POLK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TOWN OF TRYON AND CITY OF SALUDA EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE SALUDA GRADE TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of Commissioners has historically supported its municipalities' efforts to expand economic, health and welfare opportunities for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Saluda Grade Trail Conservancy purchased the North Carolina portion of the Saluda Grade rail corridor from Norfolk Southern railway on June 17, 2025, with funds appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly for the purpose of creating a rail trail state park available for use by citizens of, and visitors to, the Town of Tryon, the City of Saluda and Polk County; and

WHEREAS, the Saluda Grade Trail Conservancy is devoting resources now and in the near future to secure property, to assess needs, to design trail surfaces and amenities, to engineer, to plan and to collaborate with adjacent property and business owners along the length of the Saluda Grade Trail rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tryon and the City of Saluda have hosted, and plan to host in the future, numerous events in support of their citizens, business owners and visitors such as the Saluda Grade Trail Celebrations on July 31, 2025 which were attended by hundreds of residents, visitors, officials and representatives from Inman SC, Campobello SC, Landrum SC, the Town of Tryon, the City of Saluda, Polk County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saluda and the Town of Tryon are expending significant time and monies to expand their outdoor economies and amenities which construction of the Saluda Grade Trail will enhance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Polk County wishes to support the efforts of the Town of Tryon and the City of Saluda as evidenced by their recent, respective resolutions declaring their intent to seek federal funding in support of development of the Saluda Grade Trail within and adjacent to their boundaries;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF POLK COUNTY DOES HEREBY DECLARE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE TOWN OF TRYON'S AND THE CITY OF SALUDA'S IMPENDING REQUESTS FOR FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING FOR DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND RELATED STEPS TO ESTABLISH A TRAIL ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE FORMER SALUDA GRADE RAIL CORRIDOR.

ADOPTED THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

APPROVED: **ATTEST:**