

**Henderson County  
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on May 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members that were present virtually, online are denoted with the letter “O”.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chuck McGrady, Chair		√
Chris Burns, Vice Chair	O	
Douglas Moon, at-large	√	
Selena Einwechter, at-large		√
David Adams, at-large	√	
Dr. Ken Shelton, at-large	O	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville	√	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	√	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	√	

Also present: Maureen Copelof, Mayor of Brevard; Chris Todd, Business & Community Development Director; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Marcus Jones, County Engineer; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; Andrew Griffin, Facility Services Director; Jason Kilgore, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

**Call to Order**

Acting Chairman David Adams called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He stated that the Chairman, Chuck McGrady was out of town, and the Vice Chair, Chris Burns was attending remotely, so he had been asked to serve as chair for this meeting.

**Approval Meeting Summary**

The committee approved the March 8, 2023, meeting summary by majority.

**Updates**

**Conserving Carolina**

Kristin Cozza, Greenway Coordinator with Conserving Carolina, stated that Conserving Carolina had selected TPD (Traffic Planning and Design, Inc) as the consultant to begin looking at the Saluda grade trail and connection to the Ecusta Trail. They hope to have a feasibility study ready next spring.

**Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)**

President Mark Tooley stated that TPD was also designing the Ecusta Trail for the Transylvania County portion. He stated that the FOET has convened a group of stakeholders to discuss operations and maintenance. This group is made of the two chairs from the Ecusta advisory committees, staff, and representatives from the FOET and Conserving Carolina. He also stated that the FOET had selected a consultant to look at branding options for the trail.

**City of Brevard**

Mayor Copelof stated that the FLAP grant funds had been released for the preliminary engineering of their portion of the trail and they are working with TPD on a scope of work.

**Henderson County**

Marcus Jones said that the County is working with NCDOT on some final issues and scheduling, but phase I is still on schedule for delivery this year into next spring. He stated that the timing of the paving season may delay final surface coat to next spring. He also stated that until the public bids for construction come, we do not know the true budget of cost, but the 30% cost estimate is still on target.

### **Trail Maintenance**

Chris Todd stated that the RTAC had briefly discussed trail maintenance. He said that the County is working with the City of Hendersonville, the Town of Laurel Park, and the FOET on maintenance and the MOU. The RTAC will have an opportunity to discuss any types of maintenance issues such as repaving needs/fixes and mowing.

### **Draft MOU Discussion**

Chris Todd provided handouts on the DRAFT MOU. He stressed that this is a draft that will have updates or even amendments later as the trail maintenance and other activities are continued to be discussed. He stated that the County is working with the other jurisdictions, including the FOET and Conserving Carolina on the MOU. He also stated that the MOU may include the City of Brevard at a later date. He stated that the MOU discussion with the other jurisdictions and the RTAC may take a few meetings to fully discuss and finalize. The Draft MOU provides an overview of the history, scope of project, and daily maintenance. It will also provide for cost share discussions on maintenance and repairs. Henderson County would be the responsible party for the Henderson County portion as per the lease. He stated that all partners have a voice, and the public knows this is a community project. Conserving Carolina is actively looking for connections to the trail. A PDF of the MOU will be sent to the RTAC.

### **Other Discussion**

Staff answered questions on the current engineering work and process. Staff also noted that the County should hear anytime on the NSFLTP grant awards and RAISE will be announced at the end of June.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

*This meeting was recorded and the MP4 file can be made available upon request. Please contact County staff.*