

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for NCDOT Application for Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Grants Program

PRESENTER: Christopher Todd, Business and Community Development Director
Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution of Support

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Henderson County successfully secured over \$15,5 million in STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant) funds for the Ecusta Rail Trail from Kanuga Road to the county line. Due to cost increases and updated engineering estimates, additional funding is required for construction of the trail on the section from Kanuga to US 64. NCDOT hired Alta to prepare a grant application to the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) grants program for construction funds to cover Henderson County's unfunded section, based on revised engineer estimates, and for construction from the county line to the City of Brevard. The NSFLTP grant is supported by the Pisgah National Forest Service as the Ecusta Trail will provide a connection from downtown City of Hendersonville to the Pisgah National Forest and be a multimodal gateway to Pisgah National Forest and Blue Ridge Parkway.

Henderson County's portion of the NSFLTP grant request is approximately \$3.88 million. Local match for this grant and previous STBG funding is provided through Henderson County's TDA, Friends of the Ecusta, and the City of Hendersonville. No additional match is requested from Henderson County. NCDOT would be the applicant for this grant request, but a resolution of support from Henderson County is needed.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to approve the resolution of support for the NSFLTP grant application for the construction of the remaining unfunded sections of the Ecusta Rail Trail.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board approve the resolution of support for NCDOT's grant application (NSFLTP) for construction of the remaining unfunded section of the Ecusta Rail Trail.

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

1 Historic Courthouse Square • Suite 1 • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855 • www.hendersoncountync.gov

William G. Lapsley
Chairman
Rebecca K. McCall
Vice-Chairman



J. Michael Edney
Daniel J. Andreotta
David H. Hill

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NCDOT GRANT APPLICATION FOR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL LANDS AND TRIBAL PROJECTS

- WHEREAS,** Henderson County, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and the French Board River Metropolitan Planning Organization share commitment to complete the Ecusta Trail to provide healthy and efficient alternative modes of transportation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Comprehensive Plan and draft 2045 Comprehensive Plan prioritizes the creation of multi-modal connectivity; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ecusta Trail is a 19-mile regional trail system connecting the county seats of Henderson and Transylvania with the Pisgah National Forest and Blue Ridge Parkway, which will bring recreational, public health, and economic benefits to local residents and businesses as well as regionally; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Greenway Master Plan, adopted in April of 2019, identified the Ecusta Trail as one of three priority greenways; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County has secured over \$15.5 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for the Ecusta Trail; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County Tourism Development Authority is supportive of the trail, its benefits to tourism, and is committed to providing the required local match from tourism revenue; and
- WHEREAS,** the adjacent local governments, including Henderson County, City of Hendersonville, Town of Laurel Park, Transylvania County, and City of Brevard, are in partnership to accomplish this historic project; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners recognizes the public support for the creation of the trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners supports the NCDOT and the application for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects grants program for the construction of the Ecusta Trail in Henderson and Transylvania Counties.

ADOPTED, this the 19th day of October 2022.

WILLIAM LAPSLEY, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

DENISA LAUFFER, CLERK TO THE BOARD