

Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on June 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members present online are denoted with the letter “O”.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chris Burns, Chair	X	
Selena Einwechter, Vice Chair	X	
Douglas Moon, at-large	X	
Patrick Kennedy, at-large	X	
Bart Salvaggio, at-large	X	
Ken Shelton, at-large	X	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville	O	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park		X
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina		X

Also present: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager; Andrew Griffin, Facility Services Director; Bruce Gilliam, Parks and Recreation Director; and Jason Kilgore, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director.

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

The committee heard from two members of the public. One comment was on concerns about gravel that is piled on the trail as part of the construction and when it will be removed. Mr. Chris Todd stated that the county will follow up with the individual. The other comment was concerned that there were no sidewalks to connect pedestrians to the trail and that people were parking on the street to access the trail. There was a specific concern on Spring Street in the City of Hendersonville that Mr. Brent Detwiler stated he would follow up with the individual.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ken Shelton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Bart Salvaggio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting Summary Approval

Mr. Ken Shelton had one correction that the amenities would be allowed for safety reasons. Mr. Doug Moon made a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Mr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Updates

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Ms. Lynn Huffman reported for FOET. She stated that they are working on the interactive map and still need some information related to mile marker locations. FOET is working with the business along the trail in coordination with Mike Morgan to plan celebrations and events following the ribbon cutting for that afternoon and evening. She also stated that the executive director position with FOET has been posted.

City of Brevard

None.

Henderson County

Mr. Chris Todd stated that the ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 18th at the TDA welcome center at 2:00. There will be several guest speakers and recognitions before the official ribbon cutting that will happen on the trail. Mr. Todd stated that the county is working with FOET to get business owners to participate and can promote their business. It was noted that there is work that still needs to be completed before the July 18th event, but the trail will be substantially complete. There will be additional items the contractor is finalizing in the coming months.

Traffic Calming Along Trail

Ms. Janna Bianculli provided an overview of the traffic calming measure that will be included for the trail. She provided a list of intersections and the type of traffic calming that was planned from signalized intersections to signage. There were questions about these specific intersections and some discussion on the level of traffic volume that determined the type of measures that were designed.

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Along Trail

Sergeant Alicia Lockhart with the City of Hendersonville provided the RTAC with an overview of traffic safety concerning pedestrians on the trail. Sergeant Lockhart stated that the city has a traffic safety team that monitors intersections. Law enforcement can enforce drivers not yielding to pedestrians, and the city does check all calls about vehicles on the trail. To date, all the investigations confirmed that it was a county or construction vehicle on the trail. FOET will also have trail ambassadors on the trail to provide information to users about trail safety and reminding trail users about intersection safety.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Mr. Chris Todd stated that the MOU is complete after two years of work. The City of Hendersonville approved the MOU, and the Town of Lurel Park will approve at its next meeting. Following these approvals, the County will review and approve. He also stated that FOET will be able to adopt the MOU as well. Ms. Selena Einwechter stated that the City of Brevard should also be included. Mr. Chris Todd stated that the next step will be to discuss it with the City of Brevard who has seen the MOU drafts, but there will be 1-2 years before the next section is completed, and an MOU would be finalized between the County and the City of Brevard.

Events Policy

Ms. Autumn Radcliff provided a brief overview of the draft event guidelines and items that the RTAC discussed at its last meeting related to events on the trail. Staff have been working with Parks and Recreation staff to establish an application process and information to assist event directors. The RTAC discussed the threshold for events and the fee for these event applications. The RTAC and the Recreations Advisory Board will review the final version of the guidelines next month. The staff plan to open the application submittals late summer to review this fall on events for 2026. No event applications will be accepted for 2025 due to the contractor finalizing punch list items on the trail.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

This meeting was recorded, and the MP4 file can be made available upon request. Please contact County staff.