

Did You Know?

Over \$1 Billion has been invested in North Alabama schools in recent years. *(Jr. High and above)*

NEW Educational Facilities:

Austin HS—\$52mm Athens HS—\$60mm Decatur HS—\$40mm
Guntersville HS—\$54mm Priceville Jr. HS—\$31mm West Morgan HS—\$26mm
Alabama School of Cyber Tech and Engineering—\$33mm
Alabama Center for the Arts Residence Hall & Dance & Music Studio—\$34.6mm
ACCS Innovation Center—\$3mm
Albertville HS Magnet School / Career Tech Academy—\$13mm
Albertville HS Exercise Science & Kinesiology Complex and Band Room—\$12.8mm
Bob Jones HS Special Ed Classroom—\$9mm
Calhoun CC Dental Hygienist Lab—\$1mm & Automotive Tech Building—\$10mm
Calhoun CC addition to Advanced Manufacturing Center—\$30mm
Danville HS Athletic Facility—\$8mm Career Academies of Decatur—\$8mm
Drake State Advanced Manufacturing Center and Main Library—\$44mm
EV Technology Center at RTP—\$30mm BEAT Center at Fort Payne HS—\$5.8mm
Huntsville City Schools Central Office—\$20mm Huntsville Career Tech Center—\$40mm
James Clemens Indoor Hitting Facility—\$5mm
Jemison HS Sports Complex & Welding Shop—\$6.5mm
Kevin Dukes Career & Innovation Academy—\$31mm
Lauderdale County Schools Innovation Center—\$34.7mm
Lauderdale County Workforce Training Center (UNA/NWSCC/TVA) - \$30mm
Lawrence County Career Tech Center—\$6mm
Northeast AL CC Advanced Tech Workforce Development Center—\$25mm
Snead State Career Technology Center—\$30mm
UAH Center for Cybersecurity Research, Education, & Advanced Training—\$24.4mm
UAH Raymond B. Jones Engineering Building—\$66.12mm
UAH Wernher von Braun Research Hall SKIF—\$2.23mm
UNA—Computer Science & Mathematics Building—\$22mm
Wallace State CC Workforce Training Center at Rehau—leasing the \$4mm complex
Wallace State CC Winston County Community Learning Center—\$850,000
Wallace State CC Welding Education Building & Innovation Center with 7 incubator pods—\$9mm

Improvements / Renovations:

Alabama A&M—\$19mm Lawrence County HS—\$2.5mm
Athens HS Stadium & Athletic Center—\$3.9mm NWSCC Phil Campbell Campus—\$30mm
Bob Jones HS Auditorium—\$5mm Robotics Technology Park—\$2.3mm
Calhoun Community College—\$17.6mm Wallace State Community College—\$49mm
Columbia HS Sports Complex—\$12.5mm (Auto. Tech & STEM Bldgs., Precision Machining)
Drake State Community College—\$1.4mm West Limestone HS—\$3.3mm
Hatton Gym and Building Additions—\$12mm UAH—\$9mm, Morton Hall—\$30.5mm, Campus
HCS Milton Frank Stadium—\$4mm Mass Notification System—\$4mm

Please refer to the map in the center of this issue of 'Headlines' for the locations of these investments.

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For information on developments in North Alabama see the 'NEWS' section of our website and follow us on Twitter [@NorthAlabamaUSA](https://twitter.com/NorthAlabamaUSA)



North Alabama
Headlines — Q1/2024

Industry Expansions

DeKalb County

Nucor, doing business as **Vulcraft Alabama**, North America's largest producer of open web steel joists, joist girders, steel deck and steel bar grating, is investing an additional \$2.45 million in new manufacturing for their facility located in Fort Payne.

Limestone County

Cast Products Inc., an industry leading design and manufacturing company that specializes in cast aluminum components, is planning a \$6.7 million expansion adding 14 jobs and helping to retain over 200 current employees in Athens.

Morgan County

GreenPoint Ag Holdings, LLC, a farmer-owned agricultural input supplier based in Decatur, AL is expanding to allow the company to automate its fertilizer blending and bagging process. The \$5.75 million equipment expansion and \$500,000 building renovation will involve the installation of a new conveyor belt system and new equipment to blend, bag, and load its fertilizer products. The expansion is expected to create 5 jobs in Decatur.

IMS Industrial Manufacturing Specialties Inc., a contract machine shop offering a full range of CNC machining services is investing \$2.68 million to add 8,400SF and purchase additional CNC equipment to produce structural components for space launch vehicles. This expansion will create 3 jobs in Decatur.

M&J Industries, a machining and fabrication business located in Decatur, has increased their previously announced expansion by \$1.47 million.

Updates

Alabama Exports soar to \$27.4 billion in 2023, setting a new annual record for the 2nd consecutive year.

The International Intermodal Center (IIC) at the Port of Huntsville has seen strong, double digit, year-over-year growth in Q1 2024. Compared to 2023, January rail lifts were up 16% and February rail lifts were up 23% for the busiest February at the IIC since 2009. For 2024 year-to-date, the IIC is up 20% which is out pacing the national trend with U.S. intermodal volume up only 7%.

Blue Origin completed their first BE-4 engine hot fire test at the historic Test Stand 4670 at Redstone Arsenal. The BE-4 engine produces 550,000 pounds of thrust and is their most powerful engine yet.

United Launch Alliance's (ULA) new and versatile Vulcan rocket successfully performed its flight test marking ULA success #159.

Toyota Alabama has begun production of its i-Force 2.4L turbo engine line for the all-new Tacoma, further supporting job stability for its 2,000 employees.

In 2023, eleven of North Alabama's 13 counties gained population. **Limestone County** was the fastest growing county in the state in 2023. The annual change from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023 was +3,786 or 3.4%, and the cumulative change from April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 was +11,089 or 10.7% growth. **Madison County** picked up nearly 9,000 new residents and moved ahead of Mobile County to become the second most-populous county in Alabama. **Marshall County** also joined the 100,000-plus club when its population jumped to 100,756.

—US Census Bureau Data

Broadband Expansion

Governor Ivey announced nearly \$188 million for the installation of more than 5,000 miles of middle-mile projects impacting 48 counties throughout Alabama. This expansion of high-speed Broadband infrastructure will impact almost 54,000 homes, businesses and institutions such as hospitals, schools and libraries.

Cullman Electric Co-op's Sprout Fiber Internet, Farmer's Telecommunications Cooperative (FTC), and Joe Wheeler EMC's FlashFiber Internet each received generous awards to expand high-speed internet service to underserved areas across our service area.

NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner:



Media

The **Decatur, AL Metro** ranked #3 overall in *Area Development's 2023 Leading Metro Locations: Hot Spots of Economic Growth*. The leading metro areas are those poised for long-term growth and are often hubs of high-tech industry, where workers may benefit from an affordable cost of living.

Huntsville's **Orion Amphitheater** was named the top east coast amphitheater on *Billboard's 2024 Top Music Venues List*.

New Investment

Madison County

Boresight US Inc. an Australian-based provider of aerial targets has selected Huntsville as the location of its US headquarters after evaluating several locations across the US over the past 18 months. This project will initially create 16 jobs with additional growth anticipated. Huntsville was selected for its business environment, its aerospace and defense ecosystem, and its support for international companies.

Recent Development

Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy Act (SEEDS)

Site development efforts across Alabama are getting a \$30+million boost with the first batch of grants awarded under the new SEEDS program. By identifying promising properties and investing in their development, Alabama is confirming it will continue to be a state where companies can plant roots and succeed.

A total of \$30.1 million in SEEDS funding will be matched with \$38.4 million in local funds at 29 different industrial sites encompassing nearly 8,400 acres.

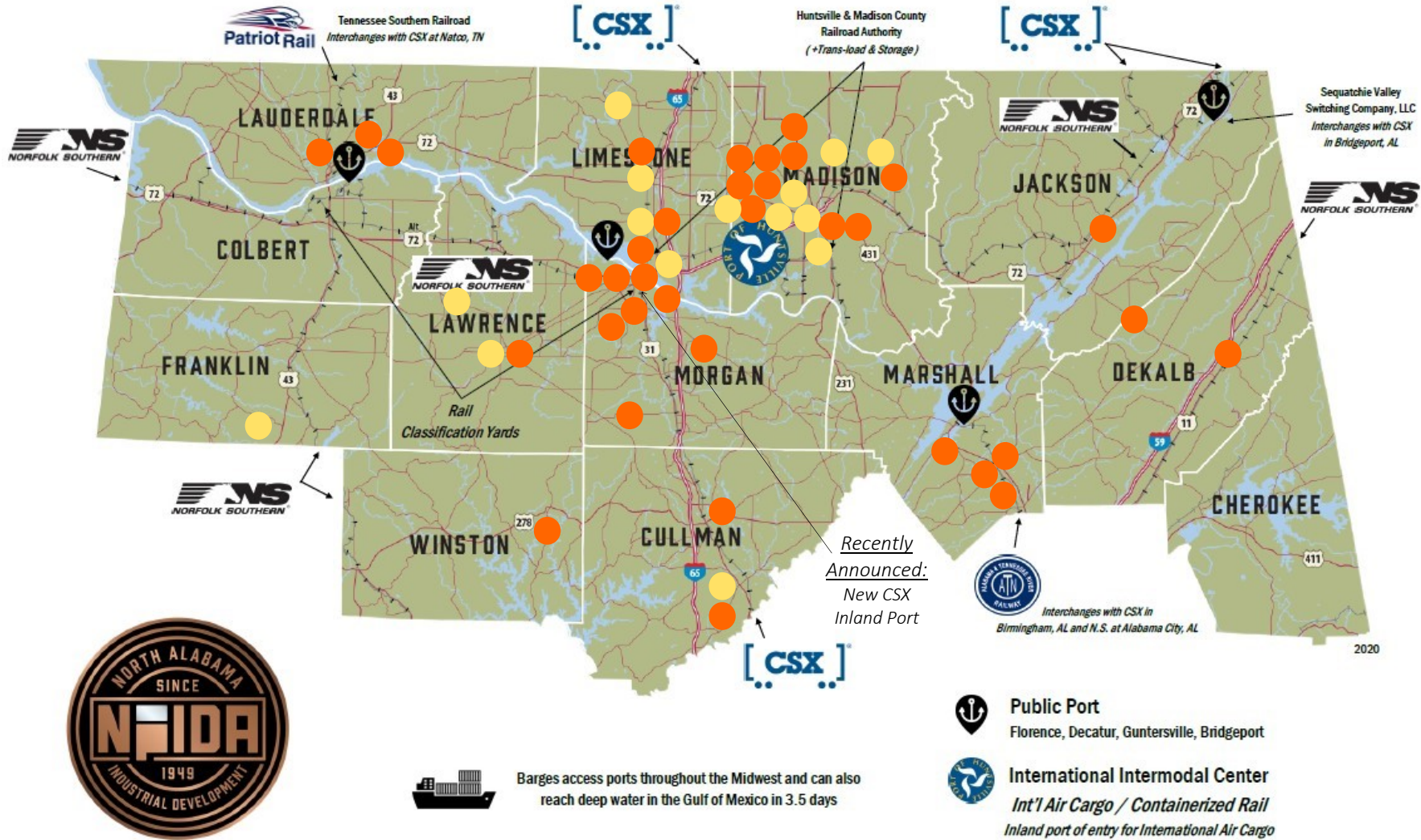
Recipient sites in North Alabama are as follows:

Henagar Industrial Property in DeKalb County
Florence Advantage Site in Lauderdale County
County Line Road North Site in Madison County

To maintain the State's recent level of success, it is crucial that Alabama communities continuously work to identify, assess, and develop their inventory of sites toward investment-readiness.

New School Investment Overlay over Transportation Map

Over \$1 Billion has been invested in North Alabama schools in recent years (Jr. High and above)



Please refer to the back page of Headlines—Q1/2024 for more school investment information

School data provided by our local economic development partners