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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Supporting
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East Coast



Greenway
ALLIANCE



Conserve. Connect...One Mile at a Time

[BRUNSWICK] – The Brunswick City Commission yesterday overwhelmingly endorsed the Coastal Georgia Greenway, a proposed 161-mile system of trails traversing coastal Georgia from Florida to South Carolina.

Brunswick’s endorsement brings to 10 the number of municipal and county governments that have expressed support for the project over the past 4 weeks. Brunswick’s Mayor Bryan Thompson states that “Preliminary analysis indicates that the 155-mile trail will pay for itself within three years, with a projected six percent increase in valuation in each county it traverses every year thereafter. It will help provide safe and accessible routes for pedestrians, bikes, scooters and golf carts, will enable mobility-challenged individuals, tie together currently isolated segments of local communities, and enhance the value of residential developments. The Coastal Georgia Greenway will immediately create significant positive economic impact for Georgia’s coastal communities.”

On July 13th, the Jekyll Island Authority also passed supporting resolutions. Jones Hooks, Executive Director, Jekyll Island Authority states, "As Jekyll Island revitalization moves forward, we are looking at more than bricks and mortar. We are looking at opportunities that will allow our guests to enjoy the natural assets of Jekyll Island. Certainly, the Coastal Georgia Greenway Trail fits this goal perfectly. I am pleased to encourage support of the Coastal Georgia Greenway Trails project!"

"As growth in coastal Georgia continues, it is essential that we protect and position for the enjoyment of others our unique cultural and natural assets. The Coastal Georgia Greenway project is one of the important first steps in creating low impact eco-tourism on our coast. The Coastal Georgia Greenway project should help to preserve for future generations our natural and cultural assets thereby assuring an unparalleled quality of life on our coast," says J. Howard Morrison, Jr. of Lebanon Plantation in Savannah.

The City of Savannah is assisting in the grant-writing process and will assist with project administration, when funded. Mayor Otis Johnson of Savannah notes, “The Coastal Georgia Greenway project scores on many fronts: it would boost our economy through improvements to tourism and quality of life, provide recreational opportunities within a short distance of many of our residents, and would serve as a centerpiece of an improved network for nonmotorized transportation. This project would advance goals of our Thrive and Healthy Savannah initiatives, and the City of Savannah is very enthusiastic about efforts to seek funding for the Coastal Georgia Greenway.”

Other coastal Georgia communities have formally endorsed the greenway in the last month:

- Chatham County
- Bryan County
- McIntosh County
- Glynn County
- Darien
- Kingsland
- Riceboro
- Woodbine
- Richmond Hill

Additional endorsements are anticipated in the coming weeks.

The benefits of off-road trails for bicyclists, pedestrians and communities are tremendous. Trail use enhances our health and wellness and our environment by providing alternative transportation routes. Once the Greenway is in place, there will be over 161-miles of paved trail in Coastal Georgia.

For the past 15 years, a group of individuals has been working to promote the building of an off-road trail along the Georgia Coast. This group has recently formally organized as the Coastal Georgia Greenway, Inc. The Greenway will begin in St. Marys, running along the coast north to Savannah, and will be accessible to cyclists, pedestrians, and kayakers. It will also be handicap accessible. The Greenway will link beautiful, natural landscapes and historic points of interest as it traverses all six coastal Georgia counties and nine cities.

Many other organizations also support the Greenway, including the Center for a Sustainable Coast, the East Coast Greenway Alliance, and the Million Mile Greenway.

The Board of Directors of the Coastal Georgia Greenway has been eagerly watching for funding opportunities. On September 15, 2009, McIntosh County will submit a grant application to the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Transportation for funding the Greenway. If this grant is awarded, all 161 miles of the Greenway will be designed in concept and 65 miles will be built.

The Greenway will bring Georgia more tourism, health and environmental benefits, and easier access to many of Coastal Georgia's natural and historical treasures. This alternative transportation network will link towns, attractions, recreational sites, historic and cultural sites, waterways and natural habitats of the coast. The trails will be suitable for bicyclists, joggers, equestrians, canoeists, kayakers, and other non-motorized users. "We are pleased with the project's local support and will continue to work with local jurisdictions to identify and seek full project funding," says Jo Claire Hickson, Executive Director, Coastal Georgia Greenway, Inc.