

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)  
Meeting Minutes - - August 31, 2020  
Tuscaloosa County Annex

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

Other Attendees:

Danielle Winningham; Nicole Hampton; Alyce Spruell; Kelly Johns; David Kemp; Bill Poole; Scott Anders; Glenda Webb; Doug Varnon; Chris Grace; Jack Kimbrough; Keith Andrews; Tito Carlo; Eddie Pugh; Dennis Stripling; Zach Wolfe; Steven Polunsky; Gerald Allen; Justice Smyth; Kevin Kane; Richard Rush; Wallace McAdory; Kathryn Anderson; Josh McCoy (via telephone) and Marcie Lewis (via telephone)

Judge Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:30am. Minutes of the July 27, 2020 TCRC Commission meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mayor Maddox, seconded by Jim Page.

Kelly Johns presented an accounting report on behalf of Kim Palm. The August 2020 (from June 2020 sales tax collected) deposit was \$755,400. The August deposit was a 2.21% increase from August 2019. The ledger balance as of August 25, 2020 was \$10,358,256.51. The actual deposits from October 2019 through August 2020 is \$8,407, 397 and the budgeted deposit total during that same time is \$8,575,605.

Josh McCoy (PFM) gave the financial advisor update. At TCRC's request, PFM is working with Maynard Cooper (TCRC bond counsel) to summarize funding options for the TCRC's contribution to the 69S/Skyland project; this will be presented at the TCRC Finance Committee meeting on September 14, 2020.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mayor Maddox provided an update from the Finance committee. Mayor Maddox presented the cost projections spreadsheet (dated 8/12/20), and reported that the spreadsheet will be updated quarterly. Mayor Maddox also reported:

- The first payment for MLK Jr. Blvd/Jack Warner Parkway isn't expected until FY2022
- McWright's Ferry Rd: Mayor Maddox has asked the City for an updated estimate of ROW costs and expects ROW acquisitions to be in FY2022. Approximately 19 tracts are needed.

### **Contracts Committee Report**

Mayor Aaron provided an update from the Contracts Committee.

- Mayor Aaron reported that the committee recommended the continued service of Kim Palm (Dewitt, Carver Palm); Conversations with Palm are ongoing.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal services was recently issued, with August 19, 2020 as a final date for submissions. The Contracts Committee met August 24, 2020, and is recommending that TCRC reengage in a contract with Rosen Harwood, with Nicole Hampton as lead counsel.

Vote: Mayor Aaron made a motion to reengage in a service contract with Rosen Harwood; the motion was seconded by Randy Skagen, and passed unanimously.

**Resolution 20-012: Resolution Reauthorizing Expenditure of \$250,000 to the Alabama Department of Transportation for Preliminary Engineering Costs on US-82 and SR-69 & Authorizing Associated Funding Agreement**

Vote: After discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Aaron to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Jim Page, and passed unanimously

**Resolution 20-013: Resolution Authorizing Utility Reimbursement Agreements and Expenditures with the Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Power Company and City of Tuscaloosa for Relocation Costs on SR-69 South at SR-7**

Vote: After discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Aaron to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Rich Wingo, and passed unanimously

**Quarterly Report**

Kelly Johns, TCRIC Administrator, presented a draft of the Quarterly Report (as of June 30, 2020).

Vote: The report was approved, after a motion made by Randy Skagen, and seconded by Mayor Aaron. The motion passed unanimously.

**Project updates**

Doug Varnon (City of Northport) provided an update on SR-69N/Union Chapel Road:

- Traffic has now moved over to the relocated portion of Union Chapel Rd. The contractor is waiting on signal equipment to be delivered for the service road (portion of road formerly Union Chapel Road). In the next 2 to 4 weeks, storm drain pipe will be installed along SR-69.

David Kemp from ALDOT then provided project updates:

- SR-69 South Turn Lane Additions: The contractor has experienced problems related to asphalt delivery due to COVID-19 (i.e., work force limitations). The original contract deadline is September 17, 2020, and the contractor is now under lane closure restrictions under the contract.
- SR-69 South Intersection Improvements (Skyland Blvd): The project is still in ROW acquisition. As previously reported, there are several pending ROW appeals in circuit court.
- At a previous TCRIC meeting, the option of modifying other roads that could serve as traffic relief, during the construction of SR-69 Intersection improvements, was discussed. Kemp provided an updated regarding potential projects.
  - Bear Creek Cutoff Road (extending the left turn lane): Kemp reported that the project may be feasible, and has been modeled by ALDOT. Recently Tuscaloosa County had the utilities located, identifying 3 water lines. The depths are unknown at this time and Kemp reported he is evaluating this, and will report an update to the TCRIC Administrator. The depth is expected to have a significant impact on the feasibility of the option.
  - Connecting Bobby Parks Dr to Waco Rd (temporary railroad crossing): Scott Anders reported this project would require approximately 230' of construction, and would include a railroad crossing over a KCS line. He recently spoke with a

KCS employee who reported: KCS will not allow a permanent crossing unless 3 current crossings are closed. However, a temporary crossing may be approved by KCS. Currently, the railroad crossing portion of the project is expected to be \$150,000.

- Alyce Spruell reminded the Commission that the cost of the Bobby Parks/Waco option is not a HB-600 project.
- US-82 (SR-69 to Rice Mine Road): Kemp reported that later today, the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee would be voting on providing funding for 80% of utility relocations (for Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport). The current estimate for both Cities' utility relocations is approximately \$5,500,000. Kemp reminded the Commission that because the project is Rebuild Alabama funded (no federal funds involved), ALDOT cannot reimburse for utility costs.
- US-82/University Blvd: ALDOT is meeting today with a design consultant that will use advanced bridge construction. Actual construction is expected next summer. Kemp also reported that the University of Alabama may do research on the project as it is being built.
- I-59/I-20 (not a TCRIC project): The interstate construction is expected to be completed in 6 months. With respect to the US-82/McFarland portion of the project, both arches will need to be refabricated/installed.

Tera Tubbs from the City of Tuscaloosa then provided project updates:

- MLK Jr. Blvd/Jack Warner Parkway: The first phase of the project is advertising for bid now. For Phase II, the City will be submitting a 60% review to the railroad company on September 4, 2020. The contract for Phase I will be awarded this fall, and both Phase I and II are scheduled to be complete by May 2022. Tubbs also confirmed that the project includes fiber optics conduit, and water and sewer lines for future economic development. Additionally, the project includes moving power lines: transmission lines will all remain aerial, and distribution lines will be underground, as well as other utilities.
- McWright's Ferry Road: The project was approved to move forward by ALDOT in June 2020. Nineteen (19) tracts have gone to appraisers to begin ROW acquisition. ROW acquisition is expected to be the longest portion of the project. Advertising for bid is scheduled for late 2021, with construction beginning in early 2022. Based on that schedule, the project would be completed in 2024.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Next Meeting**

The next TCRIC Commission meeting dates were set for September 28 and October 26 at 7:30 am, at the Tuscaloosa County Annex Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned