



Office for the President | [Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D.](#)

October 13, 2022

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

Secretary Buttigieg:

As President of Blue Ridge Community College, I am writing to support the City of Brevard in their efforts to pursue the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) grant through the USDOT Federal Highway Administration. Like Blue Ridge Community College, the City of Brevard is focused on the economic future of the region and is seeking this grant for a project that will provide a route of transportation for walking and bicycling which will connect multiple communities from Brevard to Hendersonville. The planned Ecusta Trail will provide recreation, an alternative transportation method to jobs and schools, and further tourism-related economic development in the region.

Blue Ridge Community College works in cooperation with Transylvania County and the City of Brevard to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to enrich the community and to support their workforce needs. We understand that the City of Brevard has worked very hard to elevate the quality of life for their citizens through economic diversity and by leveraging their natural assets after suffering major manufacturing losses. The Ecusta Trail project will connect and enhance their existing assets and will go a long way to elevate the quality of life of those in the region. However, they cannot afford to fund all their needs without help. A funding source, such as a NSFLTP grant, would allow the opportunity for them to deliver this widely supported project and create an economic synergy they could not experience otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Brevard's request. Feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura B. Leatherwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L".

Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D.
President

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