



2022

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

DECATUR-MORGAN COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



INTRODUCTION

As the voice of business in the Decatur metro area, the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce is committed to keeping our area competitive and improving the business climate. One of the best ways we can achieve this goal is through the legislative process. The Chamber is proud to work on behalf of our members to advocate policies and legislation that contribute to the growth and prosperity of our region.

During the last few months, the Chamber held a series of meetings, open to all members, to develop agendas for local, state and federal issues. Why are these agendas important? Every day, as Chamber members and citizens of the Decatur/Morgan County area, we

have opportunities to speak out in support of economic development and community growth. In an effort to ensure that we have a consistent message, the Chamber created these agendas. As we do our work throughout the year – i.e. visits to city council and county commission meetings, trips to Montgomery and Washington D.C. – we now have a clear agenda stating where we stand as a Chamber on each issue. The Chamber encourages our members to use this resource when discussing key business concerns. In the event that issues arise during the year that are not addressed here, please bring them to our attention.



DECATUR-MORGAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote business and commerce for the Decatur-Morgan County area through volunteer leadership in economic, political, and social development.

OBJECTIVES

To overcome barriers to future economic development and

To create a healthy, positive business climate.

To improve the region's ability to expand and enhance employment opportunities.

To improve the overall quality of life and standard of living for the total community.

To encourage development of the rich human, natural, and technological resources of the Decatur-Morgan County region to further enhance economic opportunities.

To provide support services and systems to benefit the members of the Chamber and consistently represent and advocate the best interests of the members of the organization.

Public Policy influences business success, workforce development, economic growth and, therefore, quality of life. The Chamber engages in initiatives to preserve, protect and promote a business friendly environment free of obstacles to growth and development.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce supports legislative action consistent with the following principles:

We believe in... **Public Finance and Tax Policy** having a positive impact upon commerce and economic development.

We believe in... **National Security and Defense** initiatives to promote the sustainable expansion of the military, space and defense industry locally.

We believe in... **Workforce Development and Education** policy to grow the area's skilled workforce, and to enhance the Pre K-16 experience.

We believe in... **Small Business** growth and development through advocacy of business friendly initiatives and regulation, and improving access to information and services.

We believe in... **Business Advocacy** by engaging, understanding, advocating and promoting initiatives and partnerships that support a business friendly environment free of obstacles to growth and development at all levels of government.

We believe in... **Healthcare** initiatives promoting personal accountability, increased access to, and effectiveness in healthcare while controlling costs and mitigating mandates on employers.

We believe in... **Transportation and Infrastructure** initiatives to support economic growth through the safe, effective and efficient movement of products, goods, services and people inclusive of all modes of transportation.

We believe in... responsible **Environmental and Energy** policy inclusive of research, development and investment.

We believe in... **Modernization of Government** processes through initiatives to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency of government operations.

We believe in... **Immigration** policies providing for the workforce needs of business while enforcing the laws of the federal, state and local governments without excessive mandates and penalties imposed upon employers.

We believe in... sustainable development along the **Tennessee River** including recreational, educational, commercial and residential opportunities.

We believe in... a **Community Culture** based on individual responsibility and accountability, and dedicated to improving the quality of life for all.



DECATUR-MORGAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2021 - 2022 Board of Directors

Jeff Brown – Chairman of the Board
Harris, Caddell & Shanks, P.C.

Ray Hardin – Chairman-Elect
Decatur Utilities

Michelle Howell – Past Chairwoman
3M

Joseph Hill – Treasurer
Progress Bank

John Holley – Vice Chairman
Talent Development & Education
Calhoun Community College

Kent Lawrence – Vice Chairman
Community Building
TVW Electrical Suppliers, Inc.

Jamie Reeves – Vice Chairwoman
Development
MeritHouse Realty

Bo Weinman – Vice Chairman
Leadership & Networking
Peck-Glasgow Agency, Inc.

Cronan Connell – *Valley Rubber, LLC*

Lindsey Faulkner – *Old River Antiques & Interiors*

Leif Founds – *Corporate Billing, LLC*

Keith Jackson – *Jackson Plumbing Heating & Cooling*

Noel Lovelace – *Decatur-Morgan Hospital Foundation*

Brendan McCormick – *Turner*

Lori McNutt – *Redstone Federal Credit Union*

Arthur Orr – *Alabama State Senate*
(Chairman of MCEDA)

Miracle Osborne – *ITW Sexton*

Iris Pettus – *DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Decatur*
Riverfront

Chase Grisham – *MeritHouse Realty*
(President of Decatur Jaycees)

Cindy Smith – *Edward Jones*

Renee Story – *GE Appliances, a Haier company*

Ali Propst – *Progress Bank*
(President of Decatur Women's Chamber)

Holly Whitt – *Whitt's BBQ*

Seddrick Williams – *Renasant Bank*

Russ Wilson – *Indorama Ventures*

Sean Zintel – *Magnolia River Services, Inc.*



DECATUR-MORGAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

Ray Hardin – Chairman of the Board

Decatur Utilities

Jamie Reeves – Chairman of the Board-Elect

MeritHouse Realty

Jeffrey S. Brown – Past Chairman of the Board

Harris, Caddell, Shanks, P.C.

Terry Welch – Vice Chairman

Development

Contractor Service & Fabrication, Inc.

Bo Weinman – Vice Chairman

Leadership & Networking

Peck-Glasgow Agency, Inc.

John Holley – Vice Chairman

Talent Development & Education

Calhoun Community College

Noel Lovelace – Vice Chairman

Community Building

Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation

Kent Lawrence – Treasurer

TVW Electrical Suppliers, Inc.

Cindy Anderson – Community Action

Partnership of North Alabama

(President of Decatur Women's Chamber)

Lindsey Faulkner – *Old River Antiques & Interiors*

Leif Founds – *Corporate Billing, LLC*

Keith Jackson – *Jackson Plumbing, Heating & Cooling*

Kadie Long – *Moe's Original BBQ, Hartselle*
(President of Decatur Jaycees)

Lori McNutt – *Redstone Federal Credit Union*

Chrystal Morgan – *United Launce Alliance*

Sam Mozeb – *Access Real Estate*

Arthur Orr – *Alabama State Senate*
(Chairman of MCEDA)

Victor Pacheco – *Bunge Corporation*

Iris Pettus – *DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel*
Decatur Riverfront

Linda Schoo – *Marco's Pizza*

Cindy Smith – *Edward Jones*

Stuart Tubb – *Progress Bank*

Mark Waters – *Valley Rubber, LLC*

Seddrick Williams – *Renasant Bank*

Russ Wilson – *Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA*

Sean Zintel – *Magnolia River Services, Inc.*

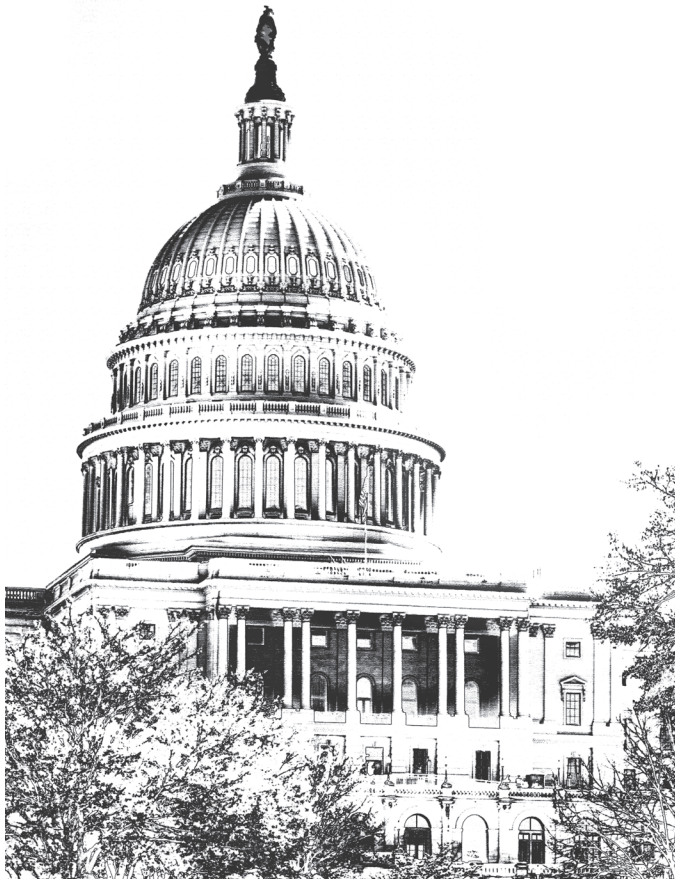
Wade Weaver – Chairman of Public Policy Committee



2022 FEDERAL AGENDA

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ★ The Chamber supports federal funding for projects, initiatives, programs and agencies that enhance the cultural arts and all aspects of the quality of life for residents of Decatur and Morgan County.
- ★ The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is a national and regional treasure that has lacked the proper federal funding for necessary updates for optimum access and use by the community. The Chamber urges Congress to approve the funds



for necessary improvements to the grounds and facilities including those projects outlined in the One Decatur comprehensive plan.

REGULATION

- ★ The Chamber opposes burdensome government regulations that impose costly, unfunded mandates, and time-consuming restraints on businesses. We also oppose any legislation that prevents new and existing companies from competing in the global economy. We support results-driven programs that encourage U.S. location advantages, increased entrepreneurship and support of the free enterprise system to help grow our economy.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ★ The Chamber supports reauthorization of the National Transportation Bill that provides adequate funding for transportation projects that improve safety and mobility, reduce travel times, and enhance economic prosperity throughout the North Alabama region.
- ★ The Chamber supports the creation of a federal highway building program for major regional transportation projects.
- ★ The Chamber believes that investing in Alabama's infrastructure will protect its citizens, generate economic growth, and improve quality of life. We support and encourage Congress to fully fund and

facilitate this effort.

- ★ The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce understands the importance and economic value of inland ports with facilities already in operation in other southeastern states. We fully support an ongoing Inland Port Feasibility Study that will help to identify the best site, or sites, in North Central Alabama to develop this facility in support of shipping activity at the Port of Mobile, and increased freight traffic connected to the increases in multiple manufacturing sectors within the entire region. The proper identification and ultimate construction of a new inland port facility, would not only improve the transportation infrastructure for our existing industries, but it would certainly be attractive to new companies looking to locate in our community.
- ★ The Chamber continues to support the completion of several transportation projects that facilitate travel and commerce on our roadways, waterways and in the air. To this end, we ask Congress to support Decatur and Morgan County, Alabama by preserving equity in highway funding back to the Alabama Department of Transportation. We believe that decision making about the building and improvement of our transportation infrastructure should be driven by need, including the promotion of safety and the facilitation of economic development. Major Decatur-Morgan County transportation and infrastructure priorities include:
 - To continue funding for improvements and a completed Corridor Study along U.S. Alt 72/U.S. Hwy 31/State Route 20 to create a limited access roadway from the I65/I565 interchange to U.S. 31/SR 20/Wilson Street intersection.
 - The construction of a third Tennessee River Bridge.
 - The 3-laning of U.S. Hwy. 31 south on the causeway with a new three lane bridge to provide continual free-flowing west bound traffic on U.S. Hwy. 20.
 - The agreement with AECOM Engineering Co. for preliminary work to apply for ALDOT funds

for lighting across the Tennessee River Bridge to the overpass at the Hwy 20/31 split.

- Funding for the Atlanta-to-Memphis (ATM) Highway selected by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Regional ATM Committee as per the approved Environmental Impact Statement.
- Funding for the expansion of U.S. Hwy. 67 from two to four lanes from Priceville to the U.S. Hwy. 36 intersection.
- Expand I-565 from I-65 to Wall-Triana to six lanes.
- Funding for the construction of a parking deck in downtown Decatur to accommodate increased parking demand.
- Continued financial support and funding for the growth of the Pryor Field Regional Airport.
- Continued financial support of the Huntsville International Airport.
- ★ The Chamber supports federal funding for the new Chickamauga Lock, which is located on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, Tennessee and continued annual funding until project completed.
- ★ The Chamber strongly opposes any inter-basin transfer of the Tennessee River.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the protection of the Tennessee River from any economic development project that produces hazardous materials, poses potential environmental threats or negatively affects the community's quality of life.
- ★ The Chamber supports any federal, state, regional or private efforts designed to resolve issues and provide low cost, reliable rail service to our members.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the funding for marketing and economic recruitment efforts of all phases of the Alabama Robotics Technology Park.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the continuance of funding for programs aimed at increasing the level of

highly skilled, highly trained individuals. Specifically, the Chamber urges funding of Calhoun Community College's workforce development solutions/training programs.

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports federal funding to increase the number of career coaches based on enrollment numbers.
- ★ The Chamber supports federal funding for high-quality early education opportunities (including head start, Pre-K, early education, professional development for personnel, and more), with ample flexibility for local authority in implementation.
- ★ The Chamber supports the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and funding for the Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) initiative as well as the Alabama Technology Network (ATN).
- ★ The Chamber Supports the programs and services funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) administered by the Alabama Career Center System.
- ★ The Chamber supports the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) We believe funding for this act is vital to public libraries to continue to meet community needs, provide enhanced technology, and reach underserved populations across the nation.
- ★ We support continued grant funding for workforce development and education improvement programs through: the Alabama Community College System, Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, Small Business Administration and the National Science Foundation and ADECA grants (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs).

IMMIGRATION REFORM

- ★ The Chamber urges Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Such reform should include strengthening the security of the United States borders and more stringent penalties against employers who employ illegal or undocumented workers.

HEALTHCARE

- ★ The Chamber supports legislation that would provide meaningful Medicare/Medicaid reform including:
 - Reach an equitable resolution on the Medicare wage index issue so that hospitals and other healthcare providers in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the services they provide to the Medicare population.
 - Establish initiatives that ensure businesses, particularly small and midsize businesses, are able to continue to provide affordable health coverage for their employees.
 - Bring about meaningful medical malpractice reform.
 - Continue enhancements to the Alternative Payment Models to ensure physicians are incentivized to create open practice models so that patients will have expanded access to preventive health.
 - Address the redundant and ineffectual cost associated with the implementation of the Recovery Audit Program (RAC) and its application in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
 - We also support the long-term solution of a federal block grant program for Medicaid that would allow the State to operate its Medicaid program with few or no federal mandates and controls.
 - Allow for intrastate selling of insurance to increase competition and lower costs.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation for and the recruitment of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), which strive to help meet the needs of underserved areas and populations.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation that provides funding/incentives to our nation's community mental health centers to ensure the centers cover a broad range of mental health services, including: 24-hour crisis care, increased integration of physical, mental and substance abuse treatment, and expanded support for families of people living with mental health issues.
- ★ The Chamber opposes change, through legislation or regulation, the federal funding formula that

would negatively impact the state-federal Medicaid program (FMAP).

- ★ The Chamber opposes change, through legislation or regulation, the federal funding formula that would negatively impact health care providers of the federal Medicare program or reduce Medicare reimbursements to Medicare providers.
- ★ The Chamber opposes legislation that would establish a national single-payer system of health care coverage, particularly one tied to Medicaid or Medicare reimbursement levels.

ENERGY POLICY

- ★ The Chamber supports the further development of advanced electric power generation and transmission grid improvements that allow for sustainable growth while delivering low cost, reliable power for industrial, commercial and residential customers. Specifically Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), Storage Integration, and a Regional Grid Transformation (RGT) to protect our region from power disruption.
- ★ The Chamber believes that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Act should be amended to require that TVA Board Members come from each state served by TVA in order to ensure that Alabama has adequate and consistent representation.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports a energy policy that provides defined environmental standards and restores balance to U.S. energy markets by promoting a diverse, flexible energy supply at globally competitive prices. Furthermore, we support the removal of unintentional regulatory barriers to safe, clean, reliable energy, especially electricity supplied from co-generation technology.
- ★ The Chamber opposes any efforts to limit or eliminate tax-exempt municipal bonds given the adverse impact on our public power utility companies and their customers.

TAX ISSUES

- ★ The Chamber supports:
 - Replacing the current tax code with a new system that is simple, stable and eliminates multiple-taxation and is tied to governmental accountability and responsible spending.
 - Elimination of the Federal Unemployment Surtax and returning Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) revenues to the states.
 - The permanent repeal of the estate tax.
 - Adjustments to or the elimination of the alternative minimum tax.
 - Lowering the corporate tax rate in order to increase worldwide opportunities for U.S. companies.

SPACE AND DEFENSE

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports NASA's ambitious and exciting new direction in space exploration and fully supports the nearby NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation and funding that ensures Alabama's active military and space facilities, as well as its reserve and guard units, are maintained at a competitive level. This should include funding the Alabama National Guard's *Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan* (RCTMP).
- ★ The Chamber recognizes the valuable role that the military activities based in North Alabama play in the defense of our nation. The prospect of future rounds of Base Realignment and Closure however, make infrastructure improvements a continuing top priority for the community. We urge Congress to continue federal funding for infrastructure throughout north Alabama, particularly in the area of transportation improvements.
- ★ The Chamber fully supports United Launch Alliance (ULA) and urges Congress to ensure a smooth transition to the next generation of national security launch vehicles by ensuring the Air Force has the proper resources to execute its Launch Services Agreement program. The Chamber encourages the

U.S. Air Force to stay on schedule and not weaken national security requirements that could cost the nation capability and reliability. Additionally, the Chamber encourages Congress to not weaken national security and threaten astronaut safety by forcing Air Force, NRO, NASA or any other federal agency to establish a mandate for using previously-flown, partially reusable launch vehicles.

TRADE

- ★ The Chamber urges Congress to strengthen enforcement mechanisms against unfair trade, including such practices as dumping, currency manipulation, closed markets and anti-competitive industrial policies. The Chamber recognizes a limited rationale for governmental interventionism, based on legitimate national security concerns and unilateral efforts to level the trade playing field.

LABOR RELATIONS

- ★ The Chamber opposes any legislation that would enhance union organizing or bargaining rights over what is currently allowed by the *National Labor Relations Act* or other current legal or regulatory guidelines.
- ★ The Chamber also opposes any legislation that would infringe upon private property rights by mandating that unions have access to employer's property during union campaigns.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation that prohibits the National Labor Relations Board from ordering any employer to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation that would ensure the continuation of Right-to-Work statutes.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation that would immediately modify the Davis-Bacon Act in an effort to create an equal opportunity for all workers and reduce inflated construction costs by billions annually.
- ★ The Chamber understands the need to update the salary level provided in the *Fair Labor Standards*

Act (FLSA) for exempt employees. However, the Chamber does not support large increases due to presenting challenges to small businesses, retail, restaurants and non-profits where managers often complete exempt and non-exempt work concurrently and salaries tend to be lower. Many organizations may lose workplace flexibility and be forced to reduce headcount. Automatic increases in the salary threshold are also problematic due to variations in economic conditions and geographic locations.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the mission of the Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority to implement the Envision Decatur plan updated in the One Decatur plan and urges federal funding for its projects.
- ★ The Chamber supports the continued growth of the Alabama Center for the Arts and other higher education projects in Decatur. These projects, in addition to the Cook Museum of Natural Science, will further the initiative of establishing a STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) economy in downtown Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber recognizes the need for parking and facility improvements at the Federal Courthouse/U.S. Post Office building in Decatur and encourages a joint venture with the Federal government to address these needs.
- ★ The Chamber supports policies that promote enhanced access to affordable broadband for all our citizens and businesses; encourages new investment, jobs, and technology development and deployment across our community; and, promote increased competition and options for consumers and businesses. We support public policy that leads to the promotion of investment in deploying broadband facilities to the greatest extent and avoids unnecessary government intervention and regulation of the internet, which will inevitably drive up costs for business and consumers. To accomplish these broadband goals, the

Chamber supports:

- Streamlining and standardizing the permitting process for small cell wireless equipment and services, including broadband
 - Allowing wireless companies access to public Rights of Way for the deployment of small cells
 - Establishing reasonable permit fees for localities, allowing them to recover fair and reasonable costs incurred while still encouraging broadband investment.
- ★ The Chamber supports passage of safe-harbor legislation to limit legal liability for those businesses, churches, hospitals, and other organizations that have properly followed all employee, customer and visitor guidance and protocols for COVID-19.

TOURISM

- ★ The Chamber supports the additional funding needed to complete the 32-acre Ingalls Harbor project.
- ★ The Chamber supports the Explore America Act, which authorizes the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America Program to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System in order to empower

gateway communities to leverage local cultural and heritage tourism assets to promote visitation and better tell their stories.

- ★ The Chamber supports the efforts of the Alabama Tourism Department to seek assistance from the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) for Alabama to claim more World Heritage Sites than any other state. The designation of World Heritage Sites is especially important in attracting foreign visitors to our state. There is tremendous interest in Alabama's Civil Rights Heritage among foreign travelers. With Decatur, Alabama serving as the site for the Scottsboro Boys Trials, we have an important story to tell that should be included on the Alabama Civil Rights Trail.
- ★ The Chamber is in support of the PLACE Act which provides resources for local communities to invest in the development of their creative workforce.
- ★ The Chamber is in support of the Film and Music Tax Credit Bill.
- ★ In 2026, America will celebrate its 250th birthday and the public will be encouraged to connect with the nation's special places and experience its unique stories. The Chamber calls for making needed investments now in policies and programs to ensure that all communities large and small are able to engage in the national celebration and the economic benefits of tourism are fully leveraged and shared broadly.





UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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2022 STATE AGENDA

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ★ The Chamber supports state funding for projects, initiatives, programs and agencies that enhance the cultural arts and all aspects of the quality of life for residents of Decatur and Morgan County.



TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ★ The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce continues to support the completion of several transportation projects that benefit travel and commerce including:
 - To continue funding for improvements and a completed Corridor Study along U.S. Alt 72/U.S. Hwy 31/State Route 20 to create a limited access roadway from the I65/I565 interchange to U.S. 31/SR 20/Wilson Street intersection
 - To study and recommend improvements along U.S. Alt 72/SR 20 from the Wilson Street intersection to the Morgan/Lawrence County line
 - The three-laning of U.S. Hwy. 31 south on the causeway with a new three lane bridge to provide continual free-flowing west bound traffic on U.S. Hwy. 20.
 - Expand I-565 from I-65 to six lanes from County Line Road to Wall Triana.
 - The construction of a third Tennessee River Bridge.
 - The expansion of U.S. Hwy. 67 from two to four lanes from Priceville to the U.S. Hwy. 36 intersection, to include Upper River Road.
 - Improvements to the U.S. Hwy. 67/I-65 intersection by increasing the number of turn lanes to access the interstate from U.S. Hwy. 67.
 - Expanding U.S. Hwy. 36 to four lanes from I-65 to Roan Road in Hartselle.
 - The construction of a Hartselle Bypass to avoid excessive downtown traffic.
 - Enhancing all modes of freight movement in the region to allow for maximum safety and efficiency.

- The agreement with AECOM Engineering Co. for preliminary work to apply for ALDOT funds for lighting across the Tennessee River Bridge to the overpass at the Hwy 20/31 split.
- ★ The Chamber believes that investing in the state's infrastructure will protect Alabama's citizens, generate economic growth, and improve quality of life. We support and encourage the Legislature to fully fund and facilitate this effort.
- ★ The Chamber also encourages the construction of other safe, low cost projects that could be completed to enhance bicycle and pedestrian usage in the downtown areas and around schools throughout the North Alabama Region. These projects will connect to current trails in Decatur, Hartselle, Priceville, Trinity areas and Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. This includes funding to continue construction of the Dr. Bill Sims Bicycle Trail that provides transportation alternatives and recreational opportunities throughout Decatur and Morgan County. The Chamber supports the establishment of the "Singing River Trail" that would connect counties throughout north Alabama.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the pursuit of quality of life funding specifically through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which provides funding for on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, downtown streetscape, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities and other transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- ★ The Chamber supports state funding for growth of Pryor Field.
- ★ The Chamber opposes any inter-basin transfer of the Tennessee River and we urge the Alabama legislature to pass statewide water-usage legislation. Navigation should be a key component of such a plan.
- ★ The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce understands the importance and economic value of inland ports with facilities already in operation in other southeastern states. We fully support an ongoing Inland Port Feasibility Study that will help to identify the best site, or sites, in North Central Alabama to develop this facility in support of shipping activity at the Port of Mobile, and increased freight traffic connected to the increases in multiple manufacturing sectors within the entire region. The proper identification and ultimate construction of

a new inland port facility would not only improve the transportation infrastructure for our existing industries, but it would certainly be attractive to new companies looking to locate in our community.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the mission of the Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority to continue to implement the Envision Decatur plan updated in the regionally recognized One Decatur plan and urges state funding for its efforts.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the mission of the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship and increased incentives for companies to train youth apprentices in high school. We also support the Alabama Community College System's effort to expand quick-start pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to nationally recognized certifications that prepare residents for in-depth apprenticeships or entry-level jobs in manufacturing and short-term apprenticeship programs that place residents in one of several high-wage, in-demand occupations in advanced manufacturing.
- ★ The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is a national and regional treasure that has lacked the proper funding for necessary updates for optimum access and use by the community. The Chamber urges the state to approve any appropriate funds for improvements to the grounds and facilities including those projects outlined in the One Decatur comprehensive plan.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the funding of the expansion and improvements of the farmers market including support of local food and food producers.
- ★ The Chamber encourages regional collaboration among economic development agencies.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the Accelerate Alabama Strategic Economic Development Plan 2.0 and the mission of the state to diversify its economic development efforts and steer Alabama towards technology-focused, skill-based jobs that result in lasting opportunities for Alabama citizens.
- ★ The Chamber supports the renewal and continuous improvements to Alabama's statutory incentive programs to assist in recruiting, retaining and

sustaining new and existing businesses.

- ★ The Chamber supports the development of public-private partnerships especially in cases where public funds are not available for worthwhile projects.
- ★ The Chamber supports the privatization of the state run ABC stores.
- ★ The Chamber calls on our state legislature to intercede on behalf of business and economic growth to create a streamlined process for permitting access to state highways.
- ★ The Chamber believes that state building codes should be adopted and enforced uniformly across the state. Failure to do so hurts those municipalities that are following the rules.
- ★ The Chamber believes that state agencies should verify that all zoning and local restrictions are satisfied before any group homes are certified and funded by the State of Alabama.
- ★ The Chamber supports policies that promote enhanced access to affordable broadband for all our citizens and businesses; encourages new investment, jobs, and technology development and deployment across our community; and, promote increased competition and options for consumers and businesses. We support public policy that leads to the promotion of investment in deploying broadband facilities to the greatest extent and avoids unnecessary government intervention and regulation of the internet, which will inevitably drive up costs for business and consumers.

To accomplish these broadband goals, the Chamber supports:

- Streamlining and standardizing the permitting process for small cell wireless equipment and services, including broadband
 - Allowing wireless companies access to public Rights of Way for the deployment of small cells
 - Establishing reasonable permit fees for localities, allowing them to recover fair and reasonable costs incurred while still encouraging broadband investment.
- ★ The Chamber urges the Governor to seek federal

approval for the transfer of unutilized opportunity zones to more promising eligible census tracts under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

- ★ The Chamber supports passage of safe-harbor legislation to limit legal liability for those businesses, churches, hospitals, and other organizations that have properly followed all employee, customer and visitor guidance and protocols for COVID-19.

EDUCATION

- ★ The Chamber urges the continuation of the highest standards possible to ensure our student success and growth.
- ★ The Chamber demands improved state test scores for students in both math and reading and supports whatever investment required to this end, including strong support of the Literacy Act and Stem Council.
- ★ The Chamber supports increasing the number of Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT) in our state.
- ★ The Chamber encourages post-secondary training for teachers in Math, Science and Literacy.
- ★ The Chamber urges the Alabama Legislature to make funding for statewide Pre-Kindergarten and other early education programs a priority in the 2022 regular legislative session.
- ★ The Chamber calls upon the Governor and Legislature of the state of Alabama to take immediate action to reform education spending in ways necessary to maximize public trust and to secure sufficient additional revenues for high quality education from Pre-Kindergarten through post-secondary education.
- ★ The Chamber supports a graduation rate formula that is based on the number of students who complete the high school program, allows special education students who complete their Individual Education Plan (IEP) to be counted as graduates, recognizes General Education Diploma (GED) as a diploma option and does not penalize schools for creating “drop-back-in” options.

- ★ The Chamber supports increasing the weight on the school A-F Report Card for the College and Career-Ready Indicator over the Graduation Rate Indicator.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports funding to increase the number of career coaches based on enrollment numbers to assist the students for career preparation.
- ★ The Chamber encourages public high schools and institutions of higher education to promote greater understanding of personal financial management and detriment of excessive college debt.
- ★ The Chamber believes that while a strong technical education is important for setting students on a path to high demand STEM fields, the Chamber also encourages public high schools and institutions of higher education to promote greater understanding of 21st century skills that are transferable across all industry sectors. Employers increasingly voice the need for employees that are able to think critically, collaborate, and communicate effectively. “Soft skills” such as professionalism, interview skills, social media acumen, and email etiquette become increasingly important and should become regular part of our curriculum.
- ★ The Chamber encourages continued funding for technology, robotics and distance learning in all Alabama school systems.
- ★ The Chamber supports increased funding for dual enrollment.
- ★ The Chamber supports the restructuring of state funds to address the ESL and Special Education needs based upon student enrollment in these programs.
- ★ The Chamber enthusiastically supports continued expansion of Calhoun Community College, Athens State University and the addition of other higher education institutions in Morgan and Limestone counties.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the implementation of a new Alabama Innovation Center for Excellence that focuses on student success and distance learning to be located in downtown Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber supports robust student recruitment and increased community engagement with the Alabama Center for the Arts and its students.
- ★ The Chamber supports the continued growth of the Alabama Center for the Arts, student housing and other higher education projects in Decatur. These projects, in addition to the Cook Museum of Natural Science, will further the initiative of establishing a STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) economy in downtown Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber fully supports the funding of Alabama’s two-year college system based on regional needs.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the Business Education Alliance (BEA). This alliance was created through the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) to assist in providing the best education opportunities and skills training available for Alabama’s public school students.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the funding for marketing and economic recruitment efforts of all phases of the Robotics Technology Park and encourages cooperation with area schools to develop appropriate curriculum and degrees to fully utilize this facility.
- ★ The Chamber supports the continuance and complete support of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports policies and funding to encourage small business development, entrepreneurship and business lending programs throughout Alabama.
- ★ The Chamber supports continued funding for the Alabama Technology Network (ATN) and the Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) initiative, which serve as catalysts for economic growth by supporting business and industry throughout the state of Alabama.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the continuance of funding for programs aimed at increasing the level of highly skilled, highly trained workers. Specifically, the Chamber urges funding of Calhoun Community College’s workforce development solutions/training programs.

- ★ The Chamber supports continued grant funding for workforce development and education improvement programs through: the Department of Education, the Alabama Community College System, the Alabama Workforce Council, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Economic Development Administration.

HEALTHCARE

- ★ The Chamber supports efforts that will ensure any legislation seeking to establish the operating guidelines for an Alabama Health Insurance Exchange and encourages competition within the market, includes appropriate business and provider representatives within the oversight structure, avoids duplication of regulatory authority and ensures the stability of the state's health care delivery system.
- ★ The Chamber supports increasing choices for employers in purchasing affordable healthcare and support health benefit programs based on free-market competition without government interference.
- ★ The Chamber encourages exploration of a workable Medicaid expansion in the state of Alabama to ensure adequate healthcare for Medicaid recipients and to ensure adequate reimbursement for hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, and hospice agencies for providing care.
- ★ The Chamber supports funding/incentives to our community mental health center to ensure the center covers a broad range of mental health services, including: a civil commitment facility in crisis, a 24-hour crisis care, increased integration of physical, mental and substance abuse treatment, and expanded support for families of people living with mental health issues.
- ★ The Chamber supports legislation that will help reduce the burden placed on Alabama businesses due to excessive worker's compensation costs.

CONSTITUTION

- ★ Because of its antiquated nature and lack of adequate framework to allow for effective

governmental performance, the Chamber supports comprehensive constitutional reform.

FINANCE AND TAXATION

- ★ The Chamber of Commerce supports efforts to create a fair and simple tax structure in the state.
- ★ The Chamber supports the continued efforts to streamline governmental procedures and cut costs.
- ★ The Chamber supports the evaluation of adequate funding for all state agencies and the reduction of Alabama's excessive percentage of earmarks.

TOURISM

- ★ The Chamber supports tax legislation to create tax incentives for tourism product development, which is any facility or attraction that is used for tourism or travel purpose.
- ★ The Chamber is in support of the Film and Music Tax Credit Bill.
- ★ The Chamber supports funding of the Alabama Tourism Department and their work to promote tourism in Alabama.
- ★ The Chamber opposes tax increases on the tourism industry as a means to generate income.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the retention of funding in the state budget for the Alabama Bass Trail.
- ★ The Chamber supports the efforts of the Alabama Trails Commission to encourage all types of trails as outdoor recreation thus boosting tourism and promoting a network of trails as an economic resource.

DEFENSE

- ★ The Chamber feels strongly that Redstone Arsenal offers an ideal location for the military to further consolidate activities for the good of the services. We urge continued support from the Governor and Alabama Legislature for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) related infrastructure needs, including sufficient ingress and egress to Redstone Arsenal.



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2022 LOCAL AGENDA

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ★ The Chamber supports funding for projects, initiatives, programs and agencies that enhance the cultural arts and all aspects of the quality of life for residents of Decatur and Morgan County.
- ★ The Chamber supports funding for public libraries as vital community places that fulfill the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational interests for residents of Decatur and Morgan County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The Chamber strongly endorses the One Decatur comprehensive plan and its full funding and implementation by all responsible parties on the time schedule outlined in the plan.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the City of Decatur to implement a comprehensive growth strategy to

include the continued implementation of the One Decatur comprehensive plan and work to consider all options available to the city conducive for strategic growth. We also support the implementation and reviewing of building design standards of the second phase of the long-range plan which includes the reassessment of our current zoning ordinances.

- ★ The Chamber highly recommends the City of Decatur allocate a minimum of one percent of the budget each fiscal year to spur development. Additional monetary and in-kind incentives are also urged to be considered by the City of Decatur and the Morgan County Commission when appropriate.

Retail Sales Taxes

- ★ The Chamber does not support retail sales tax increases to generate municipal revenue.

Industrial Tax Abatements / Retail Development Incentives

- ★ The Chamber assesses the need for industrial tax abatements and retail development incentives on a case-by-case basis; however, we support the use of tax abatements and incentives when accompanied by a measurable plan for new capital investment, job creation, job preservation, revenue generation, revitalization and economic development in all municipalities of Morgan County. We encourage companies and developers receiving tax abatements and incentives to continue reinvestment in the local community by utilizing Decatur and Morgan County-based vendors and suppliers in addition to our talented workforce and strongly promote living in Decatur/Morgan County.



Annexation

- ★ The Chamber believes the City of Decatur should explore the viability of annexation of property whose owners enjoy a benefit from city services and adjoining boundaries of Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber urges the annual adequate funding of the City of Decatur/Decatur Utilities Revolving Development Fund along with the enforcement of our sewer annexation policy to encourage future annexation into our community.
- ★ The Chamber supports a disciplined/consistent approach to dedicating funds to the sewer annexation policy.
- ★ The Chamber supports the continued annexation of land for development and redevelopment adjacent to active rail lines to recruit new business and/or business expansion opportunities.
- ★ The Chamber supports the annexation of land north of the Tennessee River along the north Hwy 31 Corridor.

Beautification

- ★ The Chamber continues to support a more aesthetically pleasing business environment in Decatur and urges the City Council to develop and enforce ordinances designed to protect landscaping and infrastructure investment while preserving updated zoning ordinances and design standards that are business friendly.
- ★ The Chamber urges the city to educate and encourage the public to care for our outdoor spaces and discourages litter of any type.
- ★ The Chamber supports efforts to improve and beautify all of Decatur's major entryways. Such efforts should include the installation of lighting, a water feature, the burial of utilities along the U.S. Hwy. 20/31 causeway including local projects and the coordination of grant-funded projects in support of the Sixth Avenue Enhancement Plan.

Downtown Redevelopment Authority

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the mission of the Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority to continue to implement the Envision Decatur plan

in conjunction with the updated DDRA Five Year Strategic Plan and urges municipal and county funding for its efforts.

- ★ The Chamber supports the continued growth of the Alabama Center for the Arts and other higher education projects in Decatur. These projects, in addition to the Cook Museum of Natural Science, will further the initiative of establishing a STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) economy in downtown Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber supports expanded residential development, including lofts, in downtown Decatur. Creative funding support may be required to obtain lending for downtown lofts, parking needs and student housing.
- ★ The Chamber encourages exploring the development of "Quiet Zones" at the Moulton St. and 2nd St. railroad crossings downtown.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the funding of the expansion and improvements of the Morgan County-Decatur Farmers Market including support of local food and food producers as a fundamental part of the downtown area.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the funding for the construction of a parking deck in downtown Decatur to accommodate increased parking demand.
- ★ The Chamber encourages officials from the City of Decatur to develop a plan to expand and update way-finding signage, and to maximize pedestrian activity in conjunction with all downtown development efforts.

Business and Residential Development

- ★ The Chamber urges the Decatur City Council and Morgan County Commission to work with the Chamber to develop small business, retail and light industrial incentives for new and existing businesses.
- ★ The Chamber urges county and municipal support for the continued development of the Morgan Center Business Park located adjacent to I-65 in Hartselle and additional areas throughout Morgan County for future industrial growth.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the Decatur City Council, the Morgan County Commission, and local school

systems to request, whenever possible, that local businesses and professional services be utilized for any projects of agencies receiving municipal and/or county funding.

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the protection of the Tennessee River from any economic development project that produces hazardous materials, poses potential environmental threats or negatively affects the community's quality of life.
- ★ The Chamber encourages city planners to maximize more riverfront property for public usage including recreational, residential, and retail opportunities.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the development of upscale apartments and other high-quality living properties to include single family home development to attract new residents to Decatur and Morgan County. We also encourage the building of sidewalks within the complete radius where school bus service is not provided.
- ★ The Chamber supports the regulation of short-term or transient rentals by the City of Decatur to ensure the appropriate collection of taxes and fees.
- ★ The Chamber believes that a group home must satisfy all state and federal guidelines before they can be established in the city of Decatur and these guidelines should be strictly enforced by the appropriate entity.
- ★ The Chamber supports policies that promote enhanced access to affordable broadband for all our citizens and businesses; encourages new investment, jobs, and technology development and deployment across our community; and promote increased competition and options for consumers and businesses. We support public policy that leads to the promotion of investment in deploying broadband facilities to the greatest extent and avoids unnecessary government intervention and regulation of the internet, which will inevitably drive up costs for business and consumers.

To accomplish these broadband goals, the Chamber supports:

- Streaming and standardizing the permitting process for small cell wireless equipment and services, including broadband

- Allowing wireless companies access to public Rights of Way for the deployment of small cells
- Establishing reasonable permit fees for localities, allowing them to recover fair and reasonable costs incurred while still encouraging broadband investment.

- ★ The Chamber encourages the development/ expansion of fiber networking for residential and commercial entities.

Business Taxes, Fees and Licenses

- ★ The Chamber urges city departments to continually analyze and streamline business guidelines in order to create a more efficient and business-friendly atmosphere. Furthermore, the City of Decatur should conduct a comparative analysis of business licenses, taxes and fees in surrounding cities to ensure that fees in Decatur are comparable and do not impede economic growth within the city.

Tourism

- ★ The Chamber recognizes tourism as an important revenue-producing industry in Decatur and Morgan County and urges support from the Decatur City Council and Morgan County Commission for tourism product promotion and development.
- ★ The Chamber supports the additional funding and continued growth needed to complete the 32-acre Ingalls Harbor project.
- ★ The Chamber supports the continued development of parks and sporting venues that are consistent with the quality standards established that will bring new events and tournament opportunities to the city and county that increase lodging tax collections.
- ★ The Chamber affirms that projects which promote and recognize the artistic, cultural and historical resources of the city and county are necessary to the growth of a well-rounded community. The creation of facilities, trails, exhibitions, and special events that celebrate area heritage and culture will be encouraged as an important aspect of tourism development.
- ★ The Chamber supports the relocation of Decatur-Morgan County Tourism to be closer to Downtown

and the U.S. Hwy. 31 bridge. This will improve the appearance of the gateway that shapes the perception for visitors.

- ★ The Chamber supports the mission of and continued municipal and county funding for Decatur-Morgan County Tourism.

Morgan County Economic Development Association

- ★ The Chamber supports the mission of and continued municipal and county funding for the Morgan County Economic Development Association.

Decatur-Morgan County Entrepreneurial Center

- ★ The Chamber supports the mission of and encourages municipal and county support for the Decatur-Morgan County Entrepreneurial Center.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

- ★ The Chamber urges local officials to comply with and enforce existing laws addressing illegal immigration in as efficient manner as possible.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Advanced Technology Robotics Research and Development Complex

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the funding for marketing and economic recruitment efforts of all phases of the Robotics Technology Park and encourages cooperation with area schools and businesses to develop appropriate curriculum and degrees.

Funding and Administration

- ★ The Chamber enthusiastically supports the priority placed on public education and encourages continued municipal and county funding for school systems in Decatur-Morgan County.
- ★ The Chamber urges all school systems in Morgan County to continue reinvestment in the local community by utilizing Decatur and Morgan County-based vendors and suppliers.

- ★ The Chamber encourages the school systems of Decatur-Morgan County to proactively promote their successes in all types of media.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the concept and implementation of the new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Academy and Community Learning Center.
- ★ The Chamber encourages and enthusiastically supports the ongoing efforts of the school systems of Decatur-Morgan County to improve student achievement including test scores and graduation rates.

Career Preparation

- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the mission of the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship and increased incentives for companies to train youth apprentices in high school. We also support the Alabama Community College System's effort to expand quick-start pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to nationally recognized certifications that prepare residents for in-depth apprenticeships or entry-level jobs in manufacturing and short-term apprenticeship programs that place residents in one of several high-wage, in-demand occupations in advanced manufacturing.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the implementation of a new Alabama Innovation Center for Excellence that focuses on student success and distance learning to be located in downtown Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber supports K12-Higher Education funding for the development of partnerships between Calhoun Community College and business/industry, focused on creating pathways for individual attainment of post-secondary education and skillsets, to achieve completion rates above the national average.
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports the expansion of career and trade education opportunities within all school systems in Morgan County. We also urge all school systems to collaborate and expand opportunities with Calhoun Community College's and Wallace State Community College's dual enrollment program and other early college credit opportunities for high school students.
- ★ The Chamber believes that while a strong technical

education is important for setting students on a path to high demand STEM fields, the Chamber also encourages public high schools and institutions of higher education to promote greater understanding of 21st century skills that are transferable across all industry sectors. Employers increasingly voice the need for employees that are able to think critically, collaborate, and communicate effectively. “Soft skills” such as professionalism, interview skills, social media acumen, and email etiquette become increasingly important and should become regular part of our curriculum.

- ★ The Chamber wholeheartedly supports the Best and Brightest Initiative (incentive package for STEM college graduates) and the CEO Program (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities-high school students).
- ★ The Chamber strongly supports funding to increase the number of career coaches based on enrollment numbers to assist the students for career preparation.
- ★ The Chamber encourages public high schools and institutions of higher education to promote greater understanding of personal financial management.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ★ The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce continues to support the completion of several projects that benefit travel and commerce including:
 - To continue funding for improvements and a completed Corridor Study along U.S. Alt 72/U.S. Hwy 31/State Route 20 to create a limited access roadway from the I65/I565 interchange to U.S. 31/SR 20/Wilson Street intersection
 - To study and recommend improvements along U.S. Alt 72/SR 20 from the Wilson Street intersection to the Morgan County/Lawrence County line
 - Expand I-565 from County Line to Wall-Triana to six lanes.
 - The expansion of U.S. Hwy. 67 from two to four lanes from Priceville to the U.S. Hwy. 36 intersection, to include Upper River Road.

- The construction of a third Tennessee River Bridge.
- Improvements to the U.S. Hwy. 67/I-65 intersection by increasing the number of turn lanes to access the interstate from U.S. Hwy. 67.
- Expanding U.S. Hwy. 36 to four lanes from I-65 to Roan Road in Hartselle.
- The construction of a Hartselle Bypass to avoid excessive downtown traffic.
- Enhancing all modes of freight movement in the region to allow for maximum safety and efficiency.
- The 3-laning of U.S. Hwy. 31 south on the causeway with a new 3-lane bridge to provide continual free-flowing west bound traffic on U.S. Hwy. 20.
- The agreement with AECOM Engineering Co. for preliminary work to apply for ALDOT funds for lighting across the Tennessee River Bridge to the overpass at the Hwy 20/31 split.

- ★ The Chamber urges the City of Decatur to allocate resources to construct new roads and sewer improvements and improve existing roads to support current and planned infrastructure needs within the City of Decatur.

- ★ The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce understands the importance and economic value of inland ports with facilities already in operation in other southeastern states. We fully support an ongoing Inland Port Feasibility Study that will help to identify the best site, or sites, in North Central Alabama to develop this facility in support of shipping activity at the Port of Mobile, and increased freight traffic connected to the increases in multiple manufacturing sectors within the entire region. The proper identification and ultimate construction of a new inland port facility would not only improve the transportation infrastructure for our existing industries, but it would certainly be attractive to new companies looking to locate in our community.

Local Funding Sources

- ★ The Chamber strongly encourages the Morgan County Commission and municipalities within

Morgan County to establish reserve accounts for transportation projects. Such accounts would serve as revenue sources to fund local transportation improvement projects, including resurfacing, as well as serve as the local match for federal and/or state transportation projects. The Chamber also encourages that the allocation of funds for these accounts be made annual budget priorities.

- ★ The Chamber encourages the continued financial support of public transportation by local governments including the study of expanded services within the Decatur metropolitan area.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails

- ★ The Chamber urges the City of Decatur to continue construction of the Dr. Bill Sims Bicycle Path that provides transportation alternatives and recreational opportunities throughout the City of Decatur.
- ★ The Chamber also encourages the construction of other safe, convenient, low cost projects that can be completed to enhance bicycle and pedestrian usage in the downtown areas as well as connecting residential areas with commercial centers, parks, schools, and other public and private services. These projects should connect to current trails in Decatur, Hartselle, Priceville and Trinity areas.
- ★ The Chamber supports the establishment of the “Singing River Trail” connecting counties throughout North Alabama.
- ★ The Chamber encourages the pursuit of quality of life funding specifically through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which provides funding for on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, downtown streetscape, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities and other transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This must be a high priority and requires a great amount of vigilance as yearly application is required.
- ★ As a matter of public safety and encouragement of pedestrian traffic within Delano Park, the Chamber encourages push button accessibility be installed at Sixth Avenue and Gordon Drive. Furthermore, we suggest an overall feasibility study for this same feature all along the Sixth Avenue corridor.





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