

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2026**

The RTAC held a regularly scheduled meeting on June 10, 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		X
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park		X
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	X	

Also present: Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager, Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Bruce Gilliam, Parks and Recreation Director; Jason Kilgore, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Laura Rice, FOET Executive Director; Mike McKay, Parks and Recreation Ecusta Trail Manager

Call to Order

Chair Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments given.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ken Shelton moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Bart Salvaggio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting Summary Approval

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

Updates

City of Brevard

None.

Henderson County

Mr. Chris Todd provided an update on phase II of the trail, stating that he anticipates NCDOT and the Board of Commissioners will have an agreement for phase II towards the end of August. Mr. Todd stated that the design-bid structure of the contract will hopefully increase the speed of construction, with the estimated end completion date now in 2029. Mr. Todd also gave an update on the trail amenities, stating that the county has a contract with Watermark Landscape Architecture for amenity design, and is identifying locations for amenities.

Ms. Autumn Radcliff gave an update on the upcoming trail closures for construction on White Pine Dr and Daniel Dr. The first closure will be at White Pine Dr, and it will begin on July 7th and last for 30 days.

Mr. Bruce Gilliam added that the county will briefly close a portion of the trail between Spring St and Kanuga Rd to remove a tree that is in danger of falling. Mr. Gilliam also introduced Mr. Mike McKay, who patrols the trail and assists with maintenance.

In response to a question from Mr. Ken Shelton, Mr. Chris Todd provided more information on the construction schedules for upcoming NCDOT trail closures, stating that NCDOT has changed their construction plans to decrease the time the trail is closed. Mr. Chris Burns also suggested that the committee should speak with NCDOT about planning for increased bicycle traffic on White Pine Dr during the trail closure period, adding that he had spoken with the Town of Laurel Park already about the enforcement of speed limits on White Pine to ensure cyclists in the area are safe.

Ecusta Calls/Issue March Report

County staff gave an update on issues reported through May, with a total of 20 issues reported during the month. Of these, 13 were resolved and 7 remained open. Mr. Mike McKay stated that complaints of e-bike usage on the trail may refer to children or teens on electric dirt bikes and not typical e-bikes. Mr. Bruce Gilliam informed the committee that they have reported the issue to the Sheriff's Department.

Following a question from Mr. Ken Shelton, Mr. Chris Todd stated that the county hopes to install a more permanent barrier on the trail entrance at Whitted Dr, as that intersection continues to see the highest number of cars mistakenly turning onto the trail. Mr. Todd also stated that the parking lot adjacent to that area will be fenced in the future, but additional work on the lot has been paused until the phase II contract with NCDOT is completed.

Friends of Ecusta Trail Update

Ms. Laura Rice, FOET Executive Director, shared that trail ambassadors are looking to add more weekend shifts as traffic increases over the summer. Land of Sky Regional Council had traffic counters on the trail during April and May, and Ms. Rice hopes to have data from these counters soon. Ms. Rice added that the upcoming trail closures have been posted to the FOET website, and FOET will update the site and the public as more info is released.

Signage Update and Contact Discussion

Ms. Laura Rice stated that much of the trail signage was 99% complete with Watermark, and shared example designs of trail signage for multiple points along the trail, including ecological information signage about the French Broad River valley.

Ms. Rice also shared a proposed webpage on the FOET site, which would be linked to QR codes on trail signage. This page would have trail information, issue reporting, trail rules, and other user information in a simple package. Because the QR code used for the existing issue reporting application is dynamic, FOET or the County can change the link associated with the code to send users to the proposed page. In response to a question from Mr. Ken Shelton, Ms. Rice stated that the installation of signage and amenities will depend on the phase II contact that the county completes.

Other Comments:

Mr. Ken Shelton made a comment about connecting parking with 1st Congressional including installing a connection from the parking area to the trail. Mr. Chris Todd stated that the county has not yet secured a contract with the church for use of the lot, and the exact connection design will depend on the contract specifics.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.