



September 8, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

The Friends of the Ecusta Trail is a nonprofit organization created to bring together people to build the Ecusta Trail, a rail-to-trail project connecting Hendersonville, Laurel Park and Brevard. We are also dedicated to promoting the development of a network of multi-use trails in Henderson and Transylvania Counties to connect our communities for recreation, active transportation and economic development.

On behalf of the board of The Friends of the Ecusta Trail, I would like to express our strong support for the concept of extending the Oklawaha Trail to Blue Ridge Community College. This extension will provide a trail connecting the two campuses of Blue Ridge Community College when the Ecusta Trail is completed.

The extension will provide a safe, well designed and improved opportunity to walk and bicycle. A thoughtfully planned network of bike and pedestrian routes will greatly enhance our attractiveness to visitors and potential residents, and will provide sustainable transportation options as well as recreation and health benefits.

Making bicycling and walking a more viable option for people in our community offers our citizens opportunities for a healthier lifestyle, boosts local businesses, and enables us to slow down and better appreciate the special place in which we live.

Again, on behalf of the Friends of the Ecusta Trail, we strongly endorse the extension of the Oklawaha Trail and we appreciate this opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

Hunter Marks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunter Marks", with a horizontal line underneath.

President, Friends of the Ecusta Trail