



October 6, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: In Support of the City of Brevard and Henderson County's NSFLTP Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the NC Rural Center, I am writing in support of the City of Brevard and Henderson County's application for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) grant administered by the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

The City of Brevard and Henderson County's proposal uses grant funding to assist in the development of the Ecusta Trail, a 19 mile pathway that is expected to serve as an asset to western North Carolina for generations to come. By creating a shared-use path to connect the City of Henderson to the City of Brevard, the Ecusta Trail will bridge communities and help to shape urban growth and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

As North Carolina's leading rural economic development organization, we see this as an economic opportunity. This trail will cross through Transylvania and Henderson Counties, thus creating opportunities to link local regional services while helping to foster and facilitate tourism related economic development ventures. This trail will be a tremendous addition to both counties' economic development asset base, and we support the effort wholeheartedly.

We thank you for your time and consideration and welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick N. Woodie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Woodie
President

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