

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on March 11, 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	O	
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		X
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	X	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	X	

Also present: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Assistant Planning Director; Bruce Gilliam, Parks and Recreation Director; and Laura Rice, FOET Executive Director. Joining remotely: Cory Blackwell, Parks and Recreation Supervisor.

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Public Comment

RTAC heard from three members of the public about art on the trail and on concerns with trail events and anticipated trail closing due to construction on US 64 in Laurel Park.

Kristin Cozza, with Conserving Carolina also provided a brief update on Saluda Grade Trail and introduced Summer Flynn, the new Saluda Grade Trail Manager.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mike Egan moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Ken Shelton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting Summary Approval

Mr. Ken Shelton made a motion to approve the meeting summary. Mr. Bart Salvaggio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Updates

City of Brevard

None.

Henderson County

Ms. Autumn Radcliff stated that on March 2nd, the Board of Commissioners adopted the amendments to the Ecusta Trail Encroachment Policy and related fee schedule changes. Interested applicants can reach out to the Planning Department to make an application for encroachments. Planning staff will work with the County Engineer on all utilities, driveways and trail connection encroachments. All other encroachment request will come before the RTAC for approval. Staff noted that the encroachment policy would include art on the trail and applications would come before the RTAC for discussion and approval. If additional policy was needed to

address art, that could be determined based on the applications received at a later date. Mr. Bruce Gilliam updated the committee on event applications and stated that Parks and Recreation is aware of potential trail closing with US 64 and has been letting applicants know.

Friends of Ecusta Trail Update

Ms. Laura Rice, FOET Executive Director, stated they are working on a trail stewardship program and continuing with the ambassador program. FOET has an event planned for April 19th that will be for the community to get out on the trail with various activities and business participating in the event.

Amenities Package Update

Ms. Autumn Radcliff stated that FOET is providing \$750K in donation funds to procure amenities along the trail. The Board of Commissioners approved the funding agreement on February 18th. The Board will select the construction administration proposal for the amenities package at its meeting on March 18th. The amenities for phase I will include stations, benches, bike racks, trash cans, dog waste stations, trail counters, location/mile markers, bike repair stations, landscaping, a paver plaza between S. Main and S. Church streets. The amenities design will be finalized in April, and installation will be late spring/early summer. Mr. Ken Shelton wanted to thank Parks and Recreation for their work on the trail and some of the temporary items they have put in place on the trail.

Ecusta Calls/Issue March Report

Staff provided a handout on the issues reported by type through early March. There were thirteen new issues reported this past weekend which is anticipated with the warmer days and increased trail use. Parks and Recreation staff have been promptly responding to reported issues. It was noted that any related construction issues should be forwarded to the County Engineer who is working with the contractor to finalize remaining items and issues. Moving forward, staff will provide a report for the previous month so that all issues can be captured in one monthly report.

US 64 Construction Impacts to Ecusta

Ms. Autumn Radcliff stated that the US construction through Laurel Park will have impact on the trail operations. The US 64 project includes the construction of roundabouts which will be phased and constructed individually. NCDOT is working with the contractor to minimize impacts and look at alternatives for trail closures. At least two of the roundabouts located at White Pine Dr. and Daniel Dr. will require the trail to be closed for a period of time. Staff is meeting with NCDOT and the County Engineer to discuss if trail detours could safely accommodate trail users. Staff will ask NCDOT to attend the April RTAC meeting, and update will be provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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