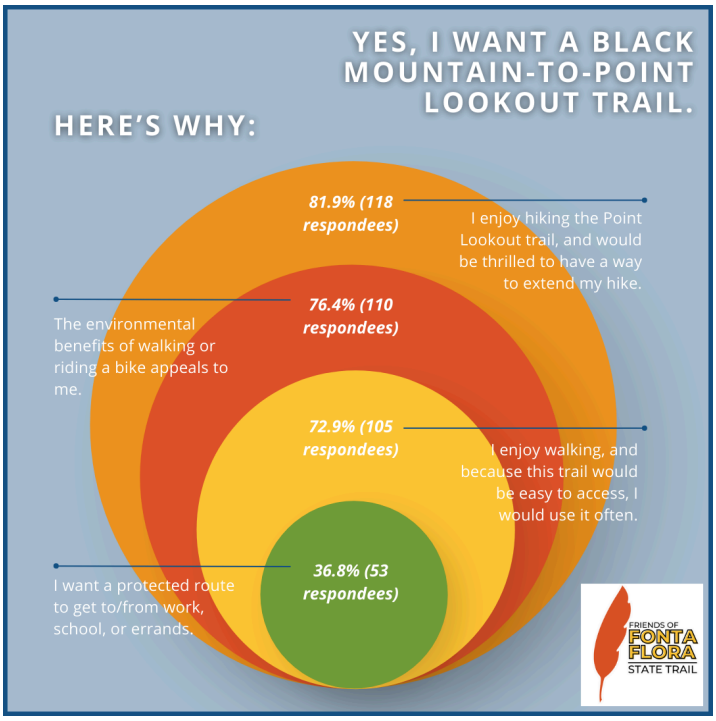
Community Support for the Black Mountain–Point Lookout Segment Fonta Flora State Trail

Summary of the Kittelson Feasibility Study

The preferred route for the Black Mountain–Point Lookout segment of the Fonta Flora State Trail was identified through a comprehensive feasibility study led by Kittelson & Associates in partnership with Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail (F3ST), NCDOT, and local agencies. Guided by a Steering Committee representing local governments, state agencies, trail advocates, and community members, the study combined technical analysis, field reviews, and **public engagement** to evaluate multiple alignment alternatives. Routes were assessed based on safety, constructability, cost, environmental and property impacts, access to destinations, user experience, and resilience, including hurricane recovery considerations. Through this iterative process and public pop-up engagement, a preferred alignment was selected along the north side of Old US Highway 70 and the upslope side of Mill Creek Road as the option that best balances feasibility, safety, connectivity, and community priorities.

Community Engagement & Informal Survey Results



To complement the formal feasibility study, Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail conducted a rapid, informal survey through its newsletter (500+ subscribers) and Facebook page (2,000+ followers). Community response was immediate, with more than 140 individuals responding within a short time frame to a single question asking whether they wanted the trail and why.

- 81.9% enjoy hiking the Point Lookout Trail and want a connected route to extend their hike.
- 76.4% support the trail for its environmental benefits.
- 72.9% would use the trail often because it would be easy to access.
- 36.8% want a protected route for commuting and daily errands.

On-the-Ground Engagement

These survey results reinforce feedback gathered during Kittelson-led community pop-up events, where residents and visitors reviewed maps, asked questions, and expressed support for the proposed connection.



Why This Matters for Adoption & Implementation

The combination of professional technical analysis and demonstrated community support shows that the Black Mountain–Point Lookout segment is both feasible and publicly supported. This level of engagement provides local governments and partner agencies with a strong foundation to adopt, refine, and advance the project into design and implementation.