

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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COUNTY MANAGER
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101 South Broad Street
Brevard, NC 28712

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2022

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CITY OF BREVARD FOR
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL LANDS AND TRIBAL PROJECTS
GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ECUSTA TRAIL**

WHEREAS, Transylvania County is located in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina, between Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains, with a population of 34,000 and access to Pisgah National Forest, Blue Ridge Parkway, Gorges State Park and DuPont Recreational State Forest; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County has a large biking community that is supported by eight NC DOT numbered bicycle routes and over 300 miles of gravel and single-track bike trails in the Pisgah National Forest and DuPont Recreational State Forest, and the number of commuters who bike to work is higher than the national average and is a greater percentage than seen in other counties in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County's 2025 Comprehensive Land Use Plan's economic health objectives and action steps include working closely with NC DOT, the City of Brevard and other partners to support a safe transportation system that accommodates a wide range of transportation choices including vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation throughout the county and region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard is the Transylvania County seat and has developed the Estatoe Trail, a growing network of multi-use paths that connect the community to Pisgah National Forest and other important places including Schenck Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, Transylvania Regional Hospital and Downtown Brevard; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has resolved to taking the lead role in securing funding, overseeing construction, and managing the public use of the Ecusta Trail within Transylvania County, by converting the railroad corridor to a multi-use trail, providing other communities such as Hendersonville, Laurel Park, Horse Shoe, Etowah and Penrose access to Pisgah National Forest and Blue Ridge Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard was awarded one million dollars in grant funding from Federal Lands Access Management Program (FLAP) of the Federal Highway Administration – Federal Lands Highway Division; Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2023 through FY 2026, for the engineering of the Ecusta Trail and partnered with NC DOT for grant administration and project management; and

WHEREAS, the Ecusta Trail is a 19-mile regional trail system connecting Transylvania County to Henderson County through partnerships that will bring many recreational, public health, and economic benefits to local residents and businesses within and beyond Transylvania County; and

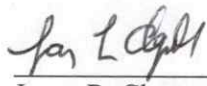
WHEREAS, the aforementioned partnerships and investments confirm a shared commitment of combined forces to complete the Ecusta Trail and provide healthy and efficient alternative modes of

transportation such as bike, pedestrian and multi-use spaces in existence and coordination with traditional vehicular use corridors; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County understands that a safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transportation system for all users is essential to the quality of life of our residents and to the health of our economy;

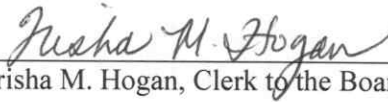
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County hereby supports the City of Brevard in its pursuit of funding from the United States Department of Transportation for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects grant program for the construction of, The Ecusta Trail: A Multimodal Gateway to Pisgah National Forest and Blue Ridge Parkway.

Adopted this the 10th day of October, 2022.



Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board

