



April 6, 2016

Honorable Robert Craft, Mayor
City of Gulf Shores
P. O. Box 299
Gulf Shores, AL 36547-0299

Dear Mayor Craft,

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ACF OFFICE
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On behalf of the Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF) Board of Directors, members, staff and volunteers, I am sending this letter in support of the City of Gulf Shores' TIGER Grant request for the Waterway Village Multimodal Access Project. Those important funds will help construct a much needed vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation infrastructure that will not only benefit the City, but also the growing number of tourists in Alabama and elsewhere who desire to live, work and play in communities which emphasize healthy and active family-friendly living.

The mission of the Alabama Coastal Foundation is to improve and protect Alabama's coastal environment through cooperation, education and participation. Based on serving that mission for over two decades, we extend our utmost support of this proposal which will produce the following benefits:

- Provide bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the Waterway Village District and across the Intracoastal Canal;
- Provide needed vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access from State Highway 59 to the Jack Edwards Airport, Gulf Shores Business and Aviation Park, and County Road 4 and Foley Beach Express;
- Promote investment, economic development, and job creation;
- Provide additional evacuation route connectivity to improve evacuation time during natural disasters; and,
- Create a sustainable and vibrant economic center that is resilient and will withstand the natural and man-made disasters that occur along the gulf coast.

ACF understands that the TIGER grant program is a very competitive process. With that understanding, we hope that the decision makers will see this request as a great investment in infrastructure that will pay dividends for decades.

If there is anything else we can do to support this effort, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mark Berte
Executive Director
Alabama Coastal Foundation
mberte@joinACF.org