## **Henderson County Chamber of Commerce**

## **Statement of Support**

## For the

## Hendersonville to Brevard Greenway

The Board of Directors of the 1,000+ member Henderson County Chamber of Commerce endorse efforts to create a Greenway corridor from Hendersonville to Brevard. We specifically support the work of the Friends of the Hendersonville to Brevard Greenway group that is attempting to create this greenway along the discontinued Norfolk & Southern railway line. This "rails to trails" initiative will positively impact both Henderson and Transylvania counties.

- The proposed rails to trails route is a discontinued railway spur that no longer serves industry in Henderson or Transylvania counties.
- The economic benefits resulting from this greenway include tourist service businesses as well bicycle repair & sales facilities.
- The project will add to Henderson and Transylvania County Eco-Tourism offerings, helping to create the critical mass needed to exponentially boost tourism in our area.
- The project will create employment opportunities in Henderson and Transylvania Counties.
- The project will increase tax revenues for Henderson and Transylvania counties.
- The project creates an alternative transportation opportunity for commuters who prefer walking, running, or bicycling.
- The project promotes healthier lifestyles for residents of Henderson & Transylvania counties.

For the reasons cited above we encourage the City of Hendersonville, the City of Brevard, Henderson County, Transylvania County and the State of North Carolina to support and endorse this project.