



The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2026 SS4A Grant Application – ***Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation***

Dear Secretary Duffy:

Friends of Ecusta Trail strongly supports the SS4A grant application “Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation,” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Hendersonville, the French Broad River MPO, and NCDOT.

The 7th Avenue Safety Implementation project will improve safety for all roadway users along a historic downtown corridor; provide a comfortable and welcoming public realm for families, individuals, and visitors; act as a catalyst for tourism and economic development; improve resilience to flooding events; and create improved connections to multiple major regional trails that are already proving their economic value in the community.

By supporting this effort, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with the Trump Administration's objectives, including:

- Creating a safer local transportation system.
- Increasing quality of life for local families and individuals, and visitors.
- Providing improved accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while maintaining vehicular roadway capacity.
- Creating local jobs and supporting local businesses, increasing tourism, and promoting economic opportunity.

In summary, the Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation project will act as an engine—improving safety, integrating transportation and recreation options, and enhancing economic development for small town Hendersonville.

Thank you for considering our application for SS4A Program funding.

Sincerely,

Laura Rice
Executive Director
Friends of Ecusta Trail