



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

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10/03/2022

The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Letter of Support for 2022 NSFLTP Grant for the City of Brevard and Henderson County, North Carolina

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write this letter to voice my support of the City of Brevard and Henderson County's Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects grant application entitled "*The Ecusta Trail: A Multimodal Gateway to the Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway*" for funding to complete the development of a 19.4-mile, multi-use greenway connecting the cities of Hendersonville and Brevard in North Carolina.

The NSFLTP grant will invest in a comprehensive plan that creates a "new cultural main street" using an abandoned rail line connecting communities, enhancing mobility, promoting health, and enriching the quality of life and economy between two neighboring counties in North Carolina.

North Carolina and the City of Brevard both recognize the need to expand and enhance Brevard's unique outdoor recreation economy through local social and infrastructure investment initiatives widely supported by the NC DOT, Friends of the Ecusta Trail, Conserving Carolina, Henderson County, City of Hendersonville, City of Brevard, and many private-sector partnerships. Utilizing an NSFLTP grant will leverage the community's strategic efforts to complete an improvement plan that increases access to natural landmarks and local commerce, enhances the local quality of life and mobility, increases the accessibility of workforce opportunities across county lines, and connects resources to expand economic growth across rural Transylvania and urban Henderson counties.

On behalf of western North Carolina, thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to building strong communities. As you consider the City of Brevard's application, know I stand in support of their efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may provide any additional information.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Edwards".

Senator Chuck Edwards
North Carolina General Assembly
District 48 – Buncombe, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties