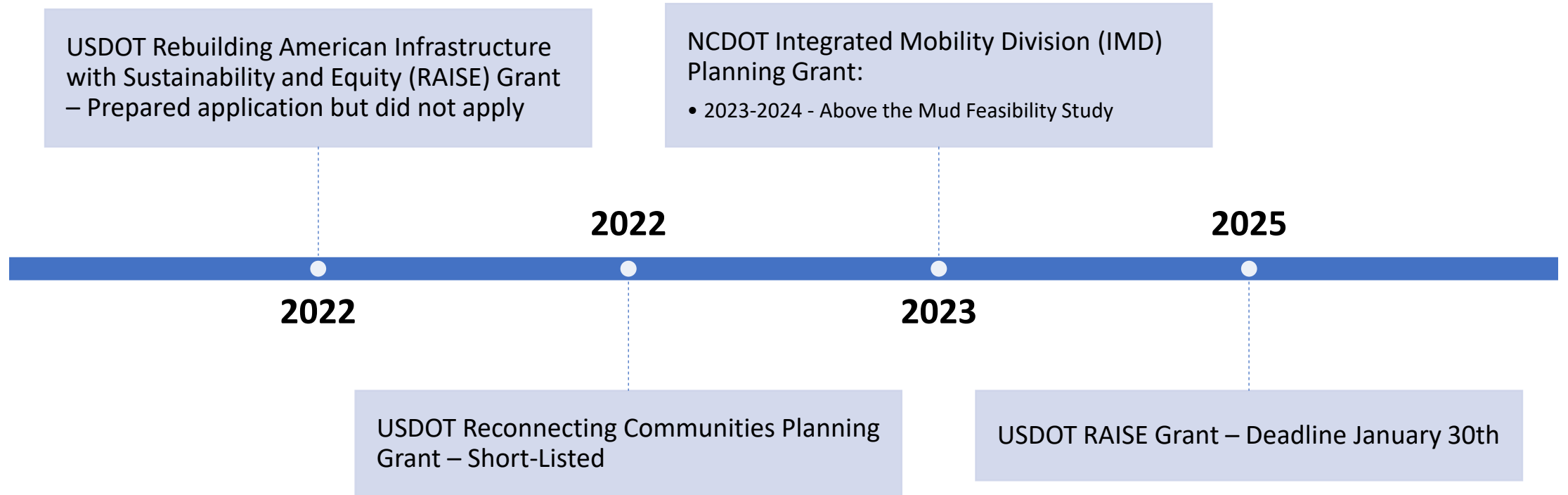




ABOVE THE MUD

A project Connecting the Oklawaha Greenway, Ecusta Trail, Main Street, 7th Avenue, and Larger WNC regional trail network

Project Background



LEGEND

- Above the Mud Greenway
 - 7th Ave Streetscape Improvements
 - Festival Street (South Main St.)
 - Oklawaha Greenway Resiliency Upgrades
 - 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

**ABOVE THE MUD
HENDERSONVILLE, NC**



Project Components



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.

FESTIVAL STREET

S. Main St., Hendersonville
Conceptual rendering

Curbless, flexible-use space

Pedestrian and bicyclist-focused design

A new downtown "gateway"



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.

Community Engagement



- **2022 RAISE – Kick-off Public Meeting (well-attended)**
- **2023-2024 Above the Mud Feasibility Study - Steering Committee, Public Meetings, 2 Surveys**
- **2025 RAISE:**
 - **Contracted Alta Planning + Design – November 6, 2024**
 - **Stakeholder Group Kick-off – November 14, 2024**
 - **Community survey launch – November 27, 2024**
 - **Promoted survey/raised awareness at Housing Listening Sessions and Turkey Trot – Nov-Dec**
 - **Door-to-Door outreach in Green Meadows / 7th Ave Area – December 19, 2024**
 - **Community survey closed – December 31, 2024**
 - **36 Letters of Support Received to date**

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR USDOT RAISE GRANT FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT THE ABOVE THE MUD PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hendersonville considers bicycle and pedestrian transportation to be of utmost importance to the region by providing Western North Carolina with recreation and equitable transportation opportunities as well as increased economic viability and community development; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hendersonville adopted a resolution on April 5, 2012 supporting a regional recreational greenway to link the City of Hendersonville in Henderson County to the City of Brevard in Transylvania County and the Pisgah National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has established a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program that provides funding for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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, and reconnect to underserved neighborhoods, improving safety and access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina that:

1. The City of Hendersonville shall submit an application to USDOT for a RAISE Grant to fund the design and construction of the Above the Mud Project in Henderson County; and
2. The Mayor and/or City Manager shall hereby be authorized on behalf of the City of Hendersonville to execute any and all documents required for the City to complete and submit the grant application for up to \$25,000,000.00 in funding with commitment of \$1,600,000.00 in matching funds from the City.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina on this 8th day of January 2025.

SUGGESTED MOTION(S): I move that City Council approve the resolution to submit a RAISE Grant application to USDOT for the Above the Mud project.



Thank You!