

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - June 29, 2020
Tuscaloosa County Annex

Commission Member Attendees:

Judge Rob Robertson – Chair; Mayor Walt Maddox; Jim Page; Randy Skagen; Rich Wingo, James Brown (ex officio)

Other Attendees:

Kim Palm; Alyce Spruell; Nicole Hampton; Kelly Johns; David Kemp; Bill Poole; Doug Varnon; Zach Wolfe; Eddie Pugh; Steven Polunksy; Russell Ware; Gerald Allen; Michael G Pohlod; Lee Garrison; Reginald Murray; Clay Randolph; Craig Williams; Scott Anders; Glenda Webb; Ron Davis; Tito Carlo; Brad Matthews; Kevin Kane; Curt Gwathney; Louis Cardinal; Alex Jackson; Josh McCoy (via telephone); Marcie Lewis (via telephone).

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

Vote: Minutes of the May 28, 2020 TCRIC Commission meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Randy Skagen, seconded by Rich Wingo.

Financial Report

Kim Palm (of Carver, DeWitt and Palm) presented an accounting report. The current ledger balance is \$9,266,860.21. The June 2020 (deposit from April 2020 sales tax collected) deposit was \$622,900, which represents a 19.34% decrease from the June 2019 deposit.

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

Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank Update

Louis Cardinal (Thornton Farish Inc.) presented the status of the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank (ATIB). Cardinal gave a brief overview of the creation of ATIB. Cardinal stated that the ATIB is now seeking its first pilot project.

Cardinal reported a private credit review of TCRIC was completed in January 2020 with S&P, but a formal rating has not been done at this time. Cardinal requested TCRIC provide a Resolution, requesting the ATIB move beyond the existing credit evaluation for a formal rating to be presented to TCRIC at a later date. There was discussion of comparing the ATIB (including the process, fees, guarantor) with other options. Cardinal stated that he would gather additional information for TCRIC.

The Contracts Committee will meet in July 2020 to review the request for a Resolution to pursue additional SIB information.

Discuss Reappointment of Subcommittees

Judge Robertson briefly discussed that he would be evaluating the appointment of members to Finance and Contracts Committees later this week. The Finance Committee Chairman is currently City of Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox; the current Contracts Committee Chairman is City of Northport Mayor Donna Aaron.

Legal and Compliance Updates

Alyce Spruell gave an update regarding her recent research on incentives and disincentives with respect to roadway projects. In summary, there are a handful of mechanisms that can be used, which includes incentivizing the whole project or a portion (one aspect) of project, incentivizing a percent of the project or a specific dollar amount. Alyce reported that it is undetermined at this point if funding for incentives on TCRIC projects would come from TCRIC, ALDOT or both, and also, if incentive funding would have to be obligated before the start of the project. Spruell will send provisions from previous ALDOT contracts with commission members.

Kemp stated that with respect to the 69-South Intersection Improvement project, there are portions of the project that can be completed without any impact to traffic on SR 69-South; the traffic impact will be when traffic is pushed to the outer lanes and the proposed overpass is being constructed. Kemp reminded the Commission that the project will maintain two lanes of traffic flow, in both directions, during the entire life of the project.

Mayor Maddox shared an economic impact analysis handout on the 69-South intersection project, created by the City of Tuscaloosa.

The handout outlined an assumed project length of 36 months, the estimated tax impact of the project, and an estimated total business revenue loss based on data from the Lurleen Wallace Boulevard project in Downtown Tuscaloosa. Maddox expressed his concern for local businesses during construction, and recommended that the economic data be used to develop incentives. There was a brief discussion on the economic impacts of the Lurleen Wallace Blvd project. James Brown stated that it is premature to decide impacts of the 69 South Intersection Improvement project and that it will be different than the Lurleen Wallace Blvd project.

Regional ALDOT has offered to do a work session regarding the traffic patterns and construction flow issues associated with the SR-69 South Intersection Improvements (Skyland Blvd) project. Johns will schedule a work session in July.

Jim Page stated that TCRIC should consider how communication with the public is accomplished.

Spruell is continuing to gathering information, and plans to provide a packet to TCRIC at a later time. Spruell also reminded the Commission that the project has federal funds, and must comply with federal regulations.

Utility Agreements: SR-69 South Intersection Improvements (Skyland Boulevard)

Spruell reported on the status of Utility Agreements with Alabama Power Company (APCo). Spruell explained that ALDOT has reported that there are no federal or state funding for utilities. Therefore, TCRIC will enter into those reimbursement agreements with APCo and the City of Tuscaloosa. The project will be managed by ALDOT. Spruell recommends the agreements be

reviewed by the TCRIC Contract Committee prior to the agreements being presented for approval at the July TCRIC meeting.

There was discussion regarding the sequence of ALDOT completed ROW acquisitions, prior to authorizing the City of Tuscaloosa to relocate their utilities.

Project updates

Kelly Johns, TCRIC Administrator, presented the monthly project status report, noting the following update since the May 28, 2020 TCRIC meeting:

- Union Chapel Road: The reimbursement payments requests have been submitted to ALDOT by the City of Northport, and are in review and payment process.
- SR-69 South Turn Lane Additions: The road construction began in June 2020.
- University Blvd: TCRIC contributed \$600,000 in April 2020. In order to accept that payment, an ALDOT/TCRIC agreement is needed. The agreement is in the process of being signed by the state and is expected to be completed soon.
- US-82: SR-69 to Rice Mine: TCRIC recently learned that the utility costs are not eligible for reimbursement and will be incurred by the Cities of Northport and Tuscaloosa.
- US-82: Bear Creek Cutoff Road: The final cost has been confirmed, and a check has been written and delivered to ALDOT today. This payment was previously approved as part of Resolution 19-004 up to \$355,000

David Kemp from ALDOT then provided project updates:

- Kemp stated that McWright's Ferry Road plans were reviewed by ALDOT; ALDOT has told the City of Tuscaloosa that the plans may go forward.
- Kemp confirmed that the SR-69 South Turn Lane Additions project is moving well.
- University Blvd: Kemp stated that once ALDOT received the authorization to deposit the TCRIC funds for engineering, ALDOT will select a designer/engineer. Kemp also stated that ALDOT plans to use Advanced Bridge Construction for the University Blvd. bridge over US-82 so that it is out of service for as short a period of time as possible.
- US-82: SR-69 to Rice Mine: ROW acquisitions are still ongoing.
- SR-69 South Intersection Improvements (Skyland Blvd). Several tracts have gone before probate; once a ruling is received, money will go into probate, and ALDOT will have use of the property. Judge Robertson stated that he isn't hearing those cases due to conflict of interest, as he is the Chairman of TCRIC.
- Lurleen Wallace Blvd (not a TCRIC project): Kemp reported that the City of Tuscaloosa agreed to share the cost of the cross-street paving, and that is ongoing now. The prime contractor will begin doing the final layers of asphalt on southbound lanes on Thursday, July 2, followed by the northbound lanes. The permanent striping will then be laid after a 14-day cure period. Kemp also reported that the walkways to the amphitheater are being worked on as well.
- US-82/I-59/20 (not a TCRIC project): Kemp reported that ALDOT remains in a dispute with the contractor over the arch. The construction of the Interstate is on schedule, and has no delays due to the arch. However, McFarland Blvd will have project delays until the arch are in place.

- Union Chapel Road: Kemp reported that a water line was hit during excavation (due to the water line being installed too shallow). The costs of repair fall to the water-line installation contractor. Additional project delays are due to the frequent afternoon rain showers. It is expected that Union Chapel Road will remain closed until mid- July.

Public Comment

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

Next Meeting

Judge Robertson set the next meetings of the Commission on Monday, July 27, 2020 and Monday, August 31, 2020, at the Tuscaloosa Annex Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned.