



April 16, 2019

The Honorable Nick Girone, Chair
Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization
225 W. Guava Street, Suite 211,
Lady Lake, FL 32159

RE: North Lake Trail Funding

Dear Mayor Girone:

I am writing on behalf of the constituents in my district who are seeking funding assistance for the North Lake Trail. This trail begins in Umatilla and will run north connecting to the Black Bear Scenic Trail near Astor. These trails are currently being evaluated by the Florida Department of Transportation for possible routes, with results expected in April 2019.

The Black Bear Trail is funded for a Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) in fiscal year 2020. The North Lake Trail is also in need of funding for a PD&E study, and I am requesting that the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (LSMPO) consider the North Lake Trail for priority funding. It would be beneficial to have both trails studied within the same time frame as they complement one another in this area of Lake County.

The North Lake Trail will provide a significant economic and tourism boost to this area by providing a link between Umatilla and Astor, as well as the Ocala National Forest, Alexander Springs, camping, fishing, and other outdoor activities. I offer my full support to this effort and request that the LSMPO assist in prioritizing the North Lake Trail for PD&E study funding. I look forward to the continued forward progress on this project.

Sincerely,

Josh Blake
Commissioner, District 5

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Jeff Cole, County Manager
Mike Woods, Executive Director, LSMPO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
P.O. BOX 7800 • 315 W. MAIN ST. • SUITE 316 • TAVARES, FL 32778 • P 352.343.9850 • F 352.343.9495
Board of County Commissioners • www.lakecountyfl.gov