

Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, July 9, 2025

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on July 9, 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	X	
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	X	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	X	

Also present: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Assistant Planning Director; Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager; and Bruce Gilliam, Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Public Comment

The committee heard from two members of the public. One comment was about concerns expressed at the June meeting about gravel piled on the trail as part of the construction and safety concerns with cars on the trails. The other comment thanked all involved with the trail construction, but was concerned with litter and dog waste on the trail since no containers were yet provided.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mike Egan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ken Shelton 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 corrected. Mr. Shelton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Updates

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mr. Mark Tooley with FOET stated they are continuing to work on the interactive map for Ecusta, and it will be live by Friday. He stated that they are working on handouts about the trail, with trail partner businesses on stickers, and have received emails about trail safety and parking, which they have answered or passed along to the county. They have approximately 28 vendors signed up for the ribbon cutting that will be along the trail and at major intersections. He stated that some businesses will also participate in the ribbon-cutting event and celebration.

City of Brevard

No update provided.

Henderson County

Mr. Chris Todd stated that the ribbon cutting will be on July 18th at the TDA welcome center at 2:00 PM. The contractor will have the trail substantially completed by Friday, but there is additional work and punch list items that are still being worked on. He thanked FOET for their work on the event and recognized the Parks and Recreation staff for their work and involvement with the ribbon-cutting preparation. Mr. Todd stated that the Board of Commissioners will take action on the Memorandum of Understanding at their next meeting. Hendersonville and Laurel Park have already approved the MOU. The County plans to have a separate MOU with Brevard and plans to meet with them next week.

Event Guidelines

Mr. Brent Detwiler wished to ensure that all event organizers would get a zoning permit from the City, regardless of whether the event is held off the trail. The guidelines will be amended to include this request. Mr. Shelton moved to approve, and Mr. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ecusta Trail Guidelines

The committee asked about a specific paid parking lot in the city. City and County staff explained that land uses like paid parking must have approved zoning permits to occur. The County's zoning code requires safe access to the Ecusta Trail, which the city may consider incorporating into its code for paid parking. The committee asked if the county is exploring other properties for county-owned parking facilities. The answer is yes. This ongoing process depends on funding (grant funds cannot be used to build parking lots).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

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