

## Henderson County



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION “LGCCA”

Historic Courthouse | 1 Historic Courthouse Square | Hendersonville, NC 28792

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

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## MINUTES

Present: City of Hendersonville: Council Member Debbie O’Neal Roundtree  
Henderson County: Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair Rebecca McCall, and Clerk to the Board Denisa Lauffer  
Village of Flat Rock: Mayor Nick Weedman, Vice-Mayor Anne Coletta  
Town of Fletcher: Mayor Preston Blakely  
Town of Laurel Park: Mayor J.Carey O’Cain, Commissioner Debra Bridges, and Clerk Tamara Amin  
Town of Mills River: Mayor Shanon Gonce, Council Member Sandra Goode

### CALL TO ORDER (Henderson County Hosting)

Henderson County Board of Commissioners Chairman Bill Lapsley called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Lapsley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Additions/Deletions

*Chairman Lapsley moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Weedman. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 19, 2021

*Mayor Weedman moved to approve the minutes of October 19, 2021, seconded by Mayor Blakely. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

## NEW BUSINESS

### NC League of Municipalities Presentation, Derrick Applewhite – City of Hendersonville

City of Hendersonville Manager John Connet introduced Derrick Applewhite with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM). Mr. Applewhite explained that the NCLM is an association of 540 NC cities and towns. It is a one-stop municipal shop for cities and towns, led by cities and towns. The NCLM serves as the unified voice of the state's municipalities. Mr. Applewhite provided a brief overview of the General Assembly's long session, the state budget, land use & development, federal funding, a political update, and a short session preview.

### Rail Trail Update

Business and Community Development Director Chris Todd provided the panel with an update on the Rail Trail project.

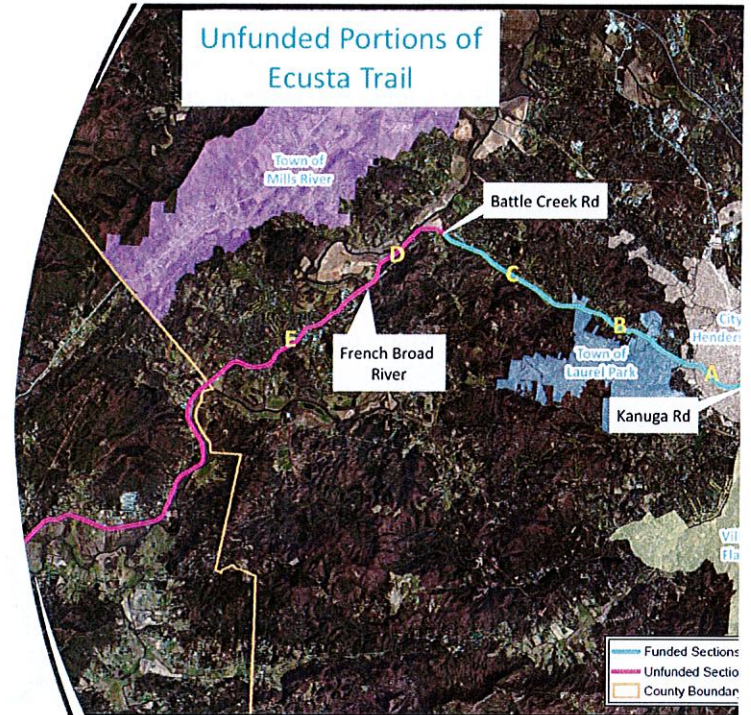
## ENGINEERING TIMELINE

### Henderson County | Ecusta Trail | PHASE 1 and PHASE 2 INITIATION | INITIAL SCHEDULE

PHASE	TASK	ENTITY	Start Date	End Date
Scope/Fee/Contract Phase 1	Scope Review	County/NCDOT	1/10/2022	1/14/2022
	Fee Preparation	Firms	1/17/2022	1/21/2022
	Fee Auditing/Approval	County/NCDOT	1/24/2022	3/4/2022
	Contract Execution	County/Firms	3/7/2022	3/11/2022
Initial Screenings and Studies	Pavement Design Subgrade Assessment	ECS	3/14/2022	4/22/2022
	Streambank Scour Data Collection/Analysis	ECS	3/14/2022	4/29/2022
	Bridge Investigations	VM	3/14/2022	4/15/2022
	Pipe Culvert Investigations	VM	3/28/2022	4/22/2022
	Initial Road Crossing Analysis/Traffic Counts	TPD	3/14/2022	4/15/2022
	Stream/Wetland Delineations	Equi	3/14/2022	4/1/2022
	Streambank Strategies	Equi	3/14/2022	4/1/2022
	SHPO Clarification	TRC/APS	3/14/2022	4/8/2022
Topographical Surveys	Parking Evaluations	Equi/WLA	3/14/2022	4/8/2022
	Set Panels Ortho/Lidar Flight	VM	3/14/2022	3/25/2022
	Field Surveys for Obscure Areas	VM	3/28/2022	4/22/2022
30% Designs & Estimates	Base Mapping for Design	VM	4/25/2022	5/6/2022
	Pavement Designs	ECS	4/25/2022	5/6/2022
	Bridge Designs (assumes 3 of 6 bridges require replacing)	VM	5/9/2022	7/1/2022
	Road Crossing Preliminary Designs	TPD	5/9/2022	6/10/2022
	Preliminary TMP Memo	TPD	6/6/2022	6/17/2022
	Preliminary Streambank Designs	Equi	5/2/2022	5/27/2022
	Line, grade, typical sections	VM	5/9/2022	6/10/2022
	Parking Designs	Equi/WLA	5/9/2022	5/27/2022
NEPA Process	Wayfinding/LA Features Designs	Equi/WLA	5/9/2022	6/10/2022
	Study Limits Maps	VM	3/14/2022	3/18/2022
	Environmental Features Maps	VM	4/4/2022	4/22/2022
	Start of Study Letter Updates	VM	4/25/2022	4/29/2022
	Public Involvement Process	TPD/VM/WLA	4/12/2022	8/12/2022
	NRTR	Equi	4/4/2022	4/29/2022
	Finalize NEPA Doc Supplement	VM	8/15/2022	9/2/2022
	Archeology Screening (assumes no resource found)	TRC	4/11/2022	4/22/2022
Community Engagement	Arch, Hist. Coordination with SHPO (assumes they care and	APS	4/11/2022	7/22/2022
	Steering Committee engagement	TPD/VM/WLA	4/12/2022	10/11/2022
Scope/Fee/Contract Phase 2	Scoping Process	Firms/County/ NCDOT	5/2/2022	5/20/2022
	Fee Preparation	Firms	5/20/2022	6/1/2022
	Fee Auditing/Approval	County/NCDOT	6/6/2022	7/15/2022
	Contract Execution	County/Firms	7/18/2022	7/22/2022

## Funding

- Staff applied last week for STBG funds to construct sections D and E of the trail.
- Friends of the Ecusta Trail and Conserving Carolina Continue to raise funds to act as match for grants and potentially direct funding



## Funding for Section between Kanuga Rd and Main St.

- Friends of the Ecusta Trail and Conserving Carolina agreed this afternoon to fund the section of trail between Kanuga Rd and Main St.
- Dedicated \$600,000 in grant funds they have received from the state to fund engineering and construction
- RTAC recommended on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the County Commissioners to move forward on the Engineering and Design of the Trail between Kanuga Rd and Mainstreet.
- This project would be funded by the City of Hendersonville, who has reserved to spend up to \$46,000 in support of the section.

### Broadband Discussion

Business and Community Development Director Chris Todd provided the panel with an update on the GREAT Grant, a Broadband Infrastructure Grant in North Carolina. He noted that none of the municipalities in the county, except for Mills River, were eligible for the grant because they already meet the basic minimum of Broadband coverage the state wants to provide for the purposes of this grant. He said a survey is available at [www.ncbroadband.gov](http://www.ncbroadband.gov) that tests the internet speed from the location in which you are completing the survey. This information is crucial because it becomes a factor in state policy-making decisions about how state funds and grants are allocated. Counties cannot apply for the grant, only private broadband internet providers. However, the Board of Commissioners did have the opportunity to support applications that will be submitted by the providers. The Board met with three providers applying for the Grant in March and chose to

support all three providers. The deadline for applications for the GREAT Grant is May 4, 2022. The Board of Commissioners has allocated up to one million dollars of American Rescue Plan funds to support this endeavor.

**VFW Update**

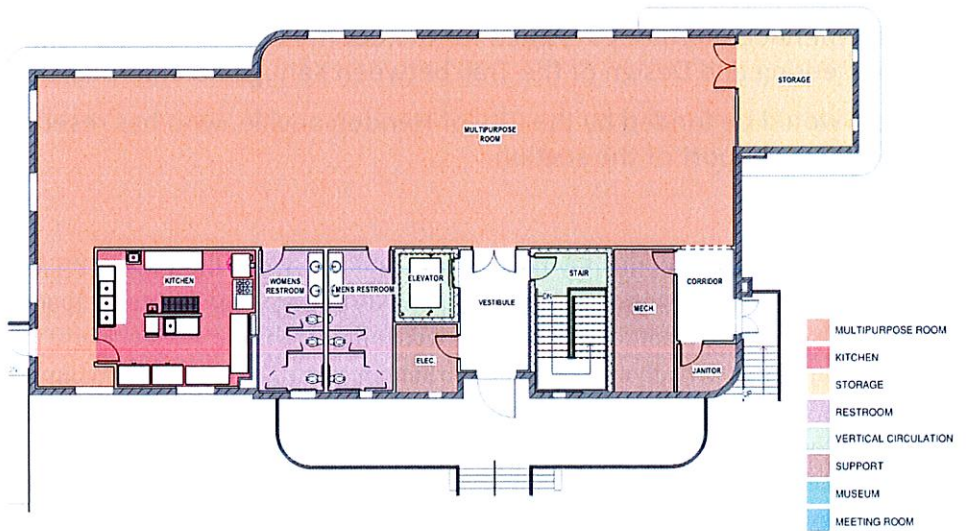
Business and Community Development Director Chris Todd presented slides depicting the conceptual plan for the VFW Building. The first floor will continue to act as office space and will offer a dedicated meeting space for smaller groups. The second floor will be the “Dance Hall” with a warming/catering kitchen. The structure will be a multi-use building. Henderson County has committed 4.1 million of ARP funds to move forward on this project.

**Conceptual Level 1**



- Accessible restrooms.
- Code compliant interior stair.
- Elevator
- Large and small community gathering areas.
- Parks and Rec Office
- Veteran Services Offices
- VFW Meeting Room + storage
- Museum/Display area for Veteran Services Artifacts

**Conceptual level 2**



- Accessible restrooms.
- Code compliant interior stair.
- Elevator
- Assembly area for 120+
- Catering/warming kitchen
- Finish upgrades
- New Furniture, technology

### **Pathways for Disconnected Youth Task Force**

Vice-Chair McCall presented the following information regarding the Pathway for Disconnected Youth Task Force's Initiative.

The vision for the Task Force is to equip counties to lead local youth toward a meaningful and sustainable future. The mission is to identify strategies for counties to help youth chart pathways to lead healthy and happy lives in adulthood. The task force consists of seventeen NC Commissioners and one NCACC staff member.

Disconnected Youth is defined as those who are aged sixteen to nineteen and not in school or working.

Suggestions for County involvement included:

- Advocate for WIOA (Workforce Innovation & Opportunity ACT reauthorization)
- Advocate for more involvement with local government and more opportunities for counties to access funds as Congress considers legislation
- Advocate for legislative changes as part of NCACC
- Establish a County Task Force that would:
  - Establish Baseline Goals and Identify/Evaluate existing programs to adopt
  - Measure against state and national standards and best practices
  - Collaborate with regular stakeholders – HCPS, BRCC, Workforce (Chamber, PED, PEP)
  - Identify and promote programs that are proven to be effective (apprenticeships & mentoring)
  - Pursue Funding – Local, State, and Federal

Henderson County has current programs available that include: Early College, the Innovative High School, High School Counselors, Camplify, the Boys and Girls Club, the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and apprenticeship and internship programs.

Mayor O'Cain suggested that local military recruiters may be a valuable resource in reaching Henderson County's disconnected youth.

### **Litter Sweep**

Vice-Chair McCall informed the panel that the Henderson County Spring Litter Sweep began April 16 and is currently in progress. The Litter Sweep happens twice a year, once in spring and once in the fall. This year the county is partnering with Mills River and will meet Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to pick up litter along Highway 191. She encouraged anyone who would like to participate in helping clean up our county to join in Saturday's clean-up effort.

### **ARP Funds**

Mayor Weedman said that Flat Rock hired a consultant from Land of the Sky to help manage ARP funds the Village recently received. The consultant has since helped the Village develop policies and procedures to comply with the Department of Treasury. One discovery that was made is the ability to use ARP funds to replace lost revenue. He said the funds may be used for this purpose even if the revenue was not lost but must declare the lost revenue by April 30, 2022. Flat Rock plans to utilize this by moving ARP funds into their general fund.

Chairman Lapsley said that Henderson County had talks with Mills River and the Town of Fletcher about partnering for joint projects to utilize ARP funds the County has received. He said the County would be making some serious decisions on where to allocate these funds in the coming weeks.

## **UPDATES**

### **Town of Fletcher**

Mayor Blakely stated the Town of Fletcher has approved an Economic Development Agreement with developer Lewis Real Estate and the Waddells on the Highway 25 portion of their Town Center Projects. Demolition has begun on the residual buildings that are part of the project—phase one of the mixed-use development. Additionally, a conditional rezoning for a mixed-use development along highway 25 for twelve commercial structures and eighty-seven apartments has been completed.

The Town is currently in the budget process for the next fiscal year, with an all-day workshop scheduled for May 4, 2022.

Twelve hundred residents participated in the town's Easter Egg Hunt on April 9. The Town will hold a shred event and pill drop Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Town Hall.

### **City of Hendersonville**

Council Member O'Neal-Roundtree announced that the City of Hendersonville is celebrating its 175th Anniversary. A birthday party is scheduled at the Henderson County Historic Courthouse on May 22, 2022, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. There will also be a Henderson County teacher celebration on June 1, 2022, in the evening.

The city is experiencing a lot of growth and residential development, such as Apple Ridge, Hawkins Point, Duncan Terrace, and Providence Walk.

The city is working on its budget and holding workshops. Councilmember O'Neal-Roundtree asked City Manager John Connet to elaborate further on the budget. Mr. Connet said the city has a budget workshop Friday, April 29, 2022. The focus this year is the implementation of a pay and classification plan for city employees. City Council approved a thirteen percent pay increase for city employees. The city does not anticipate a tax increase but will raise the salaries of staff to put the City in the seventy-fifth percentile of equal to or exceeding their peer group. The City will also transfer the ten million ARP funds received in their general fund.

Mr. Connet shared that the city is preparing to kick off its twenty-three-million-dollar French Broad River Intake Project.

### **Village of Flat Rock**

Mayor Weedman shared that the Village had several large projects they would like to complete. They will be applying for grants for the renovation of a stream that goes through the park at Flat Rock. If a grant is not available, the Village plans to fund the project with village funds.

There will be a Shred and Pill Drop Day on May 21, 2022, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. The Village will also host an ice cream social on June 4, 2022, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Village is also working on its budget for fiscal year 2022 – 2023.

**The Town of Laurel Park**

Mayor O’Cain introduced new town manager Alex Carmichael and Commissioner Deb Bridges. Alex Carmichael said the town had already held its general budget workshop and will be holding follow-up workshops in the future. He shared that it is their intent to keep taxes “flat” until the revaluation year. He said the Town intends to tackle the roads in Laurel Park which is the Town’s biggest problem. They anticipate a million dollars will be spent on roads this year. The majority, if not all of their ARP, will be allocated for stormwater management which affects road conditions.

The Town received a stream restoration grant and is currently in the design process for a Laurel Green Stream Restoration. That work is anticipated to begin late fall 2022.

Commissioner Bridges said the Town would host a Shred and Pill Drop Day and a “Meet the Fire Chief Day” in May.

In closing, Mr. Carmichael noted that the Town of Laurel Park will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up in 2025. The Town’s Centennial Committee is already working on the proposed yearlong celebration. They are pushing for Highway 64 and the Ecusta Trail to be completed by 2025 and will have additional announcements relating to their centennial year in the future.

**The Town of Mills River**

Mayor Shanon Gonce introduced new Mills River Council member Sandra Goode. He shared that the Town recently passed a 153-unit Townhouse Project off Jeffress Road in Mills River. Immediately following that, Council decided that four houses per acre may not favor Mills River’s rural atmosphere. The project has been sent back to the Planning Board to get a recommendation. The intent of approving the project was to provide affordable housing in Mills River. They have committed to reevaluating the project.

The Mills River Farmer’s Market will be opening for its 2022 season on the first Saturday in May. The Town is working to provide the Farmer’s Market with its own permanent facility.

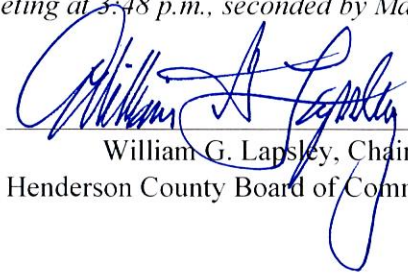
In closing, Mayor Gonce shared that the Mills River Litter Sweep is Saturday, April 23, 2022, and invited all to participate.

Council member Goode said she is happy to be part of the LGCCA and looks forward to working with fellow committee members.

**REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING** – July 19, 2022; Host: Town of Laurel Park

**ADJOURN**

*Mayor O’Cain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 p.m., seconded by Mayor Blakely. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.*

  
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William G. Lapsley, Chairman,  
Henderson County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:  
  
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Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board