

Proclamation

National Bike Month – May 2026

WHEREAS, the bicycle, first developed in the early 19th century and evolving into the modern “safety bicycle” of the late 1800s, has long served as an affordable, efficient, and accessible mode of transportation that supports both recreation and daily mobility needs ; and

WHEREAS, bicycling remains a human-powered, energy-efficient, and environmentally sustainable form of transportation that reduces traffic congestion, lowers emissions, and promotes public health through physical activity; and

WHEREAS, communities across the United States, including the City of Hendersonville, are experiencing a growing demand for safe, accessible, and connected bicycle infrastructure as more residents and visitors choose bicycling for transportation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, despite this increased interest, bicyclist safety remains a significant concern, with nearly 1,000 bicyclists killed and over 120,000 injured annually in crashes in the United States, and recent data showing rising fatalities over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, these trends disproportionately impact the City’s most vulnerable residents and highlight the urgent need for continued investment in safe streets, protected facilities, education, and policies that support all roadway users and reduce serious injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville is committed to advancing multimodal transportation options and recognizes bicycling as a vital component of a balanced and resilient transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the City proudly partners with entities such as the **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**, **Bike.Walk.HVL**, and the **Blue Ridge Bicycle Club** to promote bicycle safety, education, advocacy, and infrastructure improvements throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the City supports and encourages participation in **Strive Not to Drive Week**, taking place May 15 through May 22, 2026, as an opportunity for residents to explore alternative transportation options, including bicycling, walking, and transit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville is responsible for maintaining 136 lane miles of local streets, 10.7 lane miles of which feature on-street bicycle facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville features 5.4 miles of off-street bicycle trails & greenways; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville provides feedback to NCDOT to guide improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities on its state-maintained streets; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville, with projects such as the 1.8-mile Clear Creek Greenway - which is slated for completion in the Spring of 2027, continues to invest in bicycle-friendly infrastructure, policies and programs that enhance quality of life, support economic vitality, and foster a safe and active community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Barbara Volk, Mayor of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2026 as

“NATIONAL BIKE MONTH”

in the City of Hendersonville, and encourage all residents to celebrate by bicycling safely, supporting local initiatives, and promoting a culture of respect and awareness for all who share our streets.

PROCLAIMED this 13th day of May, 2026.

Seal

Barbara G. Volk, Mayor
City of Hendersonville

Attest: _____
Jill Murray, City Clerk