

Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2026, 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, Friends of Ecusta Trail | X | |
| Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville | O | |
| Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park | O | |
| Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina | | X |

Also present: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Assistant Planning Director; Bruce Gilliam, Parks and Recreation Director; and Jason Kilgore, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

The committee heard from one member of the public about trail users, walkers and those on bikes, and concerns with trail width and bike speeds.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ken Shelton moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting Summary Approval

Mr. Patrick Kennedy made a motion to approve the meeting summary with corrections as discussed and presented. Mr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Updates

City of Brevard

None.

Henderson County

Ms. Janna Bianculli updated the RTAC on the trail construction. She stated that the design/build selection is underway and three firms were chosen to submit bids. NCDOT will review the bids and select a firm in March. Each of the three firms is proposing a timeline that would have Phase II in Henderson County completed by the end of 2028. Mr. Bruce Gilliam stated that Parks and Recreation had received two applications for events in 2026. He also mentioned that the department is working with Planning Staff and NCDOT on any impacts related to US 64 improvements and alignment at White Pine. He also stated the county had some temporary speed detection flashers for awareness purposes.

Friends of Ecusta Trail Update

Ms. Laura Rice, FOET Executive Director, stated they have an event application for April 19th for walkers to celebrate the trail. It will be a 5K distance with activities. It was also noted that FOET is working on training for the ambassador program and is working on etiquette signage on the trail.

Updates to the Draft Ecusta Encroachment Policy

Ms. Autumn Radcliff and Ms. Janna Bianculli provide an overview of the proposed changes and provide the committee with a copy of the encroachment policy. The draft amendments will address new encroachment permits for non-utility uses, require RTAC approval for non-permanent structure or item placed in the ROW, require County Engineer approval for trail and road access, and set standards for new approved encroachments. RTAC discussed the policy amendments and asked questions including questions related to new trees in the ROW. The item was tabled till the February meeting to allow RTAC more time to review the policy. Approval by the Board of Commissioners will still be required to adopt the new policy.

Ecusta Calls/Issue December Report

Staff provided a handout on the issues reported by type. The most reported issue (approximately 11 times) was vehicles on the trail. The county is currently working on discussing two areas where this is happening and options to address the issue. Currently, Parks and Recreation have put out cones to help alert drivers. The RTAC asked to continue to bring an update on issues each month.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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