

PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

THE ECUSTA TRAIL

fy2022 | NSFLTP GRANT APPLICATION

**A Multimodal Gateway to
Pisgah National Forest +
The Blue Ridge Parkway**

PROJECT NAME	THE ECUSTA TRAIL
Total Project Cost	\$53,530,111
NSFLTP Program Grant Request Amount	\$21,412,044
Federal (DOT) Funding including Program Funds	\$36,954,498
Total Non-Federal Funding	\$16,575,613
Project is within, adjacent to, or accessing Federal and/or Tribal land?	Yes

Submitted by:



Sponsored by:



In partnership with:



PROJECT SNAPSHOT



Project Location

City of Hendersonville to City of Brevard
and the Pisgah National Forest
Transylvania County + Henderson County, NC



Total Mileage

18.8 miles
Shared-use path along an acquired, railbanked
rail line connecting to Pisgah National Forest and Blue
Ridge Parkway



Estimated Completion Date

Q1 2028

Background materials:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/NSFLTP2022-ECUSTA/Pages/default.aspx>

Project Readiness + Low Risk

Project Administration	NCDOT
NCDOT STIP #	EB-6037B + BL-0007
Match Funding	60% of the total project cost
Match Contributions	Variety of sources (federal, state, local, private)
NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CE)	Complete
Design	Funded + In Progress

PROJECT COST	\$53,530,111
NSFLTP FUNDING REQUEST	\$21,412,044
PROJECT MATCH	\$32,118,067

45%

of the project
corridor is within an
**Area of Persistent
Poverty**

48%

of the project corridor is
within a community that is
identified as **Transportation
Disadvantaged**



**Pisgah is the
most popular
national forest
in the USA!¹**

¹ <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/landmarks-monuments/pisgah-national-forest-north-carolina-waterslide-most-popular-forest>

Safety

*Reduces risk of collisions by providing a separated facility,
away from high-speed rural roadways; Connects to local
schools; Provides safety features such as enhanced
crossings with signals and personal safety devices*

State of Good Repair

*Provides alternative to driving into Pisgah National Forest
which experiences traffic, parking, and roadway/shoulder
maintenance issues along main entrance; Rehabilitates
and reuses a historic linear railroad transportation corridor*

Economic Benefits

*Facilitates tourism-related economic development;
Reduces household transportation costs*

Quality of Life

*Enriches physical and mental health by connecting to
the Pisgah National Forest, local and regional services,
employment, recreation, and fostering opportunities for
social belonging*

Climate Change + Environmental Justice

*Reduces emissions by providing multi-modal travel op-
tions and preserves a linear green corridor*

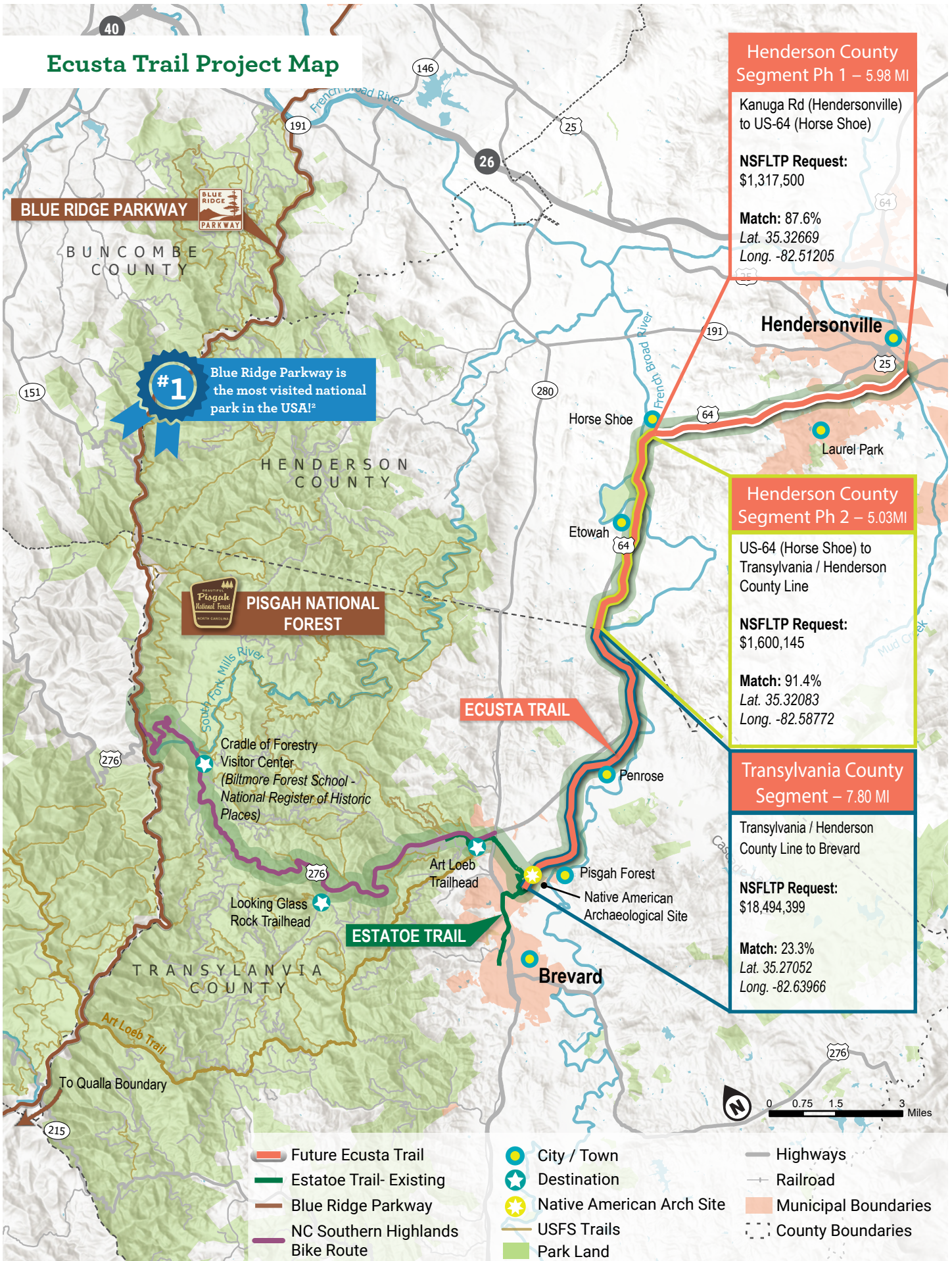
Racial Equity + Barriers to Opportunity

*NCDOT and project partners have active equity and inclu-
sion programs; Provides new multi-modal access for rural
communities that have experienced industry loss*

Job Quality, Workforce Development + Workforce Equity

*Project partners have multiple programs, standards,
initiatives, and committees that focus on upholding labor
standards, supporting apprenticeships, supporting work-
force development, soliciting Disadvantaged Business
Enterprise and Small Professional Services Firms, and
addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

Ecusta Trail Project Map



#1 Blue Ridge Parkway is the most visited national park in the USA!²

Henderson County Segment Ph 1 – 5.98 MI

Kanuga Rd (Hendersonville) to US-64 (Horse Shoe)

NSFLTP Request: \$1,317,500

Match: 87.6%
 Lat. 35.32669
 Long. -82.51205

Henderson County Segment Ph 2 – 5.03 MI

US-64 (Horse Shoe) to Transylvania / Henderson County Line

NSFLTP Request: \$1,600,145

Match: 91.4%
 Lat. 35.32083
 Long. -82.58772

Transylvania County Segment – 7.80 MI

Transylvania / Henderson County Line to Brevard

NSFLTP Request: \$18,494,399

Match: 23.3%
 Lat. 35.27052
 Long. -82.63966

- Future Ecusta Trail
- Estatee Trail- Existing
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- City / Town
- Destination
- Native American Arch Site
- NC Southern Highlands Bike Route
- USFS Trails
- Park Land
- Highways
- Railroad
- Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries

² <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/visitation-numbers.htm>



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A Partnership by NCDOT, City of Brevard, Henderson County, Conserving Carolina, and Friends of the Ecusta Trail.

