

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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COUNTY MANAGER
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101 South Broad Street
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Resolution #05-2017
In Support of Next Steps to Determine Feasibility of NC 280 Multi-Use Path
from Mills River to Brevard

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County 2025 Comprehensive Plan recommended by the Planning Board states:

1. Under the Land Use Section that the county “Develop appropriate infrastructure and educational programs for bikes and pedestrians to ensure safer roads.”
2. Under the Health Section that the county “Advocate with NCDOT to develop bike lanes, trails and pull offs to help minimize the danger on the road between bike and motor vehicles.”
3. Under the Economic Section that the county “Work closely with NCDOT, the City of Brevard and the Town of Rosman to support an efficient and modern transportation system that is safe, well maintained and accommodates a wide range of transportation choices including vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation throughout the county and the region; and

WHEREAS, safety of those driving vehicles, riding bicycles and walking in our transportation system is of utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, vehicle crashes on NC 280 in 2016 in Transylvania County increased by over 2.5 times the number of crashes in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County and Pisgah National Forest remain a premier destination for bicycle riders that are currently using NC 280 to connect to destinations in the area; and

WHEREAS, a joint study commissioned in 2014 for the Town of Mills River in the French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization and for Transylvania County in the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization reflected the majority of a multi-use path from Ferncliff Park Drive to Pisgah Forest could be constructed in existing NCDOT right of way; however, the study was a high level planning study and did not have a scope of work to determine exact locations and alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the joint study by Alta did not have funding to conduct extensive public involvement around the proposed NC 280 Multi-use path; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has existing multi-use paths that connect in to Pisgah Forest and is pursuing a bridge across the Davidson River to connect bicyclists and pedestrians to the entrance to Pisgah Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Bike Plan of 2013 identifies the NC 280 Multi-use path from Mills River to Brevard as one of the top five regional priorities for the Land of Sky Region; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County has recognized the importance of the Outdoor Industry and Outdoor Tourists activities as important components of our local economy alongside the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority and the Transylvania Economic Alliance; and

WHEREAS, multi-jurisdictional meetings with representatives from local businesses, nonprofits and local governments have expressed interest in exploring the potential for economic, health and safety benefits of the NC-280 Multi-use path;

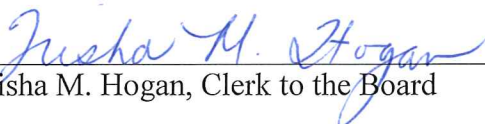
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners agree:

1. To direct staff to further engage the public by collaborating with the City of Brevard, Town of Mills River and other stakeholders to conduct workshops, share information and hear from property owners and the citizens about a potential NC 280 Multi-use path; and
2. To direct staff to pursue opportunities to identify funding that will allow engineering analysis of sections to refine the costs and potential location alternatives of the NC 280 Multi-use path; and
3. To direct staff to work to evaluate the NC 280 Multi-use path among county-wide bicycle and pedestrian needs and reflect how it fits into a larger network of multi-modal transportation and its relative priority to other facilities.

This the 27th day of March, 2017.


Larry L. Chapman, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board

