

AARP of North Carolina
 Alamance County
 Alleghany Sparta Trail Association
 ALTA Planning & Design
 Backwoods Bridges Inc
 Benesch
 Bike Walk NC
 Black Diamond Trail Designs
 Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy
 Blue Ridge Conservancy
 Blue Ridge Parkway
 Bolton & Menk Inc
 Burke River Trail Association
 Camp Grier
 Carolina Climbers Association
 Carolina Mountain Club
 Carolina Thread Trail
 Chatham County
 Chatham County
 City of Boone
 City of Concord
 City of Greensboro
 City of Hendersonville
 City of Raleigh
 Conservation Trust for NC
 Conserving Carolina
 Dan River Basin Association
 Davidson County
 Davis Martin Powell
 Destination by Design
 Downtown Greenway
 East Coast Greenway Alliance
 Elkin Valley Trails Association
 Equinox Environmental
 Finch Associates
 Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina
 Friends of Ecusta Trail
 Friends of Fonta Flora
 Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural
 Area Friends of Panthertown
 Friends Of Stone Mountain
 Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Friends
 of Valdese Recreation
 Gannett Fleming
 HDR
 Kimley-Horn Associates
 LandDesign Inc.
 McAdams Company
 McDowell County
 McDowell Trails Association
 Nature Trails LLC
 NC Horse Council
 NC Recreation and Park Association
 New River Conservancy
 North Carolina Interscholastic Cycling League
 Orange County
 Partners for Parks
 PermaTrak
 Person County
 Piedmont Fat Tire Society
 Piedmont Land Conservancy
 Pisgah Area SORBA
 Pitt County
 Rails to Trails Conservancy
 Randolph County
 Roanoke River Partners
 Smart Moves Consulting
 Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association
 Stewart Inc.
 Surry County
 Terrabilt Inc.
 The Conservation Fund
 Three Oaks Engineering
 Toole Design
 Town of Cary
 Town of Chapel Hill
 Town of Cornelius
 Town of Matthews
 Town of Matthews
 Town of Mt. Holly
 Town of Rutherfordton
 Town of Waxhaw
 Transportation Planning & Design Triangle
 Land Conservancy
 Triangle Trails Initiative
 Wetherill Engineering, Inc.
 Withers Ravenel
 Western North Carolina MADE X MTNS
 Yadkin River Keeper

September 19, 2023

Julie White
 Secretary for Multi-modal Transportation
 North Carolina Department of Transportation



RE: Letter of Intent to Partner

The North Carolina Great Trails State (GTS) Coalition is very pleased to enter this intent to partner relationship with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to pursue a Regional Partnership Challenge Grant through the new Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program. Our Coalition came into being to address the stubborn challenges North Carolina communities face in getting trail projects on the ground. Thus, we are delighted to partner with NCDOT to pursue and deliver a grant program specifically designed to address persistent regional challenges like those in our state. The GTS Coalition is comprised of 87 municipalities, non-profits, tourism offices and trail industry businesses. While each of these entities work to advance trails in the state, the Coalition allows us to speak with one voice to effect changes in trail policy, funding and promotion. We have built an organization and tools that can be scaled to efficiently and effectively deliver the **Growing Rural Equity and Access to Transportation (GREAT) NC** program, including;

- **Great Trails State Brand** – The Coalition builds on the statewide GTS Plan completed and adopted by NCDOT in 2022.
- **Year of the Trail Campaign** (www.greattrailsnc.com) – An over \$1M campaign that has reached over 15 M people to celebrate and advance safe biking and walking across North Carolina.
- **Great Trails State Coalition Website** (www.greattrailsstatecoalition.com) – A clearinghouse for trail information, crowd sourced mapping of investment ready trail projects.
- **Great Trails State Conference** – 2024 will be our inaugural annual statewide trails & greenways conference which will convene partners, vendors, and state and federal agencies. This conference will be an excellent platform for GREAT-NC outreach and speakers on accessing and delivering federally funded projects.
- **Fiscal Agent Relationship** – As a true coalition not a non-profit we have a long-standing relationship with the East Coast Greenway Alliance, a 501(c)(3) who functions as our fiscal agent. Their professionalism and organizational strength have been an asset throughout the Year of the Trail Campaign.

These elements combine to create a high functioning chassis to launch GREAT-NC. We have thoroughly reviewed the activities, budget and schedule outlined in the GREAT-NC application and are prepared to move forward to achieve its objectives and our outlined responsibilities upon execution of a grant agreement. Because our organizational mission aligns so tightly with the intent of NAE we have no hesitation in partnering with NCDOT to achieve all GREAT-NC goals.

Sincerely,

Palmer McIntyre
 Coordinator, NC Great Trails State Coalition