

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF MICANOPY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXTENSION OF THE GAINESVILLE-HAWTHORNE STATE TRAIL INTO MICANOPY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR COORDINATION WITH ALACHUA COUNTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail (the “Trail”) is a regionally significant shared-use path and part of the statewide SUN Trail Network administered by the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Trail currently connects the cities of Gainesville and Hawthorne, providing safe, non-motorized transportation and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rail-trail spur along the former Atlantic Coast Line corridor connecting Micanopy to the existing Trail (the “Micanopy Rail Trail”) would enhance regional connectivity within Alachua County and the SUN Trail Network; and

WHEREAS, the Micanopy Rail Trail would provide residents, including families, students, and workers, with safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian access to Gainesville, Rochelle, and Hawthorne; and

WHEREAS, the Micanopy Rail Trail would expand multimodal transportation options, reduce reliance on motor vehicles, and help alleviate roadway congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Micanopy Rail Trail would create additional opportunities for outdoor recreation, public health, and wellness through safe and accessible walking and bicycling facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Micanopy Rail Trail would support economic development by attracting visitors and trail users to local businesses and accommodations in Micanopy, thereby strengthening the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail corridor would highlight the natural and cultural resources of the region, including proximity to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park and the Bartram Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Micanopy Rail Trail would improve connectivity between communities that currently lack direct public transportation options; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports pursuing state and federal funding, including SUN Trail Program funding; and

WHEREAS, development of the Micanopy Rail Trail is consistent with state and regional goals to expand the SUN Trail Network and create a connected system of shared-use paths of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Micanopy finds that the Micanopy Rail Trail would provide substantial transportation, recreational, and economic benefits to the Town and the surrounding region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF MICANOPY, FLORIDA:

1. Support of Project. The Town of Micanopy hereby supports the extension of the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail from the existing Rochelle trailhead to the Town of Micanopy, including the proposed terminus near the intersection of Hunter Avenue and Cholokka Boulevard.
2. County Coordination and Priority. The Town respectfully requests that Alachua County designate the Micanopy Rail Trail as a priority project within its Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan and related transportation planning efforts.
3. Lead Agency. The Town expresses its willingness, subject to mutually acceptable terms and conditions, to enter into an interlocal agreement designating Alachua County as the lead agency for planning, design, and construction of the Micanopy Rail Trail.
4. Cooperation. The Town agrees to cooperate in good faith with Alachua County and the Florida Department of Transportation to support planning, funding applications, right-of-way coordination, and project implementation, including the execution of necessary agreements.
5. Conflict. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.
6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the Town Commission of the Town of Micanopy, Florida, this ____ day of _____, 2026.