

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - - July 27, 2020
Tuscaloosa County Annex Auditorium

Commission Member Attendees:

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

Other Attendees:

Kim Palm; Alyce Spruell; Nicole Hampton; Kelly Johns; David Kemp; Bill Poole; Doug Varnon; Zach Wolfe; Steven Polunksy; Gerald Allen; Clay Randolph; Glenda Webb; Ron Davis; Tito Carlo; Brad Matthews; Jack Kimbrough; Chris Grace; Jack McGuire; Lee Garrison; Scott Anders; Richard Rush; Susan Snowden

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

Vote: Minutes of the June 29, 2020 TCRIC Commission meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Rich Wingo.

Financial Report

Kim Palm (of Carver, DeWitt and Palm) presented an accounting report. The current ledger balance is \$9,620,201. The July 2020 (deposit from May 2020 sales tax collected) deposit was \$718,600, which represents a 1% decrease from the July 2019 deposit. Total deposits from October 2019 through July 2020 is \$7,651,997, representing approximately a 2.15% decrease from the budgeted total deposits for the period of October 2019 to July 2020.

Vote: The accounting report was passed unanimously after a motion by Rep. England, and seconded by Mayor Aaron.

Finance Committee Report

Mayor Maddox provided an update from the Finance Committee's meeting last week. The committee reviewed the existing budget document and has requested that Kim Palm and Kelly Johns work with Susan Snowden and PFM (the TCRIC Financial Advisors) to produce a similar document to illustrate the cost projections. Maddox stated that the document will be presented at the next TCRIC meeting, and quarterly thereafter. Maddox then discussed the committee's discussions with PFM regarding potential long-term financing of the Commission's obligation on the 69S/Skyland project. Maddox pointed out that PFM's rough estimations show approximately \$6M available annually for debt service, which equates to approximately \$100M in funds. Maddox reviewed PFM's analysis of the various funding options, including the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank (ATIB), the Commission going to the bond market itself, or funding the project through a member entity with reimbursement by the Commission. Previously, bond counsel has given the Commission the legal opinion that the Commission does not have bonding authority under the current legislation, and it appears that no member entity is able or willing to fund the project and be reimbursed by TCRIC. As such, the Finance Committee recommended that the Commission proceed with requesting additional details from the ATIB on the rates and particulars of what could be offered. Maddox expressed concern about the ATIB being less cost-effective than a member entity funding the project or the Commission

being able to bond itself. Res. 20-010 before the Commission today is to express the desire for more information from ATIB but does not lock the Commission into anything. The expectation that the information received back will include details of cost, etc. The Commission requested that Johns and Rosen Harwood also work with PFM to get a comparison of more firm numbers on costs and savings under the various avenues (i.e., difference based on various potential ratings, fees, etc.). There was also discussion of the timeline of anticipated payments to ALDOT on the project but there are no outstanding invoices at this time.

Contracts Committee report

Mayor Aaron provided an update from the Contracts Committee's recent meeting. It is the Contract Committee's recommendation to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for Legal Services. The Commission's current contract with Rosen Harwood expires at the end of August 2020. An RFP has been drafted and edited by the Contracts Committee and shared with TCRIC members.

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

Mayor Aaron also reported that the public entity insurance policy was due for renewal, and a quote has been provided to TCRIC by the Fitts Agency. The quote represents a slight increased premium based upon the increased revenue of the Commission.

Vote: After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Page to renew the insurance policy. The motion was seconded by Rep. England, and passed unanimously.

Resolution 20-010: Resolution Expressing interest in Receiving Additional Information from the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank.

Vote: After discussion, a motion was made by Rep. England to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skagen, and passed unanimously.

Resolution 20-011: Declaration of Intent to Reimburse from Proceeds of Financing Obtained TCRIC Expenditures Under Its Funding Obligation for the SR-69 South at SR-7 Project.

Vote: After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Skagen to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Maddox, and passed unanimously.

Project updates

Kelly Johns, TCRIC Administrator, presented the monthly project status report, noting the following updates since the June 27, 2020 TCRIC meeting:

- SR-69 North at Union Chapel Road: The intersection of Union Chapel Road and SR-69 North is now open, with the new intersection in operation.
- US-82 / University Blvd Interchange: TCRIC has recently received a signed copy of the ALDOT funding agreement. The TCRIC contribution of \$600,000 (approved in April 2020 with Resolution 20-006) is expected to be processed in the next 14 days. Following the processing of funds, ALDOT will select a bridge designer to begin engineering designs.
- US-82 at Bear Creek Cutoff Road: The final payment has been processed. This payment was previously approved as part of Resolution 19-004.

Brad Matthews provided an update from the City of Tuscaloosa.

- Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd / Jack Warner Parkway: Phase I of the project will be advertised for bid in August 2020, with the bid opening in September 2020. Phase I design is being finalized with lighting and landscaping details. The Phase II 60% submittal (for KCS review) is in process.
- McWright's Ferry Road: As previously reported in late June, ALDOT and the City of Tuscaloosa have agreed to the current alignment, which has allowed the City to continue with right-of-way acquisition. The project costs are not expected to change, with the exception of typical inflation.

David Kemp provided an update from ALDOT.

- SR-69 South Turn Lanes Project: Construction is ongoing, but it is not expected that the project will be completed before August 7, 2020. After August 7, 2020, the contractor will be required to adhere to lane closure limitations. The ALDOT project deadline is September 17, 2020, and liquidated damages would apply if the contractor does not complete the project by then, subject to certain exceptions.
- US-82/US-43 Intersection Improvements (as part of US 82: Rose Blvd to SR-69): Preliminary design has been laid out; the hard design will begin soon. The project will include widening the radius of the turn from US-82 westbound to US-43 northbound (in front of Northport City Hall) and adding an acceleration lane for US-43 northbound. The entrances to City Hall and the nearby fire department will be evaluated.
- US-82/SR-69 Intersection Improvements: Kemp reported that he is working within ALDOT to determine if money can be accepted for an initial study to determine best options, and would then seek funding for engineering at a later time. Previously, TCRIC approved and contributed \$250,000 for this initial study. However, ALDOT was unable to accept the funding because a funding agreement had not yet been reached with ALDOT.
- Lurleen Wallace Blvd (Not a TCRIC project): All traffic lanes are now open, in both the north and south directions. The permanent striping and pavement marking will be done soon. Kemp reported that there is ongoing work under the bridge, and on the pedestrian path.

Public Comment

Judge Robertson opened the session for public comment.

Senator Gerald Allen suggested the Commission review options to alleviate traffic, in preparation of the SR-69 South Intersection Improvement project. Potential options for consideration were discussed and included modifying the intersection of Bear Creek Cutoff Road (to extend the left turn lane) and connecting the east end of Bobby Park Drive. Regional ALDOT agreed to report options with costs at the next TCRIC meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission was previously scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2020 at 7:30 am, at the Tuscaloosa County Annex Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned.