

City of
Orange Beach
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March 10, 2016

Re: Letter of Support: City of Gulf Shores' TIGER Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Alabama Trails Commission, it is my great pleasure to submit this Letter of Support for City of Gulf Shores' TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant proposal for the Gulf Shores Waterway Village Multimodal Access Project. The project, as proposed, will undoubtedly have a profound impact on pedestrian use within the Waterway District boundaries, and also wide-ranging economic impacts extending throughout the general region.

As Vice-Chair of the Alabama Trails Commission and Project Manager for the Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail project, I can attest to the value of pedestrian and bicycle access to communities who wisely invest in such infrastructure. These facilities not only promote worthwhile economic investment within the community, but they foster enormous health, recreation and quality of life benefits for the citizenry, as well.

The Alabama Trails Commission was established by the Alabama Legislature to help and encourage communities to create these much-needed pedestrian and trail connections. In turn, communities will enjoy greater economic diversity and resilience, enhanced quality of life, and greater health benefits. The proposed project contains all the elements necessary to work toward these goals, and therefore we strongly encourage you to support and fund this proposal.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. West, AICP

Vice-Chair, Alabama Trails Commission/
Coastal Resources Manager, City of Orange Beach