



BLUE ZONES PROJECT
by sharecare

October 20, 2022

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

Re: NSFLTP Grant Application, City of Brevard, NC

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Blue Zones Project (BZP) Brevard, I am writing to express support for the City of Brevard's Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Grant application.

As the Senior Community Program Manager for Blue Zones Project (BZP) Brevard, the 50th BZP community in North America, I am responsible for ensuring that specific built environment policies are successfully accomplished. Our work is evidence-based and data-driven as we seek ways to improve the health of individuals and the community by making healthy choices the easier choices. Supporting the City's NSFLTP grant was identified as one the most important built environment strategies following an extensive discovery process. Over the past two years, BZP Brevard has assisted the City of Brevard with work related to the recently adopted Downtown Master and Streetscape Plan and the Ecusta Trail.

Above all, our community values well-being, and the addition of the Ecusta Trail will add a tremendous amount of access, connectivity, and wellness options for generations to come. The health and happiness of our community members, visitors, and future citizens is our highest priority. Successfully obtaining the NSFLTP Grant will allow the City of Brevard and its strategic partners to accelerate the health and well-being of this small, rural community.

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This grant incorporates several key components that, when combined, will make Brevard and Transylvania County a showcase for future grant opportunities and include the following:

- ▶ Redesigning and building the core downtown area, also known as the Heart of Brevard, a Mainstreet Program, to promote greater safety and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclist, and motorists. Over the past year, the City of Brevard Downtown Master Plan Committee has worked to develop a new Downtown Master Plan and Streetscape plan. This plan was unanimously adopted by City Council on Monday, June 21, 2021.
- ▶ Working with NC DOT and the RPO to revision and build the primary corridor connecting downtown Brevard to Pisgah Forest area and the primary entrance to the Pisgah National Forest (STIP R-5800).
- ▶ Extending and enhancing the Estatoe Trail, a multi-use trail, that will ultimately connect all areas of Brevard from Pisgah National Forest to downtown and then south to Brevard High School. Once completed, the Estatoe Trail will provide a safe multi-use trail for commuters and visitors alike. Significantly, the Estatoe Trail will also connect the Rosenwald community, a historically black section of our community that has been underserved, to Brevard High School and the City of Brevard and Transylvania County Recreation areas.
- ▶ Leading the Ecusta Trail Advisory Committee, a collaborative involving Conserving Carolina, Friends of Ecusta Trail, Blue Zones Project Brevard, and other partners to secure funding, oversee construction, and manage public use of the section of the Ecusta Trail in Brevard and Transylvania County. This effort will help to transform our local economy from manufacturing to a more sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation-based economy.

The City of Brevard is prepared to successfully implement the NSFLTP Grant. I strongly encourage you to support the grant and opportunity for profound impact in one of NC's most cherished communities.

Sincerely,



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