

**Henderson County
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on April 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members that were 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	
David Adams, 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; and Marcus Jones, County Engineer.

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed Patrick Kennedy as the newly appointed member to the RTAC.

Public Comment

The RTAC heard from one member of the public that was interested in any traffic studies being considered by the county or NCDOT. Staff explained that the county contracted TPD to design a connection in the Horseshoe area to address safety concerns and access to the existing businesses from the trail. The county plans to work with NCDOT and seek grant funding to construct the connections. It was noted in public comment that letters of support from the businesses would be helpful when applying for grants. The intent is to stay within public ROW if possible.

Approval Meeting Summary

No changes to the meeting summary were noted.

Updates

Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)

Mr. Mark Tooley commented on the county’s trail partner program and the presentation given by Planning staff at the City of Brevard’s ETAB meeting. He also stated that FOET has a contract for the design of their new website and hope to have it completed this summer. He stated that FOET is still very interested in the planned amenities and funding availability for these amenities.

Henderson County

Mr. Jones reported that the construction of Ecusta East is on track and still scheduled to be completed in December of 2024. He said that the county is in the process of designing Ecusta West. The PE will take approximately 24 months to complete with a total of 3 ½ years to complete construction. He also mentioned the amenities are included in the scope of work for the west section. The east section included amenities up to the

30% design and were not finished due to STBG grant ineligibility. Mr. Jones stated that the county is working on a contract to complete the east section of design to 100% with permitting.

City of Brevard

Mayor Copelof with the City of Brevard updated the RTAC on the Transylvania portion of the trail. The 30% design of the trail is scheduled to be completed in June. She also stated that the city received a \$1 million commitment from the Transylvania County TDA and FOET to complete the remaining design as the FLAP grant did not cover the full cost.

Ecusta Trail Connection to Main Street

Brent Detwiler with the City of Hendersonville provided a presentation on the how the trail will connect to Main Street in downtown Hendersonville. The city plans to repave this portion of Main Street and has already held a pre-construction meeting with Tar Heel Paving. He stated the city is aware of the Garden Festival scheduled in May and is planning to work around this event. Once paving is complete, the city will work with the Public Works Department to restripe main street. The new design will include a marked 2-way bike path separate from vehicular traffic from the Ecusta Trail entrance to West Allen Street. Pedestrian traffic will still utilize the existing sidewalks. The city said the project will be completed this summer and will be good timing with the TDA/visitor center renovation that will be completed later this summer/early fall. The city plans to reach out to TDA to discuss the design.

Other Items

Mr. Ken Shelton stated that he is learning more about the Swamp Rabbit Trail and relationship with businesses. He said the county Trail Partners meeting went well and hoped that there could be more updates on this at future RTAC meetings. Mr. Chris Burns asked staff to provide updates as needed. The RTAC also requested a copy of the PowerPoint given by Mr. Detwiler and links to the Trail Partner meeting recording and related trail surveys. Ms. Radcliff stated that she would post the PowerPoint on the website and email the RTAC links to the other requested items.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

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