MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Thursday, September 5, 2024 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard Dee Dee Perkins, Tourism Development Authority Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment
Absent:	Chris Burns, Henderson County RTAC
Staff Present:	Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio Wilson Hooper, City Manager Paul Ray, Planning Director Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director David Todd, City Engineer
Guests:	Teresa Buckwalter, Lonnie Watkins, Mark Tooley, Christine Stout, Vicki Eastland, various citizens.

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Vice Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:27 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by City Planner Katherine Buzby.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Hooper to amend the agenda to add discussion of Trail Terminus at Mountain Industrial Drive before Public Comments at 5:20pm. Motion to approve amended agenda by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. Ditillo. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Encroachment Update

Traffic Planning & Design (TPD) showed a presentation that discusses encroachments by private adjacent property owners and how to categorize them into three categories: high, medium, and low impact encroachments (See attached presentation).

Mr. Chapman questioned on what legal liability the City or Conserving Carolina will have at Trail crossings (private driveways, etc.) if the public gets hurt. Mr. Ray assured Mr. Chapman that all encroachments/crossings will have an Encroachment Agreement drafted by the City that will contain Hold Harmless language. The Agreement will also have language about any future encroachments into the Trail Right-of-Way (ROW).

TPD stated that they were given goals (by NCDOT) for the Trail that included reducing the environmental impact of the Trail and the impact to adjacent property owners. Mr. Ray also discussed that the rider experience is also an important goal of the Trail.

A discussion was conducted about making sure that the Board considers that the screening measures should have unity along the trail (not mixed-matched fences, etc.). Even though TPD will meet with all the adjacent property owners and discuss their individual preferences, the Board should make the decisions based on priority rank and safety.

A discussion was also conducted about who will be maintaining the new screening measures, as it may require labor-intensive upkeep such a routine weed eating. The Board recommended to save this discussion for a later date, when they know more about how the Trail will be maintained.

E. Possible Screening Measures

TPD, NCDOT, and the City have developed different types of screening measures that can be applied based on the level of impact encroachment (i.e. fences, vegetation, boulders, bollards, etc.). The screening options are being covered by the RAISE grant funds. (See attached presentation)

F. Amenities Poll

A poll was conducted of the Board members to rank the priorities of amenities. The results are attached.

A comment was received about restroom amenities, that there is more involved than location as the Board needs to think about access to septic systems and water connections.

A discussion was made about wayfinding signs as an amenity, and it was stated that Wayfinding signs are covered by the grant as long as they are in the ROW. Mayor Copelof mentioned that the mile markers will need to be cohesive with the Henderson County side, which the numbering system has already may be based on old railroad markers. They are also discussing standards for

signs along the Trail. Location of all signs, kiosks, and mile markers are a decision for a later date.

The Board members also discussed the possibility of having trail amenities sponsored by commercial businesses (such as a kiosk), so that Trail grant money can be preserved for other amenities.

G. Terminus of Trail and Connector to (former) Estatoe Trail

NCDOT needed a decision about how the Board plans to connect the two Trails into one: either by having them do a temporary connection now off the new cul-de-sac (which can be altered later for smoother transition), or by creating an alternative plan that would not be paid by NCDOT.

A motion to have NCDOT do the temporary connector was introduced by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Perkins. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Action Items

TPD will assign categories to all the Trail encroachments (high, medium, or low) so that the Board can assess what screening may be appropriate at each location.

I. Public Comments

A citizen asked about if additional parking will be offered on Mountain Industrial Drive. The Board told him that parking lots and trailheads are still being looked into and will take the comment under advice.

Mr. Hooper announced the Ecusta Trail Working Group met today and their meetings will probably shadow this Board, so he will be able to update the Board of their progress.

J. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board 2.0 was scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 3:30 PM.

K. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

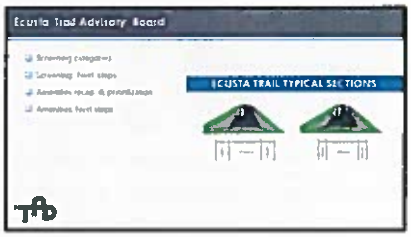
Minutes Approved- 9/25/24

x Aaron Baker
Aaron Baker, Chair

x Katherine Buzby
Katherine Buzby, City Planner

Attachments: TPD Presentation
Amenities Poll

9/5/24


Ecusta Trail Advisory Board
ECUSTA TRAIL TYPICAL SECTIONS


Screening Needed


Screening Needed


Private Property


Screening Needed


Screening Needed


Screening Needed


Screening Needed


Screening Needed


Screening Needed


Treatment Options


Treatment Types


Screening Needed


Treatment Types


Treatment Types


Screening Needed


Treatment Types


Treatment Types

Treatment Types

- Landscaping (buffer/screening)



What's Next?

- Develop criteria for screening
- Level of impact (high, medium and low or major amount
- Some situations will require meeting with property owner



Amenities: What do we mean?

Level II
- Parking (requires ROW)
- Minor trailhead
- Public Restrooms (can be funded if in ROW)



Treatment Types

- Fence with landscaping



AMENITIES RE-CAP



Amenities: What do we mean?

Level I
(Not included in grant funding)
- Benches
- Overlooks
- Gateway Features
- Public Art
- Interpretive exhibits



What's Next?

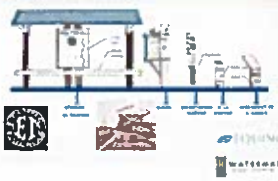


Amenities: What do we mean?

Level I
- Benches
- Water fountains
- Trail related information signs
- Kiosks ("Welcome")
- Utility markers (gas/oil/water/fiber)
- Bike racks
- Play for 5 and under
- Picnic tables and benches
- Trail use counters



Early Concepts




Signs


Prioritization Exercise
www.menti.com
4350057


In Development in Henderson Co


Station with kiosk


What's Next?


Public Meeting Items
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE


Prioritize


What's Next?

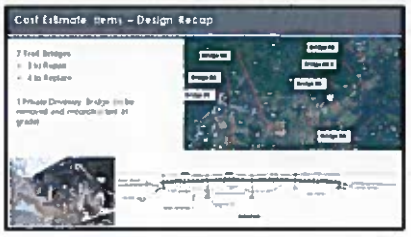

Connection To Estatoe Trail


Ecusta Trail (STIP BF-0002)

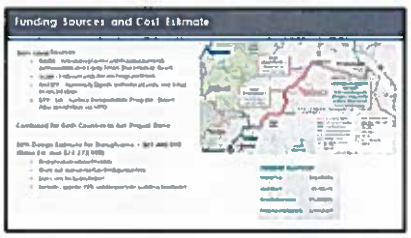

Cost Estimate Items – Design Recap


Cost Estimate Items – Design Recap


Timeline
Final Design & Construction

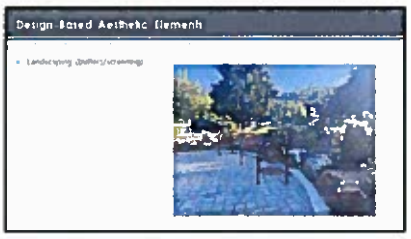

Cost Estimate Items – Design Recap


Funding for Amenities

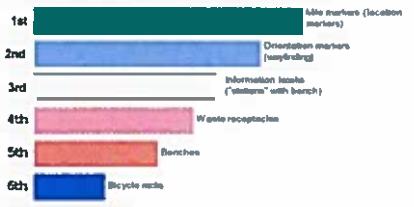

Funding Sources and Cost Estimate


Cost Estimate Items – Design Recap


Questions?


Design Based Aesthetic Elements

Please rank the following amenities



Please rank the following amenities



Please rank the following amenities:



Considering the greater trail project, please prioritize the following:

