RESOLUTION 2024-XX

RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE ECUSTA TRAIL ON MAIN STREET IN DOWNTOWN BREVARD

WHEREAS, the Ecusta Trail will be a multiuse, paved greenway connecting the cities of Hendersonville and Brevard along a former rail line which ended service in 2002 and will serve as a new “cultural main street" connecting communities, promoting health, enriching the quality of life and the economy for everyone

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Ecusta Trail is a grassroots non-profit formed in 2009 dedicated to the completion of this trail; and

WHEREAS, Conserving Carolina, a non-profit land conservation organization operating in Henderson, Transylvania and neighboring counties, worked with partners including the Friends of the Ecusta Trail and local governments to create the proposed Ecusta Trail utilizing the 19.4-mile rail corridor connecting Hendersonville and Brevard; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard agreed in June 2021 to play a lead role in securing funding, overseeing construction and managing public use of the section of the Ecusta Trail in Transylvania County; and

WHEREAS, in the Summer of 2023 the City of Brevard was awarded two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation to complete the Ecusta Trail: a $21.4 million Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects grant and a $24.5 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant; and

WHEREAS, the future Ecusta Trail will bring many recreational, public health and economic benefits to local residents and businesses in the City of Brevard and Transylvania County, an; and

WHEREAS, the eastern terminus of the Ecusta Trail is located on South Main Street in Downtown Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard with its partner the Heart of Brevard is dedicated to maintaining and growing a vibrant and vital downtown; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard is building and maintaining its own 7.5 mile long multi-use trail called the Estatoe Trail which connects its citizens to important landmarks, schools, businesses, and recreational assets within the city limits; and

WHEREAS, the Ecusta Trail will only fulfill its aspirations of connecting the Western North Carolina communities of Hendersonville and Brevard if it is contiguous from “Main Street to Main Street”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Brevard dedicates the western terminus of the Ecusta Trail on Main Street in Downtown Brevard and will commit staff time and infrastructure including portions of its multi-use trail to this purpose.