

Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 14, 2022

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on September 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chuck McGrady, Chair	√	
Chris Burns, Vice Chair (remote)	√	
Douglas Moon, at-large	√	
Selena Einwechter, at-large		√
David Adams, at-large	√	
Dr. Ken Shelton, at-large	√	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville (remote)	√	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park		√
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	√	

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

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

None.

Approval August Meeting Summary

The committee approved the August meeting summary.

Updates

Conserving Carolina

Rebekah Robinson reported that Conserving Carolina is continuing to fundraise for the construction of the trail. No other updates were reported.

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mark Tooley reported that September 24th will be the last scheduled clean up day for this year. He thanked the many volunteers. He also stated that they were working with NCDOT, City of Brevard and Henderson County on looking at NSFLTP grant funds for the construction of the trail in Transylvania and an option for the unfunded sections in Henderson County. He stated that NCDOT contracted with Alta to prepare the grant application and that the US Forest Service was in support of the application and its connection to the Pisgah National Forest. Grant applications are due the end of October and awards will be in the spring of 2023.

HC Staff

Marcus Jones, County Engineer, stated that the Board of Commissioners approved Vaughn and Melton's 2nd contract to complete the design for the first phase. The County was waiting to get the contract approved and signed. Construction bids is still anticipated in March.

Discussion

Project Budget:

Marcus Jones provided an overview of the cost estimates for construction provided by Vaughn and Melton. He stated that the cost estimate for construction was approximately \$8.5 million. Henderson County is anticipating once the engineering designs are complete for the construction to bid with an estimated range between \$7.5 - \$8.5 million. The Chairman noted that the real costs will be known during the construction bid process. Mr. Jones stated that the cost average was approximately 1.4 million per mile based on the first phase of engineering. Chris Todd stated that the estimate was lower than initially expected and staff will provide this information to the public through the story map that the sub-consultants are updating.

Landscape Architectural Features:

Chris Todd presented the Board with the landscape architectural features provided by the sub-consultant. He noted that the initial design provided a link to the history of the rail line. He noted that Henderson County TDA is working with staff to make sure that there are common elements form other wayfinding in the county. Mr. Todd stated that the intent was to have common elements to identify the Ecusta Trail but also to know what jurisdiction you where in along the trail. The Chairman stated that this information could be shared with the Friends, and this could provide some fundraising opportunities. The overall agreement was that the Trail could utilize existing railroad features where available.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.