previously scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2020, and will be held at the Tuscaloosa County Annex Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned.