

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - - February 22, 2021
Via Zoom

Commission Member Attendees: Judge Rob Robertson – Chairman; Mayor Walt Maddox – Vice Chairman; Mayor Bobby Herndon; Jim Page; Danielle Winningham; Rep. Rich Wingo; Rep. Chris England; James Brown (ex officio)

Other Attendees:

Alyce Spruell; Kelly Johns; Susan Snowden, Dennis Stripling; Zane Davis; Kim Palm; Brad Darden; Kathryn Anderson; Richard Rush; Wallace McAdory; Glenda Webb; Randy Skagen; Lee Garrison; Tera Tubbs; Steven Polunsky; Robert Spence; Melissa Garcia; Allen Parrish; Chris Crawford; Clay Randolph; April Hoffman; Doug Varnon; Tito Carlo; Josh McCoy, Jack McGuire; Byron Truelove; Randy Fowler; Michael Pohlod; Howell; Rep. Bill Poole.

Judge Robertson called the virtual meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Judge Robertson presented the minutes of the January 25, 2021 TCRIC meeting and the February 2, 2021 TCRIC Special meeting.

Vote: Minutes of the January 25, 2021 and February 2, 2021 meetings were unanimously approved after a motion by Rep. England, seconded by Rep. Wingo. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Kim Palm presented the accounting report. The ledger balance as of February 11, 2021 was \$12,023,751.38. The fiscal-year-to-date interest earned is \$675.37. The February 2021 deposit (from December 2020 sales tax collected) was \$915,000, representing a 9.25% increase from February 2020. The projected and actual accrual basis revenues for Fiscal Year 2021 to date is \$2,495,519 and \$2,437,100, respectively.

Summary of Bills

A summary of bills was presented for the Commission’s consideration.

Vote: A motion to pay bills as presented was made by Mayor Herndon, seconded by Rep. Wingo, and approved unanimously.

Resolution 21-002: Budget Amendment #1 for FY 2021: Mayor Herndon moved to approve the budget amendment as presented, to reflect the actual carry-over amount from FY2020. The motion was seconded by Mayor Maddox, and was passed unanimously.

Annual Report

Johns presented the Annual Report draft

Vote: A motion to approve the quarterly report as presented was made by Mayor Herndon, seconded by Jim Page, and approved unanimously.

Update on Proposed Legislation

Alyce Spruell reported an update regarding the draft amendment to TCRIC legislation (local act). Following the February 2, 2021 TCRIC Special Meeting, Spruell shared the draft as requested with bond counsel (Maynard Cooper); bond counsel recommended removal of the language enabling TCRIC to issue debt and bonds due to the uncategorized nature of TCRIC and the fact that it was constituted under a local act. They recommended a general law to address this and Spruell has begun a draft of a general law with legislative reference services. A general law would allow other areas (counties) to create entities similar to TCRIC. The draft of the local act, as discussed during the February 2, 2021 TCRIC meeting, is complete and ready for advertising.

Rep. England made a motion that Spruell begin the process to start advertisement of the draft amendment to HB-600. The motion was seconded by Rep. Wingo, and passed unanimously.

Project Updates

Johns reported that TCRIC held a Work Session for the SR-69 South Intersection project this past Friday, February 19, 2021, where ALDOT presented the project plans, including lane closures and anticipated business impacts, and public communication plans.

Doug Varnon gave updates on City of Northport projects.

- SR-69 South, Union Chapel Road: The contractor is finishing the installation of the final signal pole; the project is expected to be completed in April 2021. The City of Northport will look at the final project cost and begin looking at Charlie Shirley Road project.

Tera Tubbs gave updates on City of Tuscaloosa projects.

- McWright's Ferry Rd: A permit request to tie into SR-297 near the Bryant Bridge will be submitted to ALDOT soon. Plans are 90% complete. The right-of-way (ROW) is ongoing. Tubbs reported that the City plans to advertise bids for the project in Fall 2021.
- Martin Luther King/Jack Warner Parkway: Phase I: water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer relocations are complete near Stillman, and are now ongoing near the Amphitheater. Comments were received for the 75% submittal on bridge designs; BKI responded and 90% Submittal was recently done. Phase II is schedule to be bid in Summer 2021. A virtual groundbreaking is pending; the date of release is unknown at this time.

Brad Darden (ALDOT) provided ALDOT project updates:

- SR-69 Turn Lanes: The project is now complete, pending the completion of punch-list items.
- SR-69 South Intersection Improvements: The plans are complete, and the ROW acquisition continues. Utility relocation will need to be completed once ROW acquisition is complete.
- SR-69 North / US-82 Intersection, and SR-43 (SR-13) North/US-82 Intersection projects: ALDOT has selected a consultant for each project and is continuing to work towards a fee schedule.
- US-82 / University Blvd: ROW acquisition is in process and ongoing with DCH and UA. Drilling was recently completed, and ALDOT plans to review those with the consultant soon.

- US-82 (SR-69 to Rice Mine Road): ROW acquisition. Some utilities were relocated previously with another project. The Cities of Northport and Tuscaloosa are working with consultants for plans for the remaining utilities that need to be relocated.
- US-82 / I-59/I-20 (not a TCRIC project): Both arches have been installed. Recently, contractors have been installing barrier rail along McFarland Blvd, and will be working on the west-bound additional lane (on McFarland Blvd). Paving is expected to be scheduled this Spring. No major road closures are planned; lane closures will be scheduled as needed.
- Lurleen Wallace Blvd (not a TCRIC project): Work is ongoing on pedestrian facilities; this work is being led by the City of Tuscaloosa.

Public Comment

Judge Robertson opened the meeting for public comment.

Randy Skagen shared a photo of the west-bound view on Union Chapel Road, just before the northward turn of the new portion of Union Chapel alignment. The viewpoint of the driver looks as though the road continues straight, when actually, it curves northward. The City of Northport will look into this.

Next Meeting

The next TCRIC Commission meetings were set for Monday, March 29, 2021 at 7:30AM, and Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:30 AM

Meeting was adjourned.