



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

October 21, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce fully supports and endorses the City of Brevard's Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) grant request for funds to support the Ecusta Trail project, which will greatly benefit our community.

The Ecusta Trail provides transportation, recreation, and economic opportunity to the City of Brevard. Funding the 8-mile span of rail-trail within Transylvania County would connect the already existing trail in the City of Brevard to suburban and rural communities in greater Transylvania County, including the Estatoe Trail in Pisgah National Forest. Upon completion, the entire 19-mile Ecusta Trail will connect the City of Brevard to Henderson County, which will provide important economic opportunities to both communities. This trail system will benefit the City of Brevard in many ways. Just to name a few of the most important benefits, it will:

1. Increase recreational tourism and visitors to local businesses;
2. Provide safe routes for alternative modes of transportation that reduce carbon emissions and congestion;
3. Improve the quality of life through healthy habits and exercise; and
4. Increase the economic competitiveness of the City of Brevard with infrastructure.

For all of these reasons, the Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce fully supports the City of Brevard's NSFLTP grant request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MD" with a flourish at the end.

Melissa Driver
Executive Director
Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce

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