



**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

FY 2025 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION

HENDERSONVILLE, NC ABOVE THE MUD

Creating Connections • Promoting Small-Town Economic Development • Strengthening Resilience



ABOVE THE MUD HENDERSONVILLE, NC

LEGEND

- 'Above the Mud' Trail
- 7th Ave Streetscape Improvements
- Festival Street
- Oklawaha Greenway Boardwalk
- Existing Streetscape Improvements
- Oklawaha Greenway
- Ecusta Trail
- Proposed Saluda Grade Rail Trail
- Other Proposed Greenways
- NCDOT Projects
- Future Streetscape Improvements

- Buildings
- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Parks, Open Space, & Conserved Land
- Railroad
- Hendersonville Municipal Boundaries
- Downtown Hendersonville



COMPONENT 2
7th Ave. Streetscape Improvements

Funded sidewalk improvements

COMPONENT 4
Oklawaha Greenway Boardwalk

Future streetscape improvements

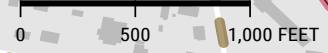
COMPONENT 1
'Above the Mud' Trail

COMPONENT 3
Festival Street

Roundabout / trail crossing improvements
NCDOT U-6049

Sidewalk improvements
NCDOT EB-5963

NCDOT U-5886



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Above the Mud project will provide multimodal infrastructure that will spur small-town economic development, jobs, and tourism while rebuilding a trail segment damaged by recurring flooding and Hurricane Helene. The project will extend the 19-mile regional Ecusta Trail that is expected to generate significant rural economic impact, bringing residents and tourists safely into Downtown Hendersonville. It will also reconnect to underserved neighborhoods, improving safety and access.

This project focuses on creating a loop of multimodal transportation access, ultimately connecting three major developing regional trail systems. The infrastructure effort will make Hendersonville a hub and beacon of tourism and economic activity. The project will reconnect historic black neighborhoods, build new connections, improve existing greenway impacted by recent flooding, and rebuild an aging three-block stretch of South Main Street, near the Ecusta Trail, as a regional activity hub and Festival Street that directly connects Downtown Hendersonville with the regional trail network.

Components of this project include:



Location

City of Hendersonville,
North Carolina



Total Mileage

2.58 miles of improvements

Including improved safety, increased accessibility, multi-use paths, sidewalks, streetscape improvements, pedestrian-friendly streets, and strengthened climate resiliency.



COMPONENT 1

'Above the Mud' Trail

A 1.56 mile separated shared use pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians through natural areas, connecting the Oklawaha Greenway to the regional Ecusta Trail, future Saluda Grade Trail, and downtown Hendersonville.



COMPONENT 2

7th Avenue Streetscape Improvements

A safe and walkable .41 mile connection between northeastern neighborhoods and downtown with improved sidewalks, lighting, green infrastructure, pedestrian amenities, and ADA compliance.



COMPONENT 3

Festival Street

A .28 mile pedestrian-focused street and flexible event space catalyzing economic development for businesses, with limited automobile access, connecting downtown to three regional trails.



COMPONENT 4

Oklawaha Greenway Boardwalk (on existing trail)

A .33 mile elevated boardwalk, retrofitting the current trail to be a safer and stormwater resilient trail connection for pedestrians and bicyclists along the Oklawaha Greenway.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & DETAILS



A vibrant, safe, and active community, through street and trails that prioritize pedestrians and bicyclists and serve users of all ages and abilities.



Greatly improved access to downtown, disadvantaged neighborhoods, schools, food, businesses, and parks and natural areas.



More livable, resilient streets that use trees and stormwater best practices to shade, clean the air and water, and better manage flooding.



Economic revitalization by connecting a critical regional trail link and improving 7th Avenue and South Main Street.

7TH AVE. STREETSCAPE

Downtown Hendersonville
Photo courtesy of NCTripping.com



ABOVE THE MUD TRAIL & OKLAWAHA BOARDWALK

Northwest Arkansas Razorback Regional Greenway
Photo courtesy of Experience Fayetteville



FESTIVAL STREET

S. Main St., Hendersonville
Conceptual rendering



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In partnership with:

