

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Special Called Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

The RTAC held a special called meeting on January 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room.

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

Also present: Chris Todd, Business & Community Development Director; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Marcus Jones, County Engineer; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; and the engineer consultants Joel Setzer, Christy Staudt, Megan Foy, Alex Fitzpatrick and Hunter Marks.

Call to Order

Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

Approval Meeting Summary

The committee approved the January 11th meeting summary by majority.

Updates

Chris Burns stated that he had received a number of comments from the public on signage and colors for the Ecusta Trail. He stated that this will be discussed later, and the primary goal is to get the 90% designs approved so that construction will not be delayed.

Conserving Carolina

Kieran Roe with Conserving Carolina introduced a new staff member, Kristen Cozza, who is the trails and greenways coordinator.

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mark Tooley, FOET, stated that he has no new updates since the January 11th meeting.

HC Staff

Marcus Jones stated that the engineer is finalizing the cost estimates based on the 90% design and this will be presented to the RTAC at a future meeting.

Discussion 90% Designs

Joel Setzer, Christ Staudt, and Hunter Marks were present to answer question on the 90% design that was presented to the RTAC at its January 11th meeting. Joel Setzer stated that there will be some minor adjustments to the designs to avoid impacts to some of the streams and wetlands. He also stated that they are scaling back the number of handrails initially incorporated as all of these are not needed. Mr. Setzer stated that he is working with the County Engineer to take a more conservative approach to the reduce cost, avoid delays, and to stay on schedule with construction.

RTAC Discussion:

David Adams asked if the County is working with NCDOT, particularly in Laurel Park, on the design and the planned round-a-bouts. Marcus Jones stated that the County is working closely with NCDOT on the alignment and timing of other projects. Due to the timing of the project construction, NCDOT will modify existing projects as needed and will not delay trail construction. Mr. Jones also stated that the grade of the trail must remain to accommodate a future ralline per the rail trail agreement. Chris Todd stated that staff can have NCDOT come to a future RTAC meeting to discuss current road projects near the trail.

Selena Einwechter asked for clarification on the mile marker location and design. Joel Setzer said that the design indicated is a fixed marker on the even mile points, and there would be a painted pavement marker in smaller intervals, possibly every tenth of a mile.

Mike Egan stated that he was concerned with the right turn movements nears some of the intersections such as Battle Creek and wanted to know if those were being addressed for safety. Joel Setzer stated that all traffic movements as it relates to trail safety are being addressed and that there would be markings and other design elements incorporated for this reason. Christy Staudt stated that traffic signals or other light up signs are recommended at the intersections with the highest conflict points. She stated that road intersections like Battle Creek, US 64, and White Pine have specific recommendations to address the safety and traffic movements. She stated that the design meets the national standards and with increase traffic volume or trail uses, future changes or improvements can be made if needed.

Chris Burns asked if there were any other questions. Mr. David Adams made a motion to recommend the 90% designs as presented. Mr. Mike Egan seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.