



Oskar Blues Brewery fully supports the creation of a multiuse trail along the TR rail line that runs between Brevard and Hendersonville. The economic and recreational benefits for our county are substantial. We look forward to the completion of this project.

We support the creation of the multiuse path for the following reasons:

- Trails and pathways have been proven to increase activity in downtown business areas and areas along the pathway, by making it easier for people to get to businesses without having to worry about parking and traffic.
- Trails boost spending at local businesses. Businesses and communities along trails benefit from the influx of visitors going to breweries, restaurants, bike shops and other retail establishments. On longer trails, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and outdoor outfitters benefit. Trails can also spur business investment and increased property values along the rail corridor.
- Trails make communities more attractive places to live and work. Trails influence business location and relocation decisions. Companies often choose to locate in communities that offer a high level of amenities to employees as a means of attracting and retaining top-level workers. Trails can make communities attractive to businesses looking to expand or relocate both because of the amenities they offer to employees and the opportunities they offer to cater to trail visitors.
- A multiuse trail of this caliber will provide a low or no-cost recreation amenity that can be used by all age groups and abilities for physical activity. Trails can reduce medical costs by encouraging exercise and other healthy outdoor activities.
- Creation of this multiuse path would be a great complement to our existing greenway and public land trail systems. The trail supports both the Transylvania County 2025 Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- The multiuse path would support our outdoor recreation/natural asset economy and could help to attract young people and families in addition to new businesses and economic investment in Brevard.
- These benefits represent a huge economic return on the money invested into trail projects. The costs of land acquisition for trails, trail construction and maintenance are far outweighed by the economic benefits generated by trails.

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