MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Wednesday, September 25, 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 Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment (Zoom) Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment (Zoom)
Absent:	Chris Burns, Henderson County RTAC Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina
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, Christine Stout

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by City Planner Katherine Buzby.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve amended agenda by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Morrow. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve August 22, 2024 and September 5, 2024 meeting minutes by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Chapman.

E. Mileage Marker Discussion

Mr. Hunter Marks from Watermarks Landscape Architecture (part of the design team) discussed the mile marker design and spacing. The old Rail Road (RR) markers were found not to be consistent in terms of distances between them based on old maps they discovered. The old RR has many sections where it went straight but the new trail will curve, and areas where the trail has been moved to avoid obstacles like intersections, wetlands, streams, and existing encroachments. Many of the RR mile markers were not found along the Right-of-Way (ROW) and the ones they did locate where not in good shape or visually appealing. These changes make the old mile markers inconsistent with the actual mileage of the new trail. Henderson County has suggested to have their mile markers start at zero in downtown at their depot and will count up in ½ miles as the trail user would head up the trail towards Transylvania County. A safety issue arises if the numbering of the mile markers is not clear for emergency response. The design of the mile markers was presented (see attached) which has the posts made of composite materials (as opposed to wood for maintenance reasons) and contains a tread graphic plaque that resembles an arrow. Concern was brought up about the arrow graphic and should be used carefully as it can be confused for a trail direction arrow. The tread graphic with arrow will also accompany other verbiage, such as a sponsor or other entity decided upon by the Friends of Ecusta Trail. The mile markers will be black and white with the exemption of the plaques, which will be molding into the posts.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Ms. Perkins to have the mile marker numbering system start with zero in Hendersonville at the depot and continue upward to the terminus in 1-mile increments in Transylvania County, as well as approving the design presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The RTAC meeting in Henderson County is in three weeks and Friends of Ecusta Trail will advise them of the motion that passed regarding Transylvania County mile markers.

F. Possible Parking Options

Traffic Planning & Design (TPD) updated the group on the Public Engagement Event at the local library on September 10th, 2024 gave them a good amount of feedback and allowed them to confer with some adjoining property owners.

TPD is now focused on access along Transylvania County section of the trail and where people will park to access the trail. They are looking at properties that may be adjacent to the trail but not in the ROW so they can figure out what property owners to contact and what design criteria will be required including screening, amenities, and signage. They have created a table that

shows what the most important functions of parking will be, first being if the property is in the ROW or adjacent to the trail for funding purposes. Next is if the proposed location is in a Floodplain or Floodway due to restrictions. Following those, they are looking at nonresidential properties that may be not utilized or underutilized. The size was listed as under 20 parking spaces or 20+ parking spaces.

They have identified six possible locations that might work but need further site investigation:

1. The Conserving Carolina Rail Spur off of Ecusta Rd-There are an abundance of items in this ROW section currently and will be pretty disruptive and not ideal based on the operations of the industrial businesses in the area. It is also not immediately adjacent to the trail and with the trucks that currently are there, it could create an unsafe parking situation plus the property lines show that the current business in operation would have to be relocated. Plus, access to the parcel would require cars to turn across the current Estatoe trail to enter the property which creates safety issues.

2. Pisgah Labs- Adjacent parcel (3 acres) that is owned by Pisgah Labs but not a part of their current operations. The initial plan that was done by ALTA some years ago had already looked at this parcel at a very high level.

3. Adjacent vacant land adjacent to a farm on Old Hendersonville Hwy- 2 acres that is not currently a part of the farm use, adjacent to the ROW. Possibility for a very small parking area, maybe 15 parking spaces. The parcel is very close in proximity of the Triangle Stop on Old Hendersonville Hwy and Hwy 64 East near Penrose.

4. Little River Volunteer Fire Dept- This parcel is really close to the river access but previously stored Dupont chemicals. A cleanup of the chemicals has taken place but would need further site investigation. Some tanks still exist on the property.

5. Citizens Telephone Hendersonville Hwy-Nonresidential 4-acre track with some topography challenges right adjacent to the trail that is listed as exempt on the tax records and owned by the utility company.

6. STG Solar and Jones- Possible location of a combination trailhead (both counties) close to the county line and has river access.

TPD in the next step of design will look at what opportunities are available for restrooms and then look at recommended separation distances between restrooms. A recommendation to TPD was that parking areas should have restrooms. The businesses near the Swamp Rabbit Trail went with the whole "trail partner" idea that let people use their facilities in exchange for advertising on the website maps. This is one more element that can be considered but will not be available in the rural areas along the trail.

Any property actually purchased from a private holder will need to be done under the Rails to Trails LLC.

A suggestion for parking was to put a bridge over the drainage swale behind Oskar Blues to the County Park & Recreation area so that people could park and use those facilities. TPD will add this suggestion to the list of property owners to contact as an option.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Fogel suggested that angular parking could be added to the drive that goes around Pisgah Elementary. Discussion about how difficult this parking area would be due to drop off and pick up school traffic.

Another suggestion was the County property behind the Pisgah Forest Collection Center. This property is in the Floodplain/Floodway.

All suggestions are being added to the list by TPD.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

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

K. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

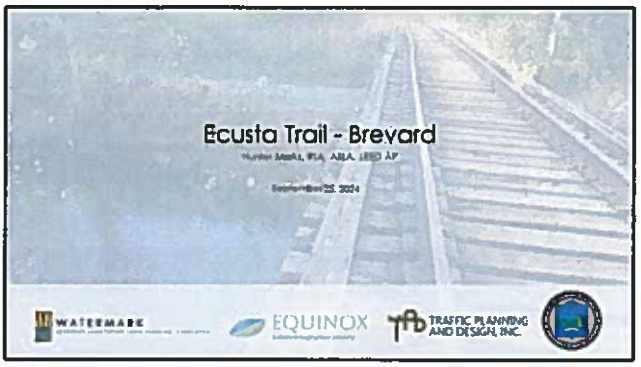
x Aaron Baker
Aaron Baker, Chair

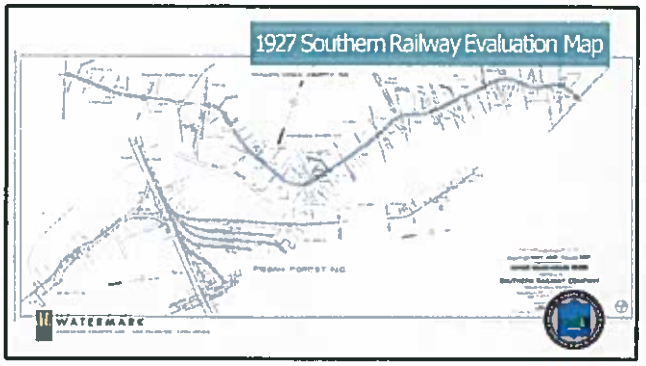
Minutes Approved- 10/30/24

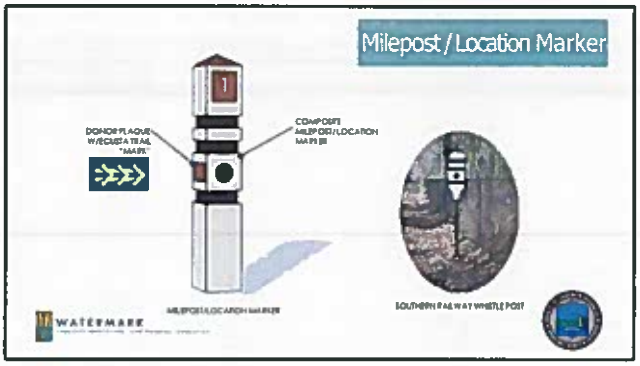
x Katherine Buzby
Katherine Buzby, City Planner

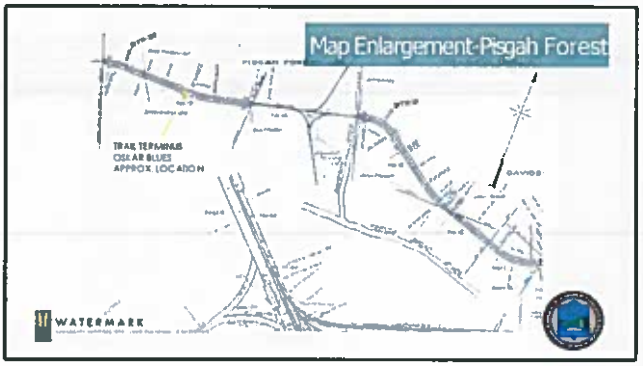
Attachments: TPD Presentation

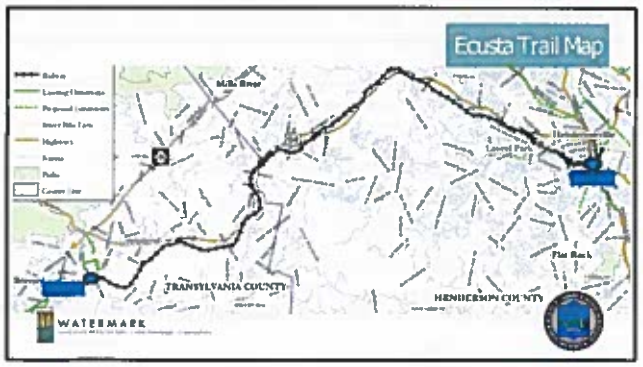
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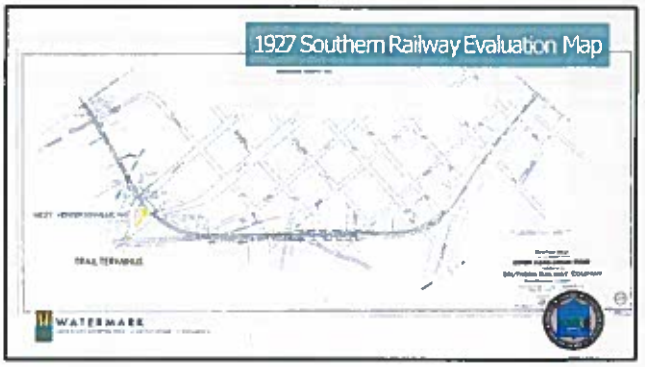

Ecusta Trail - Brevard
WATERMARK
EQUINOX
TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN, INC.


1927 Southern Railway Evaluation Map
WATERMARK

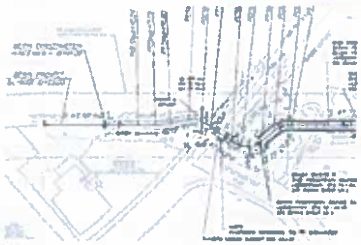

Milepost / Location Marker
DONOR PLAQUE W/ECUSTA TRAIL "MAP"
COMPOSITE MILEPOST/LOCATION MAPS (8)
MILEPOST/LOCATION MARKER
SOUTHERN RAILWAY WHISTLE POST
WATERMARK


Map Enlargement-Pisgah Forest
TRAIL TERMINUS OSCAR BLUES APPROX. LOCATION
WATERMARK


Ecusta Trail Map
Mills River
Laurel Park
Flat Rock
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY
HENDERSON COUNTY
WATERMARK


1927 Southern Railway Evaluation Map
TRAIL TERMINUS
WATERMARK

Trail Realignment Example



WATERMARK

List of Amenities

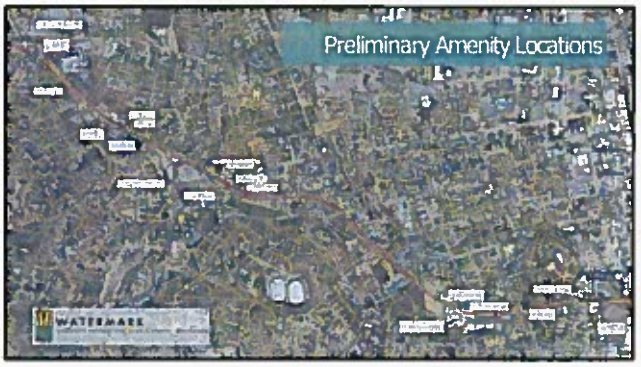
80% - 100%	0% - 100%
Stations	Parking Areas
Location Markers	Landscape Screening/Buffer Areas
Waste/Recycle Receptacles	Drinking Fountains
Benches	Bike Repair Stations
Bike Racks	Trail Counters
Orientation Markers	Viewing Platforms
Interpretative Signage	

WATERMARK

Questions?

WATERMARK EQUINOX TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN, INC

Preliminary Amenity Locations



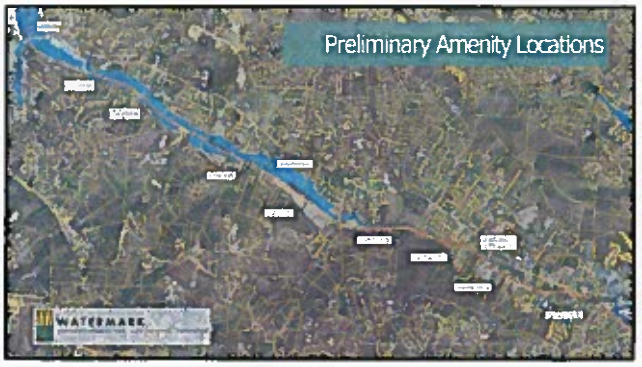
WATERMARK

Ecusta Trail Amenities

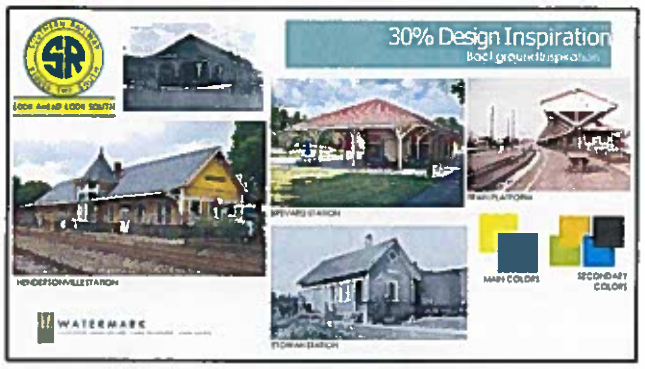
Hunter Mack, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Tanay Tarwater, PLA
June 24, 2024

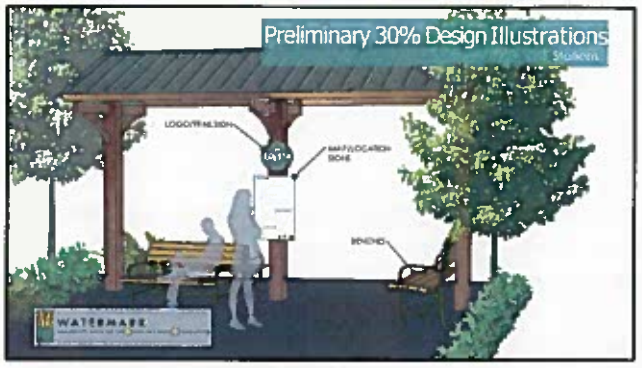
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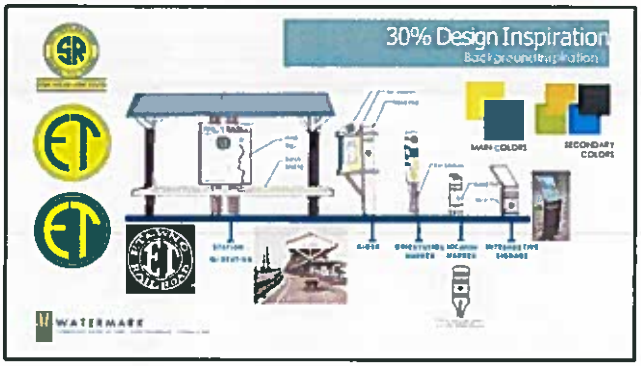
Preliminary Amenity Locations

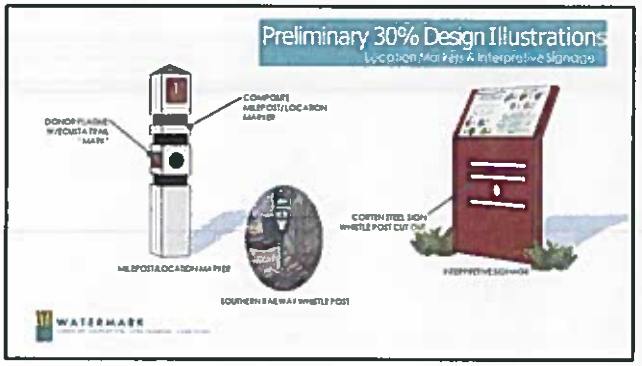


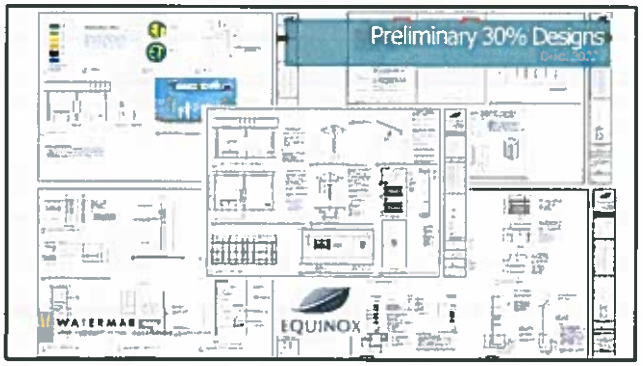
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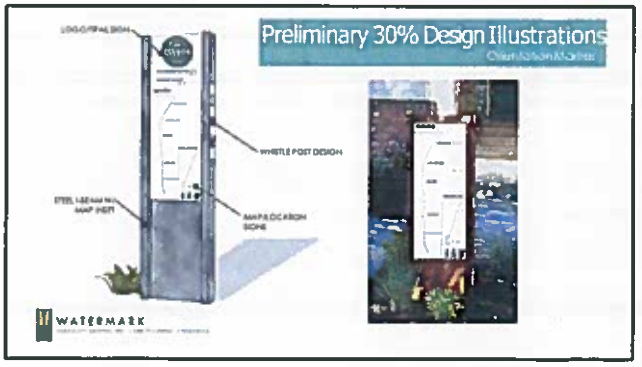

30% Design Inspiration
Background Inspiration
MAIN COLORS
SECONDARY COLORS
WATERMARK

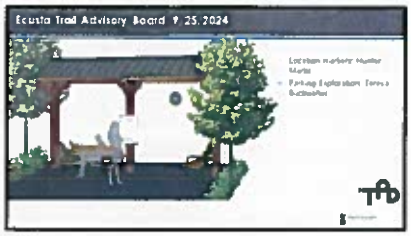

Preliminary 30% Design Illustrations
Stations
WATERMARK

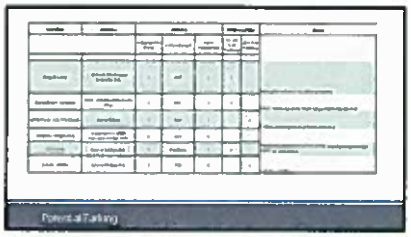

30% Design Inspiration
Background Inspiration
MAIN COLORS
SECONDARY COLORS
WATERMARK


Preliminary 30% Design Illustrations
Location Markers & Interpretive Signage
WATERMARK


Preliminary 30% Designs
WATERMARK
EQUINOX


Preliminary 30% Design Illustrations
WHISTLE POST DESIGN
WATERMARK


Ecusta Trail Advisory Board 9.25.2024

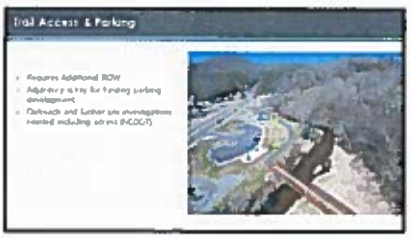

Potential Parking


Parking Explorations


Signs


Parking Exploration


Parking Explorations


Trail Access & Parking


Impacts to Canopy


Parking explorations


Parking explorations

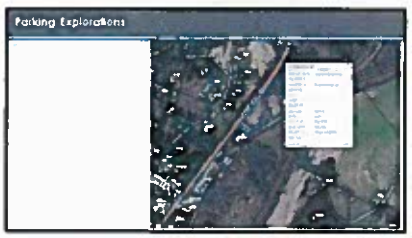

Parking Explorations


Parking explorations


Parking Explorations


Parking Explorations


Next Steps


Parking Explorations


Screening Needed


Treatment Options


Treatment Types


Questions?