

Huntersville Greenway, Trail, and Bikeways Commission



Summary Minutes: April 16, 2024

Members Present: Ken Stuart (Chair), Maria Reese, Geoffrey Locke (Co-Chair), Elaine Kerns, Randy Suggs, Christianna Beirne, Sally Walker, Tim Turton

Members Absent: Michael Griffin, Tim Turton

Town Staff Present: Tracy Houk

County Staff Present:

Town Board Present: Alisia Bergsman, Commissioner

Public Present:

Call To Order: Ken Stuart – 6:00 pm

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve March meeting minutes – approved unanimously

Agenda Changes: Staff suggests moving the Huntersville Bike Route next steps to May meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

BUSINESS:

- **Huntersville Bike Routes – Next Steps**

Motion to table Huntersville Bike Route next steps to May meeting – motion approved

- **Grants**

1. See the attached list of grants that the town staff is currently researching for Bike/Ped projects

- **Top 3 Priorities – next steps**

1. **Connecting** the downtown area to the surrounding greenways, and bike/ped facilities. The GTBC will continue to make sure this is not forgotten about. Town staff is reviewing options looking at the big picture and determining available grants.
2. **Stephens Grove:** is on staff radar to connect to Barry Park, Lower McDowell, and continue down to Auten Nature Preserve.
3. **Skybrook:** connecting Skybrook to the Vermillion Greenway
 - The GTBC Committee will continue to discuss priorities/concerns with the community and adjust priorities as needed. Having a map at Wine on The Vine to show residents what is coming, what we currently have, and where they can access/connect is key.
 - **Next Steps:** Look at sidewalk gaps along major thoroughfares, where can we chip away at adding Sidepaths to help fill those gaps? The [2020 Bike Plan](#) recommends sidepaths along major thoroughfares – refer to the recommended sidepath map to see if there are small projects that we can focus on and apply for funding.
 - Refer to pages 37-49 in the [2020 Bike Plan](#)

Updates/Comments

- **Wine on The Vine**
 - Swag: Water bottles / Wine Corks
 - Bartenders confirmed
 - Music Secured
 - Charcuterie Cone confirmed
 - 760 confirmed
 - Table Info: Map for dots, Bike Plan full map, cheat sheet with dates for projects
 - Tracy will send out more information on when to arrive closer to the event.
 - Registration is open / marketing will go out by end of the week
- **Redline Project & Upcoming Meetings**
 - See attached for meeting dates/times
 - Vist CATS YouTube channel for a virtual recording
 - https://www.youtube.com/live/_nDpvMI3Eg0?si=PrYITgmGE21JXTpJ
 - Website: <https://www.charlottenc.gov/CATS/Transit-Planning/Red-Line>
- **Great Trails State Conference**
 - September 11-13 | Winston-Salem | Benton Convention Center
 - <https://greattrailsstatecoalition.org/conference/>
- **Involvement in Parks and Recreation Mini Events** to get in front of the community more.
 - Link to events on the website: <https://www.huntersville.org/191/Events>
 - If you can work an event for an hour or 2, let Tracy know, she will have everything you need.
- **Mayor's Fitness Challenge** – if you aren't already registered, please do. Tracy will send a link to register in the morning – we do weekly walks along greenways/trails.
 - <https://www.huntersville.org/243/Mayors-Fitness-Challenge>

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned – 7:11 pm

Grant applications to keep our eyes on:

o Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

- Multiple deadlines: 5/16/24, and 8/29/24
- \$5 billion over 5 years from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Will be awarding 100s of Action Plan Grants this year
- Action Plan Award Amounts: min \$100,000, max \$10M
- Expected to complete in 1-2 years
- 20% local match
- By applying for and completing an Action Plan Grant, we'd be eligible for an implementation grant in future rounds to implement the strategies/projects identified in the Safety Action Plan (\$2.5M-\$25M awards)

o Great Trails State Program Grant

- Opened March 1, 2024
- Deadline September 3, 2024
- Max grant request: \$500K
- Min grant request:
 - Land and easement acquisition: \$100K
 - Construction of paved multi-use trail/greenways: \$300K
 - Construction of natural surface trail: \$100K
 - Maintenance of paved multi-use trail/greenway trail: \$250K
- Match: Flexible, details tbd · <https://ncparks.webgrantscloud.com/>

o Recreational Trails Program

- Competitive grant for trail projects
- Deadline: 9/6/24
- Funding Range: \$10K-\$100K
- Eligible applicants: local government and nonprofits
- Eligible projects
 - New Trail/Greenway Construction or Renovation
 - Approved Trail/Greenway Facilities & Trail Head/Trail Markers
 - Purchase of Tools to Construct and/or Renovate
 - Land Acquisition for Trail Purposes
- Planning, legal, environmental, and permitting costs – up to 10% of grant amount
- Match Requirement: 25% flexible match

o Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)

- Deadline 6/17/2024
- Funds made available for FY 2023 for ATIIP are to be awarded on a competitive basis to construct eligible projects to provide safe and connected active transportation facilities in an active transportation network or active transportation spine
 - Prioritizes projects that advance safety, equity, climate and sustainability, and workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation
- Planning Grants (\$100,000-\$2,000,000)
- Construction Grants (\$7,500,000-\$12,000,000); total project cost must be at least \$15 million
- Must be obligated by September 30, 2026