

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)
Meeting Minutes - - - March 29, 2021
Via Zoom

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

Other Attendees:

Alyce Spruell; Caty Waldrop; Kelly Johns; Susan Snowden; Dennis Stripling; Zane Davis; Kim Palm; Brad Darden; Kathryn Anderson; Richard Rush; Justice Smyth; John McWilliams; Chris Grace; Scott Anders; Glenda Webb; Tera Tubbs; Steven Polunksy; Robert Spence; Chris Crawford; Clay Randolph; April Hoffman; Doug Varnon; Josh McCoy; Marcie Lewis; Byron Truelove; Randy Fowler; Michael Pohlod; Howell; Sen. Gerald Allen; Rep. Bill Poole.

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

Judge Robertson presented the minutes of the February 22, 2021 TCRIC meeting.

Vote: Minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Rep. Wingo.

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 Jim Page, seconded by Danielle Winningham and approved unanimously.

Financial Report

Kim Palm presented the accounting report. The ledger balance as of March 21, 2021 was \$12,717,841.88. The fiscal-year-to-date interest earned is \$1,124.02. The March 2021 deposit (from January 2021 sales tax collected) was \$711,600, representing a 1.82% decrease from March 2020. The projected and actual accrual basis revenues for Fiscal Year 2021 to date are \$3,201,131 and \$3,148,700, respectively. There have been no project expenditures year-to-date.

Vote: A motion to approve the finance report as presented was made by Mayor Maddox, seconded by Rep. Wingo and approved unanimously.

Financial Advisor Update

Joshua McCoy (PFM) provided an update regarding the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank (ATIB). Previously, PFM received draft loan documents (including a funding agreement, bond indenture and master trust indenture) from ATIB counsel. The draft documents align with PFM recommendations previously given to TCRIC. Pending statewide and local bills currently in Alabama State legislation, some wording within these draft ATIB documents may need revision.

Legal Update

Spruell reported that she has provided a memorandum of the status of pending legislation for the Commission members; that summary included information that the proposed statewide Act HB463 has been passed by the House, has been favorably reported by the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee, and it has had its second reading last week. The proposed local Act amendment (HB545 and SB336, which are companion bills) is expected to be processed through the Tuscaloosa Local Legislation Committees this week. Legal Counsel will continue to monitor the progress of each bill and keep the Commission apprised.

Spruell also reported on SR-69 North at Union Chapel Road intersection improvement project. While the project is near completion, there remains ongoing condemnation litigation regarding the prior gas station owners' valuation claims. The owners have sold their interests last fall which may significantly impact the pending claims. Spruell is in communication with ALDOT counsel and will continue to keep the Commission informed about this pending matter and its impact on the final cost of the project.

Project Updates

Doug Varnon gave updates on City of Northport projects.

- SR-69 North, Union Chapel Road: The punch list items are near completion, and expect completion in the next few weeks. The City is installing a chevron sign at Union Chapel Road, just before the road turns onto the newest portion of Union Chapel Road.

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 has been submitted to ALDOT. Plans are 90% complete. The right-of-way (ROW) acquisition is ongoing.
- Martin Luther King/Jack Warner Parkway: Phase I: conduit and water lines are being relocated near the Amphitheater. 90% plans have been submitted.

David Kemp (ALDOT) provided ALDOT project updates:

- SR-69 Turn Lanes: project is complete; final documents and quantities are ongoing.
- SR-69 North / US-82 Intersection, and SR-43 (SR-13) North/US-82 Intersection projects: ALDOT has selected a contractor for both projects, and will work towards submitting RFCs (i.e., the process to allow the consultant to begin).
- US-82 / University Blvd: ALDOT is setting up a 30% project review. Kemp also reported that the INFRA grant deadline is September 2022.
- US-82 (SR-69 to Rice Mine Road): ALDOT recently sent utility agreements to the Cities of Northport and Tuscaloosa.
- SR-69 South at SR-6: ALDOT will have a meeting to discuss potential options to incentivize. Rep. Wingo plans to participate in the meeting and report back to the Commission.
- I-59/I-20/McFarland Blvd (not a TCRIC project): The arches are in place, and are being installed. Once the arches are finalized, cables will be installed, followed by work underneath the bridge.

- Lurleen Wallace Blvd (not a TCRIC project): James Brown reported that ALDOT is looking into adding fencing along Lurleen Wallace Blvd near the Hugh Thomas bridge. The fencing will prevent debris/objects falling from the bridge, to the area of pedestrian traffic below.

Public Comment

Judge Robertson opened the meeting for public comment. None were received.

Next Meeting

The next TCRIC Commission meeting was previously set for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:30 AM Meeting was adjourned.