

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission (TCRIC)  
Meeting Minutes - - - April 26, 2021  
Tuscaloosa County Annex Auditorium

Commission Member Attendees: Judge Rob Robertson – Chairman; Mayor Walt Maddox – Vice Chairman; Jim Page; Danielle Winningham

Other Attendees:

Alyce Spruell; Kelly Johns; Dennis Stripling; Kim Palm; Eddie Pugh; Tera Tubbs; Jason Walker; Russell Ware; Scott Anders; Chris Crawford; Zach Wolfe; Randy Skagen; April Hoffman; David Howell; Justice Smyth; Allen Parrish; Tom Bobitt; Glenda Webb; Steven Polunksy; Doug Varnon; Lee Garrison; Edward Henderson; Sen. Gerald Allen

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

Judge Robertson presented the minutes of the March 29, 2021 TCRIC meeting.

Vote: Minutes of the March 29, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Jim Page, seconded by Mayor Maddox.

### **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 Danielle Winningham, seconded by Jim Page and approved unanimously.

### **Financial Report**

Kim Palm presented the accounting report. The ledger balance as of April 20, 2021 was \$13,478,608. The interest earned in March was \$531.47 and the fiscal-year-to-date interest earned is \$ 1,655.49. The April 2021 deposit (from February 2021 sales tax collected) was \$779,600, representing a 13.19% increase from April 2020. The projected and actual accrual basis revenues for Fiscal Year 2021 to date are \$ 3,926,503 and \$ 3,928,300, respectively. Mayor Maddox asked Palm to share the revenue projection spreadsheet at the next TCRIC meeting.

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

### **Administrators Update**

Kelly Johns reported that TCRIC recently received a request from the City of Northport, regarding the US-82 Widening Project (from SR-69 to Rice Mine Rd). As previously reported to the Commission, The West Alabama Metropolitan Planning Organization has agreed to fund 80% of the utility relocations costs for the Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport. The City of Northport is requesting TCRIC pay the City of Northport’s portion (20%). Because the City of Tuscaloosa will make a similar request, Johns plans to present resolutions for both requests at the May 2021 TCRIC Meeting.

### **Legal Counsel Update**

Spruell provided an update regarding legislation related to TCRIC. The local act has been passed and signed by Governor Ivey; the bill will be uploaded to the TCRIC website soon. The State-wide bill is awaiting Senate action; Spruell expects the bill to be on the special-order calendar soon. Spruell again thanked the local delegation for their support and work on both bills.

When asked, Spruell shared that litigation related to Right of Way (ROW) acquisition for the SR-69 South Intersection Improvement is still ongoing and that she remains in contact with the ALDOT legal division regarding the same. David Kemp (ALDOT) reported that ALDOT is looking at revising the ROW extents of the project.

### **Project Updates**

Doug Varnon gave updates on City of Northport projects.

- SR-69 North, Union Chapel Road: The project is complete; the chevron signs have been installed 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 was submitted to ALDOT in February. The right-of-way (ROW) acquisition phase is ongoing.
- Martin Luther King/Jack Warner Parkway: The City has received 90% comments back from KCS; the City will respond and will then get final comments from KCS. Phase I construction continues.

David Kemp (ALDOT) provided ALDOT project updates.

- US-11 (Daimler Benz to SR-5) (Not a TCRIC Project): the project includes widening the road to 4 lanes. Structures are being removed before Utility work is performed.
- US-82 / University Blvd: ALDOT has selected a bridge design. Letting is scheduled for later in 2021; the bridge drop is scheduled for Summer 2022. Because the INFRA grant included a research aspect, UA students will be doing research on the bridge. The City has set up bi-weekly meetings/calls with ALDOT, DCH and UA. Mayor Maddox inquired if ALDOT would let UA manage the project; Kemp will look into it.
- US-82 (SR-69 to Rice Mine Road): Once the ROW acquisition is complete, ALDOT may let the project before utility work is complete, as utility work will not interfere with the roadway work.
- I-59/I-20/McFarland Blvd (not a TCRIC project): The arches are in place, and were recently painted.
- SR-69S Intersection Improvements: ALDOT met internally regarding possible portions of the project to incentivize. ALDOT will schedule a meeting with Mayor Maddox, Rep. Wingo and Judge Robertson to review at a date not yet scheduled. Kemp stated that TCRIC would need to meet with the Central ALDOT office before a decision on incentives could be made. Jim Page asked about public communication and notifications; Kemp reminded the Commission that Utility work will need to be done before letting.
- US-82 McFarland Blvd (SR-69 to Rice Mine Road): Glenda Webb inquired if ROW is being acquired by ALDOT for both Cities of Northport and Tuscaloosa; Kemp confirmed that ALDOT is working with both Cities.

**Public Comment**

Judge Robertson opened the meeting for public comment.

Sen. Gerald Allen thanked the City of Tuscaloosa for their work with the University of Alabama on the new overpass at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There was discussion on the need and impact of the overpass, and potential work in the future related to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mayor Maddox stated that at TCRIC completes their priority projects and looks to the future, he would like the University of Alabama to be part of discussions with respect to their Master Plan.

**Next Meeting**

The next TCRIC Commission meetings were set for Monday, May 24, 2021 and June 28, 2021 at 7:30 AM

Meeting was adjourned.