

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO  
APPLY FOR A REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE  
WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT FOR  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ECUSTA AND ESTATOE TRAILS**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Brevard has long valued quality multi-modal transportation infrastructure to meet the needs of our citizens, a value expressed through numerous public input efforts and planning processes over many years of various studies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has invested in multiple transportation related plans and partnered with other regional entities to develop these plans, including the: Downtown Masterplan of 2002, 2012 and 2021, the FHWA supported Ecusta Rail Trail Planning Study and Economic Impact Analysis of 2012, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan of 2007 and 2025, the Brevard Bicycle-Friendly Community Improvement Plan of 2018, the Transylvania County Bicycle Plan of 2019, the Blue Ridge Regional Bike Plan, and the Brevard Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan of 2006 and 2018, to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, these plans and investments confirm the interest to provide efficient alternative modes of transportation such as bike, transit, pedestrian and multi-use spaces in existence and coordination with traditional vehicular use corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard understands that a safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transportation system for all users is essential to the quality of life of our residents and to the health of our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, as stated in Resolution 2021-21, approved June 21, 2021, the City of Brevard has committed to taking on a lead role in securing funding, overseeing construction, and managing the public use of the section of the Ecusta Trail within Transylvania County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecusta Trail is a 19-mile regional trail system connecting Transylvania County to Henderson County that will bring many recreational, public health, and economic benefits to local residents and businesses within and beyond the City of Brevard; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Transportation has issued another round of its Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program, providing \$1.5 billion of funding for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact; and

**WHEREAS**, RAISE funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation that include, implement or enhance safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, state of good repair, innovation, and partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, City Staff is proposing that City Council authorize the City Manager to apply for the 2022 RAISE grant opportunity, and partner with Conserving Carolina to secure funding to cover the cost of grant writing. To achieve this, Conserving Carolina would apply for Leverage Funds from Dogwood Health Trust. The grant writing team this year would be a collaborative effort between Alta Planning + Design, and Julie Metz (Conserving Carolina's choice for its funded consulting services). Additional funds would be secured by Conserving Carolina to pay for a consultant, Robert Mariner, as introduced by Julie, to help the City prepare a strategy to bolster political support at the local, state, and federal levels.

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 RAISE applications are due by April 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm and notification of awards is expected on or before August 12, 2022; and

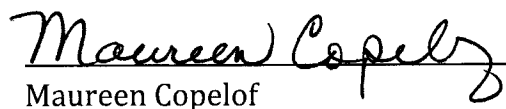
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:**

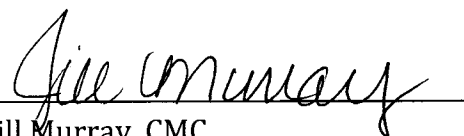
**SECTION 1.** The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for a RAISE grant and accept funding for the design, construction, and implementation of the City of Brevard's Estatoe Trail and the Transylvania County portion of the Ecusta Trail.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2022.



  
Maureen Copelof  
Mayor

  
Jill Murray, CMC  
City Clerk