

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT

WHEREAS:

1. The Rails to Trails initiative aims to convert the former Oneida Line corridor into a multi-use trail for pedestrians, bicyclists, runners, and non-motorized recreation;
2. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is negotiating to acquire the corridor under a Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU), with the goal that another public entity will ultimately take on the corridor from TPL to secure its permanent preservation as a trail;
3. The County recognizes the public health, economic development, outdoor recreation, and connectivity benefits such a trail would provide to local communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

1. **Support Without Financial Commitment:** That the Anderson County Commission supports the Rails to Trails Project and TPL's interim acquisition efforts, *without* committing County funds at this time.
2. **State Engagement Endorsement:** That the County encourages and supports TPL's efforts to obtain State funding for the final purchase of the corridor to ensure its permanent preservation as a public trail.
3. **Partnership for Implementation:** That, upon trail acquisition and pending future appropriations from grants, private philanthropy, or other sources, the County is willing to collaborate with TPL, TCWP, and other nonprofits to support trail construction, maintenance, programming, and stewardship—*only to the extent that no direct County contribution is required unless separately authorized.*
4. **Proactive Resource Identification:** That the County supports seeking and leveraging available grant funding (federal, state, regional) and philanthropic resources to help fund construction, maintenance, and trail-related amenities.
5. **Continued Coordination:** That the County expresses its intent to work cooperatively with local municipalities, TCWP, TPL, and other community partners in planning, promoting, and sustaining the trail as a shared regional asset.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and be forwarded to the State of Tennessee, TPL, TCWP, and relevant municipal partners as evidence of the County's supportive posture.

ADOPTED this [DAY] of [MONTH], 2025.

Chair, Anderson County Commission

ATTEST:

County Clerk