

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, I write in support of the City of Brevard's application for Nationally Significantly Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) grant funding.

The City of Brevard, located in western North Carolina, is partnering with adjacent Henderson County in proposing \$21 million in NSFLTP grant funding to develop the 19-mile Ecusta Trail, connecting Brevard to its neighboring community of Hendersonville. Beyond providing regional multimodal connectivity, the proposed trail brings notable benefits in safety, quality of life, and environmental sustainability.

Brevard is commonly regarded as the mountain biking capital of the eastern United States, and its economy relies in large part on this and other outdoor recreation pursuits. The proposed network of trails to be funded by NSFLTP grants will add significantly to Brevard's economic development asset base, while further enhancing the community's "quality of place" that makes it an attractive destination for residents, visitors, and business owners.

As the state organization tasked with economic development functions on the state's behalf - including business recruitment, existing industry expansion, and tourism promotion - the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) sees tremendous potential in the City of Brevard and Henderson County's joint proposal and fully supports this grant application.

We believe the proposed project would be a valuable addition to the economy of western North Carolina. I am pleased to express our support for this NSFLTP grant application and am grateful for your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Chung
Chief Executive Officer

