



October 7, 2022

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

Re: City of Brevard request for NSFLTP Funding

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Pisgah Health Foundation, I am writing to convey our support for the City of Brevard's request for NSFLTP funding to develop the Ecusta Trail.

The Pisgah Health Foundation is a public 501 (c)(3) charity founded to improve the health, wellness, and lives of Western North Carolina residents by addressing healthy opportunities in targeted social determinants of health including medical health, food insecurity, housing social cohesion, and education. Our mission is to purposefully, creatively, and collaboratively enhance the health and well-being of our communities by addressing local health and wellness inequities through strategic and meaningful relationships.

One of our most significant relationships is with the City of Brevard and, more specifically, our collaborative effort to bring the Blue Zones Project to the City of Brevard. Key to the Blue Zones Project is understanding and supporting the City's thoughtful planning, policy and investments, in continuing to improve the health, safety, and well-being of our residents. The City of Brevard's interest in pursuing this funding clearly demonstrates those characteristics.

This Ecusta Trail Project represents a potential transformational change for our region, connecting multiple communities from Brevard to Hendersonville. The Ecusta Trail will provide recreational opportunities for users of all ages and abilities, active transportation options to job centers and schools, and opportunities for neighborhood revitalization and tourism-related economic development.

The Pisgah Health Foundation is impressed by the vision and practicality of the request. Successful NSFLTP funding, and in partnership with Henderson County, will position the City of Brevard and Transylvania County to support our mission and help leverage needed resources to support the community's physical and economic health.

As Chair of the Pisgah Health Foundation Board, I firmly believe the awarding of this grant will promote the economic and physical health of Brevard, Transylvania County, and the region.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I can be reached at 828.674.3503.

Sincerely,

*Cathleen Blanchard*

Cathleen Blanchard  
Pisgah Health Foundation Chair

cc: Maureen Copelof, Mayor  
Aaron N. Bland, AICP CZO, Asst. Planning Director  
Sarah Hankey, Blue Zones Project – Brevard

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