

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Rails to Trails - Resolution in support of the development of a regional recreational greenway

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Resolution

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Board has been requested to adopt a resolution in support of the development of a regional recreational greenway on the Norfolk & Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania counties. Commissioner McGrady will present additional information in support of this request.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the attached Resolution as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Resolution in support of the development of a regional recreational greenway on the Norfolk & Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania counties.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BILL MOYER
Chairman
MARK WILLIAMS
Vice-Chairman

CHUCK MCGRADY
CHARLIE MESSER
LARRY YOUNG

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL RECREATIONAL GREENWAY ON THE NORFOLK & SOUTHERN RAIL CORRIDOR LINKING HENDERSON AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES

- WHEREAS,** the Norfolk & Southern rail corridor, which links Henderson and Transylvania counties, has played a critically important role in the history of development and economic growth in Henderson and Transylvania Counties, particularly in support of the region's industrial economic base; and
- WHEREAS,** the Norfolk & Southern Railroad has discontinued service on the rail corridor between Henderson County and Transylvania and may abandon the corridor in the future; and
- WHEREAS,** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of maintaining the aforementioned rail corridor so that rail service may be re-established in the future; and
- WHEREAS,** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners recognizes that rail corridors throughout the United States have been converted to regional recreational trails or greenways that contribute significantly to the tourism economy of the regions in which they are located, provide significant health benefits, and provide alternative means of transportation while preserving rail corridors for future rail traffic; and
- WHEREAS,** tourism is a critical component of the economy of Western North Carolina and Henderson County and the Henderson County Board of Commissioners desires to build upon the existing assets that attract tourists to the region; and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners entered into an interlocal agreement to establish the Apple Country Greenway Commission, the purpose of which is to promote and facilitate coordinated direction and guidance in the planning, development, and maintenance of a system of greenways throughout Henderson County by the participating governmental units...”, and
- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners recognizes the economic, health, and transportation benefits of a regional recreational greenway within western North Carolina and desires the aforementioned rail corridor be secured and developed as the foundation of a regional recreational greenway system in support of the region's tourism economy, and as an alternative means of transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners that:

- Section 1.** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners hereby supports a regional recreational greenway along the Norfolk & Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania counties.
- Section 2.** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners respectively invites the elected governments of Transylvania County and all municipalities within these counties, and other governmental entities and organizations that support economic development, to join in our endorsement of the development of a regional recreational greenway along the Norfolk & Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania counties.
- Section 3.** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests the cooperation of the Norfolk & Southern Corporation in the development of this regional recreational greenway along its rail corridor.
- Section 4.** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners hereby encourages staff, the Apple Country Greenway Commission and other interested parties, to take action as necessary to bring about the development of the aforementioned regional recreational greenway along the Norfolk & Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania counties and direct staff to cooperate with all relevant Federal, State, and local agencies to implement the goals stated in this resolution.
- Section 5.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted this 22nd day of September, 2010.

WILLIAM L. MOYER, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD