



MEETING SYNOPSIS | Connectivity Subcommittee

August 8, 2019

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the Elevate Advisory Council Connectivity Subcommittee. The meeting attendance sheet is attached to this summary. The agenda and presentation slides can be found separately on the Elevate Tuscaloosa website.

Subcommittee members were provided an overview of the following proposed projects:

Tuscaloosa National Airport (TCL):

- **Runway improvements**
- **Commercial air service**
- **Relocation and construction of a new helicopter hangar for the Tuscaloosa Police Department (TPD)**
- **Terminal**

Western Riverwalk

Northern Riverwalk Phase I

Downtown, Riverfront, and Workforce Transit

Tuscaloosa National Airport (TCL): Runway Improvements

Tera Tubbs (City of Tuscaloosa) provided an overview of the needed improvements, project costs, and projected timeline.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee agreed that the runway improvements, which will support heavier aircraft as well as flights to and from TCL, is key to a successful airport and support of the local economy.

Tuscaloosa National Airport (TCL): Commercial Air Service

Tera Tubbs (City of Tuscaloosa) provided an update on services included in the City's contract with Volaire Aviation Consulting, the status of grant applications, as well as local and private contributions secured.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Tuscaloosa National Airport (TCL): TPD Helicopter Hangar

Lt. Chris James (TPD) provided an overview of the duties of the Helicopter Unit, as well as the condition of and issues with the existing hangar. The expected project cost and timeline were also discussed.

Discussion Outcome:

- After a discussion of other possible options, the subcommittee confirmed that all hangars are in use and none is available for lease.
- The subcommittee elected to move forward with recommending a new hangar to be constructed on airport grounds at a site determined by Atkins North America, the city's engineering consultant for the airport.
- The subcommittee will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Tuscaloosa National Airport (TCL): Terminal

Mike Ellis (Ellis Architects) reviewed needs at the existing airport terminal including: ADA compliance, parking improvements and functional upgrades. He reviewed data and photos from airports in other cities, both in state and out of state. This included airport enplanement numbers, which counts the passengers boarding an aircraft. A renovation concept was shown, in addition to a preliminary new construction concept, which includes a growth plan.

Discussion Outcome:

- After discussion of renovation versus new construction, the subcommittee elected to hold further discussion until Atkins North America analyzes the feasibility data. This will include size requirements and FAA standards required for future use as a terminal with commercial air service.

Riverwalk

- Western Riverwalk
 - Tera Tubbs (City of Tuscaloosa) reviewed project highlights, including completion of the Riverwalk on the southern side of the river, activation of the riverfront in West Tuscaloosa, and opportunities to leverage public-private partnerships.
 - Ms. Tubbs updated the subcommittee on a Federal Highway Administration Grant application expected to be awarded by October 2019 that would be supplemental funding for the western portion of the Riverwalk.
 - Tom Bobbitt (City of Tuscaloosa) provided an overview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property that will need to be acquired or leased in order to complete the western section of the Riverwalk.
 - The project budget and expected timeline were also discussed.

- Northern Riverwalk
 - Ms. Tubbs reviewed project highlights, including a land donation from the Randall family, Randall Park and trailhead location, Northern Riverwalk map (from the 2018 Updated Riverwalk Masterplan) and possible grant opportunities to supplement Elevate funding.
 - The project budget and expected timeline were also discussed.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee elected to move forward the recommended design work for the Western Riverwalk.
- The subcommittee elected to move forward the recommended design of Phase I of the Northern Riverwalk, including Randall Park and trailhead.

Downtown, Riverfront, and Workforce Transit

Russell Lawrence (Parking and Transit Authority - PATA) reviewed current stats and routes for PATA and discussed the need to provide additional services requested by the community. PATA applied for a state grant to initiate a transit study to begin fall 2019. The grant requires a 20% local match (\$20,000 max) which was requested from the City's designated Elevate funds. The transit study will obtain feedback from stakeholders and allow transit decisions to be based on local data.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee elected to recommend the 20% match for a transit study.
- The subcommittee will be updated as information becomes available.

Next Steps

The subcommittee will advance the following recommendations to the Elevate Advisory Council at the August 28 Meeting:

- Construction of a new TPD hangar on airport grounds at a site determined by Atkins North America.
- Design work for the Western Riverwalk.
- Design work for the Northern Riverwalk, including Randall Park and trailhead.
- 20% match to the state grant for a transit study.

The next subcommittee meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Date	Name		Signature
8/8/2019	Chris	England	
8/8/2019	Karen	Brooks	
8/8/2019	Dave	Pass	
8/8/2019	Michele	Coley	
8/8/2019	Bill	Ashley	
8/8/2019	Wilson	Moore	
8/8/2019	William	Blakeney	
8/8/2019	Linda	Parsons	
8/8/2019	Russell	Lawrence	
8/8/2019	Nicole	Prewitt	
8/8/2019	Russ	Mumper	
8/8/2019	Tamika	Alexander	

Date	Name		Signature
8/8/2019	Eddie	Pugh	Eddie Pugh
8/8/2019	Jimmy	Duncan	Jimmy D
8/8/2019	Jeff	Powell	Jeff Powell
8/8/2019	Anderson	Groups II	A. Anderson
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