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NORTH CAROLINA'S SOUTHEAST WELCOMES ALLIANCE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, GULF & OHIO RAILWAYS AS INVESTORS

Technical and Transportation Expertise Will Boost Regional Strategies

August 2, 2021 (Elizabethtown, N.C.) Two more regional business entities are lending their technical, financial and leadership support to the mission of North Carolina's Southeast. Alliance Consulting Engineers and Gulf & Ohio Railway recently joined the organization's growing list of investors.

Alliance Consulting Engineers Inc. has joined as a Leadership Level supporter. The firm provides professional design services, regulatory expertise, and knowledge of local and regional construction practices. Alliance Consulting Engineers maintains five offices throughout the Carolinas. Its approach streamlines project execution through partnerships, adoption of the latest technologies and a focus on community knowledge.

"Alliance Consulting Engineers is proud to support regional economic development efforts in Southeastern North Carolina," says Deepal Eliatamby, PE, president of the company. "We look forward to adding our experience and insight to the work of NC's Southeast and providing strategic and technical direction to the organization's mission of bringing new jobs, businesses and economic opportunity to that important part of North Carolina," says Mr. Eliatamby, who will serve on the NC's Southeast board of directors.

Headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., Gulf & Ohio Railway is the holding company for five short-line railroads in Tennessee and the Carolinas. Its operations include the Laurinburg and Southern and the Kinston & Snow Hill Railroads, which link companies

in Southeastern North Carolina with Class A rail lines and national markets. Its railroads operate a total of 203 miles of track, and haul freight for 64 industrial customers.

Matt Gedney, vice president for industrial development at Gulf & Ohio, says the railroad is eager to lend its support to the organization's mission. "North Carolina's Southeast has a great reputation as a very effective regional economic development alliance and I'm looking forward to working with the team on anything we can do to assist their mission, particularly on our short line railroads in Scotland and Lenoir Counties," Gedney says. "Economic development is a team sport and Gulf & Ohio is pleased to become an investor in this organization, where we hope to help contribute to building up our rural communities through high quality industrial projects."

Gulf & Ohio Railway is joining NC Southeast at the Investor Level.

"North Carolina's Southeast is proud to welcome Alliance Consulting Engineers and Gulf & Ohio Railway to our regional economic development team," said NC's Southeast Chairman Jeff Etheridge. "Transportation and engineering are critical to the task of bringing economic opportunity to our communities, and the technical smarts and leadership savvy of these two investors will go far in advancing our regional mission."

A public-private partnership headquartered in Elizabethtown, N.C., **North Carolina's Southeast** "provides strong economic development leadership in southeastern North Carolina through innovative marketing and collaborative regional initiatives that will support the creation of new jobs, generate capital investment and secure new business locations." Member counties include Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Hoke, Lenoir, Montgomery, New Hanover, Moore, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and Wayne. For additional information, visit www.ncse.org

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