

**Henderson County  
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, July 12, 2023**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on July 12, 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	√	
Douglas Moon, at-large	√	
Selena Einwechter, at-large	√	
David Adams, at-large	√	
Dr. Ken Shelton, at-large	√	
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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Chuck McGrady called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Public Comment**

A member of the public spoke to the committee regarding maintenance on roads and trails. Another member of the community spoke about an issue where folks were parking on the trail. (It was noted that County staff can be contacted for these issues as parking is not allowed.)

**Approval Meeting Summary**

The committee approved the May 10, 2023, meeting summary by majority.

**Updates**

**Conserving Carolina**

Kristin Cozza updated the members about the Saluda Grade study that will kickoff later this summer. Chairman Grady mentioned that South Carolina gave \$15 million for the acquisition.

**Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)**

Mark Tooley reported that he is excited about the grants. FOET and Blue Ridge Bicycle Club are still working on fundraising for the amenities and other items not covered by the grants.

**RAISE Grant Discussion**

Staff and committee members celebrated the recent awarding of the RAISE grant for the trail as well as the NSFLTP grant. The total awarded is \$45,971,513. The grants are for both sides will be administered by A grant agreement and answers to questions about how the money can be used will likely take 8 months to a year.

**Engineering and Construction Status**

Marcus Jones, County Engineer updated that Phase I (the first six miles) is fully designed. The County will request construction bids soon and bring the lowest bidder to the Board of Commissioners for formal approval. Mr. Jones stated the projected cost is \$1.5 million per mile of greenway. Construction contract will go through NCDOT for approval before it can be finalized with the County. This may take some time.

### **Draft MOU Discussion**

Chair McGrady stated that the elected officials of the other municipalities will have an opportunity to review the MOU and the committee is just drafting at this point. Chris Todd, Business and Community Development Director stated the agreement will coordinate surface maintenance, security, and access along the trail. The MOU is based upon the mapped mileage of the trail and the jurisdiction the trail travels through. He also reviewed maintenance details and proposed to use a contractor for most tasks and to identify a few duties for Friends of the Ecusta Trail (FOET) volunteers. Mr. Todd stated that he was scheduled to meet with the FOET regarding the draft and that the document will continue to change as it is discussed over a few meetings. Chairman Grady mentioned that the MOU should be reviewed by the City of Brevard for consideration.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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