

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on May 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members present online are denoted with the letter “O”.

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

Also present: Christopher Todd, Business and Community Development Director; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; and Marcus Jones, County Engineer.

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

Approval Meeting Summary

No changes to the meeting summary were noted.

Updates

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mr. Mark Tooley stated that FOET met with Henderson County and the City of Brevard and discussed the need to start an operational MOU between the three organizations. He noted that the County is sending a draft of an MOU to start the discussion. He also noted that FOET is in the process of creating a new website for the Ecusta Trail.

City of Brevard

Mayor Copelof, with the City of Brevard, updated the RTAC on the Transylvania portion of the trail. The 30% design of the trail is still scheduled to be completed in June. The city is working on an MOU with FOET and ongoing community outreach.

Henderson County

Mr. Christopher Todd stated that the county would provide an MOU template to the FOET and City of Brevard to ensure consistency with the current MOU being considered with the municipalities. Staff anticipates that the County and City of Brevard will review it pending the adoption of the budget in June.

Construction Update

Mr. Marcus Jones stated that the construction of Ecusta East is on track and still scheduled to be completed in December 2024. Several photos of the current construction of the first six miles of the trail were shown to the RTAC. Marcus stated that the County was receiving a proposal for amenities on the East section to complete the 30% design that was previously done. This will allow the design for the amenities to be 100% complete and ready for construction once funding is available. Mr. Jones commended the City of Hendersonville for the work on the new bike markings on Main Street that will connect the Ecusta trail to downtown and the TDA. Mr. Chris Todd stated that many folks have asked about the trailhead, and for the time being, it will be the TDA as the renovation on the welcome center will be completed in early fall, and there will be parking and public restrooms available.

Mr. Jones said that after some delays with NCDOT, the contract for the design of the west section is underway. These delays were similar to those of the City of Brevard in getting a contract approved for the trail design. He stated that the design on the west has a notice to proceed from NCDOT.

Mr. Jones commented that NHM is on an aggressive schedule and that NCDOT is providing an on-site inspector for the work being performed. He did note that the bridges are prefabricated and are scheduled to arrive onsite in August to be installed. Mr. Jones stated that some paving will start in the next week or so to patch some of the intersections.

There was a question about encroachments and liability. Mr. Jones stated that property owners are aware of these encroachments, and the County will have them removed if they are an issue. Otherwise, they will be addressed during construction or if improvements are made on the adjacent properties during the permitting process.

Other Items

Mr. Chris Burns asked if the RTAC could circle back to the etiquette rules and policies for the trail so that those could be written down and posted on the website. He also asked that staff coordinate efforts with the City of Brevard. Mr. Todd said that staff is also working with the Recreation Advisory Board and will follow up with them as well.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

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