

# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** January 3, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Resolution of Support for the City of Hendersonville

**PRESENTER:** Chris Todd, Business and Community Development Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. Resolution

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The City of Hendersonville requests that Henderson County Board of Commissioners support the City's grant application to conduct a feasibility study. The grant, Paved Trails & Sidewalks Feasibility Studies Grant Program, is through the NC Department of Transportation's Integrated Mobility Division. This study would look at the feasibility of potential greenway routes through downtown, the rail corridor, and private and public property (of willing landowners in accordance with the County's Greenway Master Plan), including Jackson Park. The project, named Above the Mud, would serve to connect the Ecusta Trail to the Oklawaha Trail (and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue/downtown). This grant does not fund engineering nor construction. This study would involve multiple stakeholders, including Henderson County, a critical partner. Support from the County will increase the odds of the City's application for award.

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve the attached resolution of support.

### **Suggested Motion(s):**

*I move to support the City of Hendersonville's grant application via a resolution.*

**RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNTY OF HENDERSON TO SUPPORT FOR THE CITY  
OF HENDERSONVILLE APPLICATION FOR A NCDOT PAVED TRAILS AND  
SIDEWALK FEASIBILITY STUDIES GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Henderson considers bicycle and pedestrian transportation to be of utmost importance to the region by providing Western North Carolina with recreation and transportation opportunities as well as increased economic viability and community development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Henderson adopted a Greenway Master Plan on April 1, 2019, supporting a regional greenway network throughout Henderson County, identifying the Oklawaha Greenway and Ecusta Trail as Priority Greenways; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)'s Division of Integrated Mobility (IMD) has recently implemented a Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Studies Grant Program, and the City of Hendersonville will submit an application to the Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Studies Grant Program is to improve the pipeline of bicycle and pedestrian projects accessing state and federal funding, resulting in successful implementation of projects led by communities prioritizing multimodal infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, a feasibility study will produce a well-conceived project with demonstrated community support that will be competitive in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and for federal investment. Quantity-based preliminary cost estimates will be generated for route alignments to help inform further decision making, identify funding needs, and develop next steps for project implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, an application will be submitted to the Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Study Grant Program for a preliminary project titled, "Above the Mud," which includes the study of a connection to the Ecusta Trail from the Oklawaha Greenway and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as well as flood mitigation;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of Henderson supports the City of Hendersonville application to NCDOT for the Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Studies Grant, to further study the "Above the Mud" project, to engage the community, determine potential solutions, and develop cost estimates for project implementation.

**ADOPTED:**

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