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Contacts:

Carolyn Buck, FLT Red Rock Trail System Director, carolyn.buck@freshwaterlandtrust.org
Rebekah Correia, FLT Outreach and Communications Director,
rebekah.correia@freshwaterlandtrust.org
Rusha Smith, FLT Executive Director, rusha.smith@freshwaterlandtrust.org
(205) 417-2777

**Red Rock Trail System® Gains Thirty more Miles Thanks to City of Birmingham's
Advancement of "Complete Streets" Initiative**

Birmingham, AL – March 3, 2025 – Freshwater Land Trust's Red Rock Trail System® has gained over 30 more miles as a result of the progress made by the City of Birmingham after passing a Complete Streets ordinance in 2018.

The Red Rock Trail System® is an existing and planned network of parks, off-road trails, and bike lanes that connect the residents of Jefferson County to the places they want to go. Of Red Rock's proposed 750- miles, Complete Streets, defined as a roadway that supports all kinds of users, make up almost 53% of the planned trails. Serving as the foundation of the trail network, Complete Streets seamlessly connect pedestrians and cyclists to Red Rock's growing off-road trail network, parks, transit lines, commercial districts, and vital community services.

The City of Birmingham's Complete Streets ordinance is a cost-effective transportation tool that allows the city to incorporate bike lanes and sidewalks on city roadways whenever major repairs or resurfacing is planned. Since the ordinance's passing, the City of Birmingham has added almost 30 miles of new bike lanes throughout the city, reaffirming its commitment to creating safer, more accessible, and inclusive transportation options for both residents and visitors. With these additions, Jefferson County's Red Rock Trail System now encompasses 160 (157.9) miles of trails, parks, and bike lanes with accompanying sidewalks.

The Complete Streets initiative is part of the city's larger strategy to drastically improve roadway safety, making city streets functional for people of all ages and abilities, no matter their chosen mode of transportation. The Birmingham Department of Transportation (BDOT) has embarked on a series of projects to modernize the city's infrastructure, including the addition of bike lanes, walking paths, and implementing traffic-calming measures that reduce vehicular speeds on city streets. Red Rock Trail System Director Carolyn Buck says, "The City of Birmingham and BDOT have become regional leaders in creating an active transportation system that meets the needs of people using all forms of transportation. BDOT has been a wonderful Red Rock partner,

advocating for the trail system and aggressively pursuing Complete Streets, ultimately building out large parts of Red Rock's in-street biking network in the process."

A notable example of the Complete Streets initiative at work was last year's transformation of 2nd Avenue South near Pepper Place and Graymont Avenue. Multi-lane roadways were narrowed to two lanes to reduce speeding, four-way stops and enhanced pedestrian crossings were added, and sidewalks were replaced to meet modern accessibility standards.

The redesign of Birmingham's Woodlawn neighborhood along 1st Avenue South also focused on reducing vehicular speeds along the roadway. This was done by reducing the roadway from four lanes to two and adding pedestrian crosswalks, stop signs, on-street parking, a dedicated two-way bike lane, and new signage. Two traffic lights were also converted into all-way stops to enhance safety and accessibility. BDOT, the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, REV Birmingham and the Alabama Urbanists Coalition collaborated on the project in conjunction with the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama.

"We're really excited about the new striping configuration on 1st Avenue South in Woodlawn, and we're thankful for the many partners that helped to make that project happen. Additionally, we're grateful to the Birmingham Mayor and City Council for consistently funding large amounts of resurfacing each year. Those resurfacing projects have created a really unique opportunity for redesigning our streets across the city.", notes James Fowler, Director of the City of Birmingham's Department of Transportation.

Freshwater Land Trust, as one of the original supporters of Birmingham's Complete Streets initiative, has continued to be a vocal advocate for Complete Streets in our role as facilitators of the Red Rock Trail System. "The growth of the RRTS depends not only on miles of new trails built, but also improvements to our existing city roadways to better accommodate people using alternative modes of transportation. The work BDOT is doing as part of the Complete Streets initiative helps meet one of the main goals of the Red Rock Trail System: to provide safe, equitable access to alternative transportation and outdoor recreation. We are so thankful for the hard work that the City of Birmingham and BDOT have done to increase bike lanes and sidewalks within the city and look forward to continuing to see the Red Rock Trail System's bike network expand as more municipalities adopt and implement Complete Streets."

Photos:

[Armadillos in Woodlawn](#)

[Bollard in Woodlawn](#)

Freshwater Land Trust® conserves and cares for environmentally significant land across Central Alabama and connects communities to green spaces throughout Jefferson County via the Red Rock Trail System® (RRTS).

The RRTS is a network of 160 miles of trails, parks, bike lanes, and sidewalks spanning Jefferson County, Alabama. FLT is expanding non-motorized access to greenspaces with the [Red Rock Action Plan](#), a 36-mile loop that will connect Ruffner Mountain to Red Mountain via

Railroad Park within the next 15 years, providing safe, comfortable, and equitable trails for all ages and abilities. This plan aims to give every citizen access to a trail or green space within a mile of their home.

City of Birmingham, BDOT strives to develop and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system with multiple options for every user. Our efforts support and connect walkable, vibrant communities throughout the city.