

# Town of Laurel Park

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MONICA GILLETT - STALLINGS, Town Attorney

## RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ECUSTA RAIL TO TRAIL PLANNING STUDY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS TOWN OF LAUREL PARK

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hendersonville contracted with Alta Greenways, Inc., to complete a planning study and economic impact analysis of the inactive Norfolk Southern rail line that connects the City of Hendersonville to Brevard; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the study is to determine the feasibility of converting this inactive rail corridor, commonly referred to as the Ecusta Line, into a regional shared-use trail; and,

**WHEREAS**, A portion of the regional shared-use trail would transition through the Town of Laurel Park; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Town Council of Laurel Park agrees with the City Council of the City of Hendersonville recognizing that rail corridors throughout the United States that have been converted to regional trails contribute significantly to the economy of the regions in which they are located; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Ecusta Rail Trail Planning Study and Economic Impact Analysis has identified that building and maintaining the regional shared-use trail will result in substantial economic benefits to Henderson and Transylvania counties; and,

**WHEREAS**, those economic benefits include increased tourism, increased property values, increased tax revenues, job creation, and business investment; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional benefits include the provision of alternative transportation options and recreational amenities; and,

**WHEREAS**, this alternative transportation option and recreational amenity has a direct positive impact on the health of individuals, reducing health care costs, and increasing overall quality of life; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Town Council of Laurel Park agrees with the City Council of the City of Hendersonville recognizing the economic, recreational, and transportation benefits of a regional shared-use trail within western North Carolina and desires the aforementioned rail corridor be secured and developed as the foundation of a regional shared-use trail system in support of the region's tourism economy, and as an alternative means of transportation;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF LAUREL PARK THAT:**

Section 1. The Town Council of Laurel Park adopts the Ecusta Rail to Trail Planning Study and Economic Impact Analysis.

Section 2. The Town Council recognizes the value of this document as an informational resource and a framework for moving forward, acknowledging also that not all the recommendations in the plan may be appropriate for implementation, and supports the City of Hendersonville in inviting the community and other governments to collaborate in determining the best course of action for pursuing acquisition, construction, and management of a regional shared-use trail.


Section 3. The Town Council welcomes the partnership of any elected governments in Henderson and Transylvania Counties who decide it is in their citizens' best interest to join an effort to pursue the establishment of a regional shared-use trail and offers to assist in the coordination of governmental efforts for those bodies that wish to participate in such an effort.

Section 4. The Town Council invites any entities and organizations that support economic development, tourism, and public health to join in our endorsement of the development of a regional shared-use trail along the Norfolk Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania Counties.


Section 5. The Town Council of the Laurel Park respectfully requests the cooperation of the Norfolk Southern Corporation in the development of this regional shared-use trail along its rail corridor.

Section 6. The Town Council hereby encourages staff and other interested parties to take action as necessary to bring about the development of the aforementioned regional shared-use trail along the Norfolk Southern rail corridor linking Henderson and Transylvania Counties and direct staff to cooperate with all relevant Federal, State, and local agencies to implement the goals stated in this resolution.

Adopted this the 17th day of July, 2012.

  
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J. Carey O'Cain  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Kimberly B. Hensley, CMC  
Town Clerk