



October 17, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom it May Concern:

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club offers support for the City of Brevard's application for development of the Ecusta Trail Grant being submitted to the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) through the USDOT Federal Highway Administration. We support this grant application as the focus of this plan to improve the safety and mobility of residents and travelers in Western North Carolina.

Members of the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club understand the need to improve the connectivity of the region and tear down the roadway barriers that have disconnected parts of the City of Brevard. Additionally, Brevard being within Transylvania County is also in much need of improving their connectivity to surrounding counties. The construction of US 64, like many arterials around the region and country, were built to improve the travel times of commuters and travelers; but while many residents have enjoyed the benefits of these arterials, others have been disconnected, isolated, and left behind.

The Ecusta Trail project helps to reconnect our growing City of Brevard that is becoming a destination for many, by building safe and resilient infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians and transforming it to be a more pedestrian-friendly corridor. The connection between the City of Brevard, through areas of Transylvania County and Hendersonville County, the Ecusta Trail Project will open up access to destinations and enable more residents to travel in a healthier and more sustainable way.

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club supports the City of Brevard's request for federal funding for a Planning Grant through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program This plan will have significant benefits by helping to build a more resilient and equitable transportation network.

Sincerely,

Brenda Herrington

City of Brevard Resident & Transylvania County Advocacy Representative, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club

cc: Aaron Bland - Assistant Planning Director, City of Brevard
Dawn Barr - President, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club

www.blueridgebicycleclub.org