

## EXHIBIT B

### ALABAMA TRAILS COMMISSION INITIATIVE UPDATES

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*Through the support of The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, the Alabama Trails Commission works to enhance the development and use of recreational trails in Alabama through technical assistance, public outreach and education, research, and advocacy.*

#### Wiregrass Rail-Trail

##### Background:

In 2011, CSX Transportation notified the Surface Transportation Board of its intent to abandon its use of this 43.5-mile portion of the corridor between Andalusia and Geneva, and in 2012, the Alabama Trails Commission (“ATC”) filed a request for issuance of a Notice of Interim Trail Use (“NITU”) for this segment with the STB. The ATC has kept the NITU active to the present time.

The Wiregrass Trail project is an initiative of ATC in collaboration with the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, Geneva, Coffee, and Covington Counties, and the cities of Andalusia, Sanford, Babbie, Opp, Kinston, Samson, and Geneva. The local governments are committed to working in partnership to acquire, develop, and maintain the corridor in perpetuity as a multi-use trail that will create a significant transportation and economic enhancement for this region. We estimate the purchase price of the corridor to be between \$1,000,000 and \$1,200,000, based upon an appraisal conducted in 2012.

##### Update:

The Southeastern Division of ALDOT has expressed interest in acquiring approximately 28 miles of the corridor between Opp and Geneva for possible expansion of AL Hwy. 52 in the future, and wants to fund this acquisition outside of the TAP. They are amenable to placing a trail on the corridor after acquisition takes place and to retain a trail in the periphery of the corridor at such time as road enhancements are built in the future.

In early 2018, Andalusia submitted a new application to ADECA for \$400,000 in funding support for acquisition of the 16-mile section of corridor between Andalusia and Opp. Andalusia has received approval of the funding request from ADECA. The ATC requested an extension of the Notice of Interim Trail Use (“NITU”) from CSX in October for another six months. At this time, the Surface Transportation Board (“STB”) is considering a proposed rule change that would limit the number of NITU extensions to a total of six. If this rule change is adopted, the Wiregrass Corridor will be officially abandoned and easement segments of the corridor will revert to third party adjacent landowners. CSX as thus far withheld their consent to an extension until the STB makes

its ruling. The ATC Executive Committee has provided comment in opposition to the on the proposed rule change to the STB.

### Gadsden Rail-Trail

#### Background:

Gadsden City government is considering an appraisal and offer to Norfolk Southern (“NS”) for a two-mile corridor owned by Norfolk Southern that would connect Downtown Gadsden with an existing trail system at Noccalula Falls. ATC has provided technical assistance and encouraged Gadsden to pursue the opportunity.

#### Update:

Gadsden and Norfolk Southern have agreed upon a purchase price and Gadsden is currently reviewing a purchase agreement submitted by Norfolk Southern.

### Fayette Rail-Trail

#### Background:

The City of Fayette is working to acquire a two-mile segment of corridor owned in fee by Norfolk Southern and has an RTP funding commitment for this acquisition. Fayette has secured an appraisal of the corridor, but before it was able to make an offer, an adjacent landowner filed a lawsuit in Fayette County Circuit Court claiming ownership of a short section of the corridor. UACED has been providing technical assistance in this project since inception.

#### Update:

Fayette and Norfolk Southern are negotiating a purchase price. Norfolk Southern is delaying any further legal movement in the lawsuit until such time as the corridor is under contract.

### Monroe County’s Mockingbird Trail

#### Background:

Monroe County and Monroe County EDA have acquired an 8-mile inactive rail corridor running from just north of Monroeville to Downtown Beatrice under the federal rail-banking program. They recently completed construction on the southernmost two miles and opened it for public use. A landowner along portions of the corridor that have not yet been developed filed a lawsuit in Monroe County Circuit Court claiming that a previous Quitclaim Deed from the railroad company to a predecessor landowner, negated the railroad’s ability to bank the corridor for interim trail use. The Monroe County Circuit Court found in favor of the landowner.

#### Update:

The case is currently on appeal at the Alabama Supreme Court. UACED has been providing technical assistance on this project, and reached out to the Rails-to-Trails

conservancy on behalf of Monroe County to solicit their assistance when the lawsuit was initially filed. At the Rails to Trails Conservancy's request, UACED secured local legal counsel to facilitate their filing of an Amicus brief in support of the defendants in the appeal.

### Pinhoti Trail Facilities Enhancement

#### Background:

Through a convening of the U. S. Forest Service, Alabama State Parks, Alabama State Lands, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Hiking Trail Society, Alabama Trails Association, and private fundraisers, ATC began facilitating the planning of improvements to be made along the Pihoti National Recreation Trail, which is Alabama's premiere back country hiking trail, stretching 171 miles from Coosa County to Cherokee County and into Georgia. Planned improvements will include designing and building new shelters, bridges, signage, and trailheads that meet or exceed National Park Service standards. The Pinhoti is a designated approach to the Appalachian Trail, and with these improvements, will become marketable as a nationally preeminent hiking destination. The project has been awarded funding through the National Forest Service's Resource Advisory Committee Title II funding program as well as through the Alabama Legislature and the Hugh Kaul Foundation. The Alabama Trials Foundation is acting as the fiduciary agent for these funds and has hired Cindy Ragland as project coordinator.

#### Update:

The project steering committee has selected Architecture Works as the lead planner to develop the master plan for improvements to the Pinhoti Trail facilities. McNally Land Design is on this team as well. This work is underway, with a current conditions inventory and stakeholder engagement process completed. The plan is anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2018.

### 100 Alabama Miles Challenge

#### Background:

Through convening a partnership that includes the the Lakeshore Foundation, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama, Jefferson County Health Department, Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports, Alabama Beverage Association, AARP, and the Alabama Obesity Task Force, ATC has led the development of the 100 Alabama Miles Challenge program. This program is adapted from one created by the State of Missouri in 2013 that to-date has over 27,000 participants that have logged over 5,600,000 miles.

As with the Missouri program, the 100 Alabama Mile Challenge encourages people to run, walk, hike, bike, ride, roll, paddle, or swim 100 miles each year. Participants register on the website and log their activity, mileage, and places that they visit, and by doing so, they can track their progress, earn electronic badges along the way, and even have friendly competition with others. Through a vigorous public outreach campaign each spring that will involve events in many communities throughout the state as well as through traditional and online media, we hope to engage and excite the public to Be Active, Go Explore, and Connect with Others. We believe that this program will assist Alabama cities,

towns and rural areas in realizing the multiple health, community, and economic benefits associated with outdoor trail recreation, and will increase public use and appreciation of our local, state, and federally managed recreational lands.

Update:

The 100 Alabama Miles Challenge officially launched on May 12, 2018, with kick-off events being held in several locations around the state. State Parks continues to hold 100 Alabama Miles Challenge-themed events at a number of state parks. UACED is funding the social media engagement and website blog posts, which are ongoing. Currently, 1,500 active participants have logged 45,000 miles. Planning is underway for technology enhancements and for the 2019 season kick-off.

### Alabama Recreational Trails Leadership Workshops

Background:

On behalf of the ATC, UACED organizes and conducts two one-day workshop sessions each year to provide local, state, and federal government agencies, planning organizations, and nonprofit user groups with important information about planning and implementing trail projects to create valuable assets for Alabama communities. The workshop also provides a forum for these leaders to tell the Alabama Trails Commission what their needs are and how the Commission can best work to meet those needs.

Update:

Our last workshop was held at Auburn University on November 8, 2018 with 69 participants. Dr. Wayde Morse, with Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, gave a presentation on the latest thinking regarding best practices for Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan development; Jennifer Lolly, with the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve, presented on bringing trails and outdoor education together; Joshua Tuck, with the National Park Service, gave a presentation on how the NPS can assist recreational trail projects through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; and Cody Salmon, with Central Alabama Mountain Pedalers, gave a presentation on the planning, development, and operation of the mountain bike trail system at Chewacla State Park. In addition to field trips offered to tour Chewacla State Park and Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve, an orientation and training for the trail counter and economic impact survey program was conducted for 15 participants.

We are currently planning the next workshop, which will focus on funding sources for trail planning and development. This workshop will likely be in west Alabama in February 2019.

### Trail Counters & Economic Impact Surveys

Background:

In an effort to facilitate widespread gathering of recreational trail usage and social and economic impact survey data, UACED and ATC have developed a rapid trail user count

and survey assessment program. Data gathered from the process will provide valuable information to trail operators about their users' demographics, home locations, and spending related to trail use, as well as frequency and patterns of trail usage. These data will also be used to build a statewide database that will help to inform public policy regarding recreational trail development.

Update:

UACED and ATC have initiated studies at Gulf State Park, Homewood's Shades Creek Greenway, Walker County's Blackwater Creek Blueway, and will soon initiate studies at Cullman County's Stoney Lonesome OHV Park and at a number of other state parks.