



RESOLUTION TITLE AMENDMENT TO THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN TO REFLECT THE ROUTE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GASTONIA-CROWDERS MOUNTAIN PAVED PATHWAYS FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2009, the Gaston County Parks and Recreation Commission and on February 26, 2009, the Gaston County Planning Board, voted to recommend adoption/approval of the "Carolina Thread Trail Plan for Gaston County Communities" to the Gaston County Board of Commission, and,

WHEREAS, a Resolution to support the Carolina Thread Trail was approved by the Board of County Commission on March 26, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the Carolina Thread Trail has submitted a map amendment to include the route recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Planning and Zoning Board voted to recommend adoption/approval of the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps Amendment at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2025, and,

WHEREAS, public hearing comments are on file in the Commission Clerk's Office as part of the minutes of the meeting

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners adopts the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps Amendment; a submittal to reflect the route recommendation of the Gaston-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study that is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for Gaston County residents and visitors.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows.

| NO. | DATE | M1 | M2 | JBailey | CBrown | CCloninger | AFraley | BHoivis | TKeigher | SShehan | Vote |
|----------|------------|----|----|---------|--------|------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------|
| 2025-335 | 10/28/2025 | BH | SS | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | U |

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CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT
GASTON COUNTY STAFF REPORT

| APPLICATION SUMMARY |
|---|
| Request: |
| To amend the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan to reflect the route recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study |
| Applicant(s): |
| Carolina Thread Trail – Jane Love |

| BACKGROUND & SUMMARY |
|--|
| <p>The Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) applied for a feasibility study grant through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to evaluate a potential paved pathway connection between Crowders Mountain and downtown Gastonia. Once the grant was awarded, the City of Gastonia partnered with the CTT, the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO), and NCDOT to develop the study</p> <p>The study re-examined the CTT route between existing trail segments at Crowders Mountain State Park and downtown Gastonia, with a focus on incorporating the city’s new Linwood Springs Park as a central connection point.</p> <p>After reviewing alternatives, the preferred route follows Crowders Creek on the west and connects through Linwood Springs Park to the Blackwood Creek greenway on the east, continuing north to tie into the W Second Ave bikeway and downtown network.</p> <p>The Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors is requesting to amend the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan to reflect the recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study</p> |

Attachments: Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Item, Recommended Amendment Map, and City of Gastonia Adopted Resolution



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CAROLINA
THREAD TRAIL.

Meeting: August 19, 2025 Board of Directors

Staff Contact: Jane Love, CTT Staff

Report Date: 8/13/2025

Agenda Item: 5.c

Action Item

Amendment to CTT Master Plan for Gaston County

Background:

As a result of an NCDOT grant, CTT and the City of Gastonia recently developed and finalized the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study. The study re-evaluated the CTT route between existing trail segments at Crowders Mountain State Park and downtown Gastonia, considering the opportunity to link to the City's new Linwood Springs Park in between those points.

Study Recommendation

Five route alternatives were ranked between Crowders Mountain State Park and Linwood Springs Park (western route) while four route alternatives were ranked between the latter park and the edge of downtown (eastern route). As a result of the process, the preferred western route remains along Crowders Creek, as in the adopted CTT Master Plan. The preferred eastern route uses some of the new trail in Linwood Springs Park, turns east to connect to the existing greenway along Blackwood Creek, and continues north through neighborhoods to reach the sidewalk/bikeway trail on W Second Ave, which is part of the downtown network. Please see the attached map of the entire recommended route.

Amendment of CTT Master Plan for Gaston County

Amending the CTT Master Plan to reflect the study recommendations would finalize the goal of the study. The amended plan would also support the City's ability to secure developer-led trail construction in the corridor, as growth increases in the area around the new city park.

Gastonia City Council adopted the final study on August 5, 2025. The Amendment to the CTT Master Plan requires Board approval as well as approval by the Gaston County Commission. CTT staff is coordinating with Gaston County staff who were involved in the study to request an item for consideration on a Commission meeting agenda.



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**CAROLINA
THREAD TRAIL.**

Financial:

There is no cost for the in-house amendment of the CTT Master Plan. Implementation of the trail is likely to occur in segments over time, with potential CTT grants to be considered in the future, if requested by implementers.

Attachments:

Map of recommended alternative from the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study

Recommendation:

Staff requests the Board to approve an amendment to the CTT Master Plan for Gaston County, in order to reflect the route recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study

Resolved:

By majority vote of its members, the Board of Directors hereby approves an amendment to the CTT Master Plan for Gaston County that reflects the route recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study

This action is effective the 19th day of August, 2025



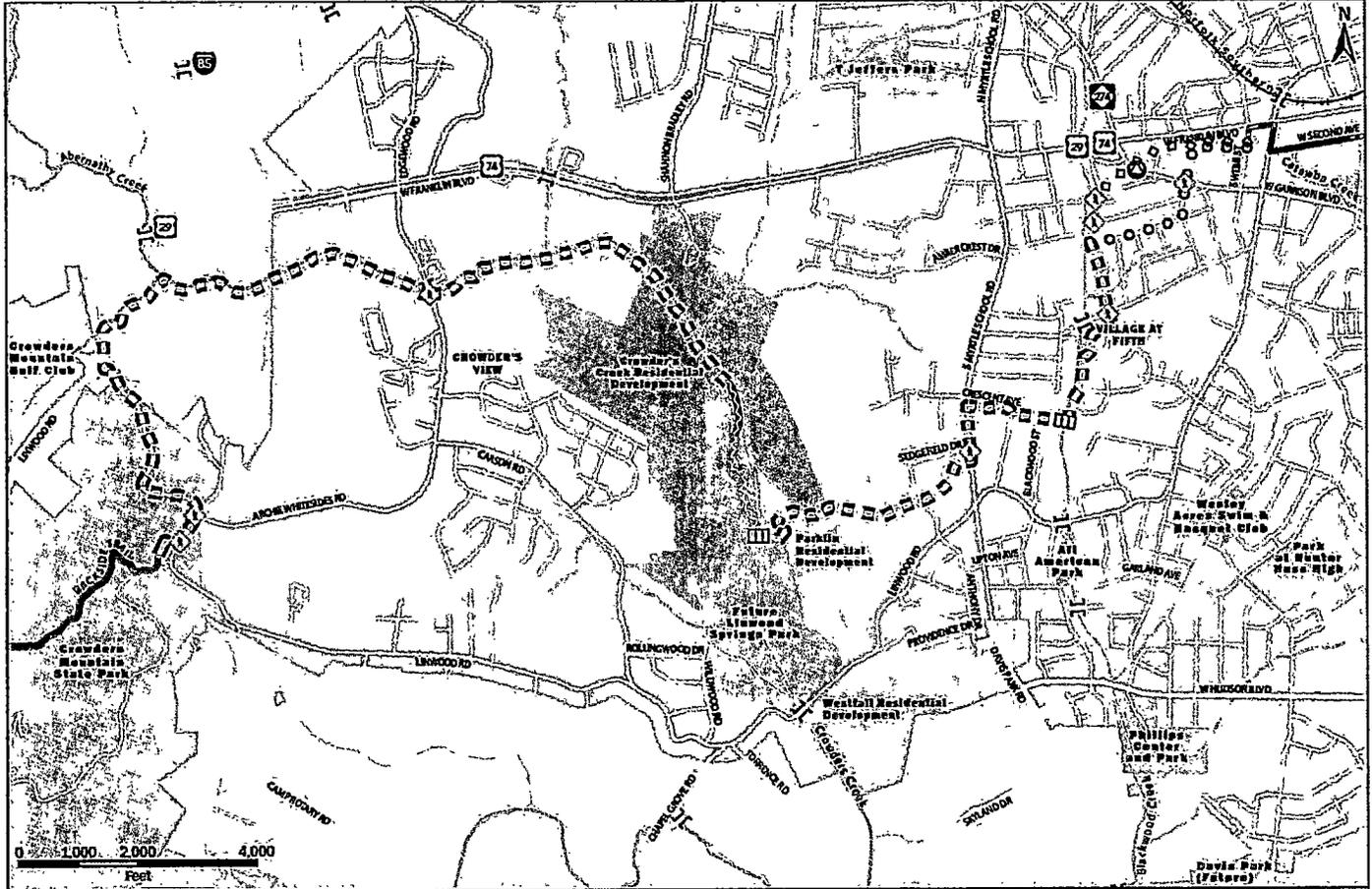
Janet Hanson, Chair



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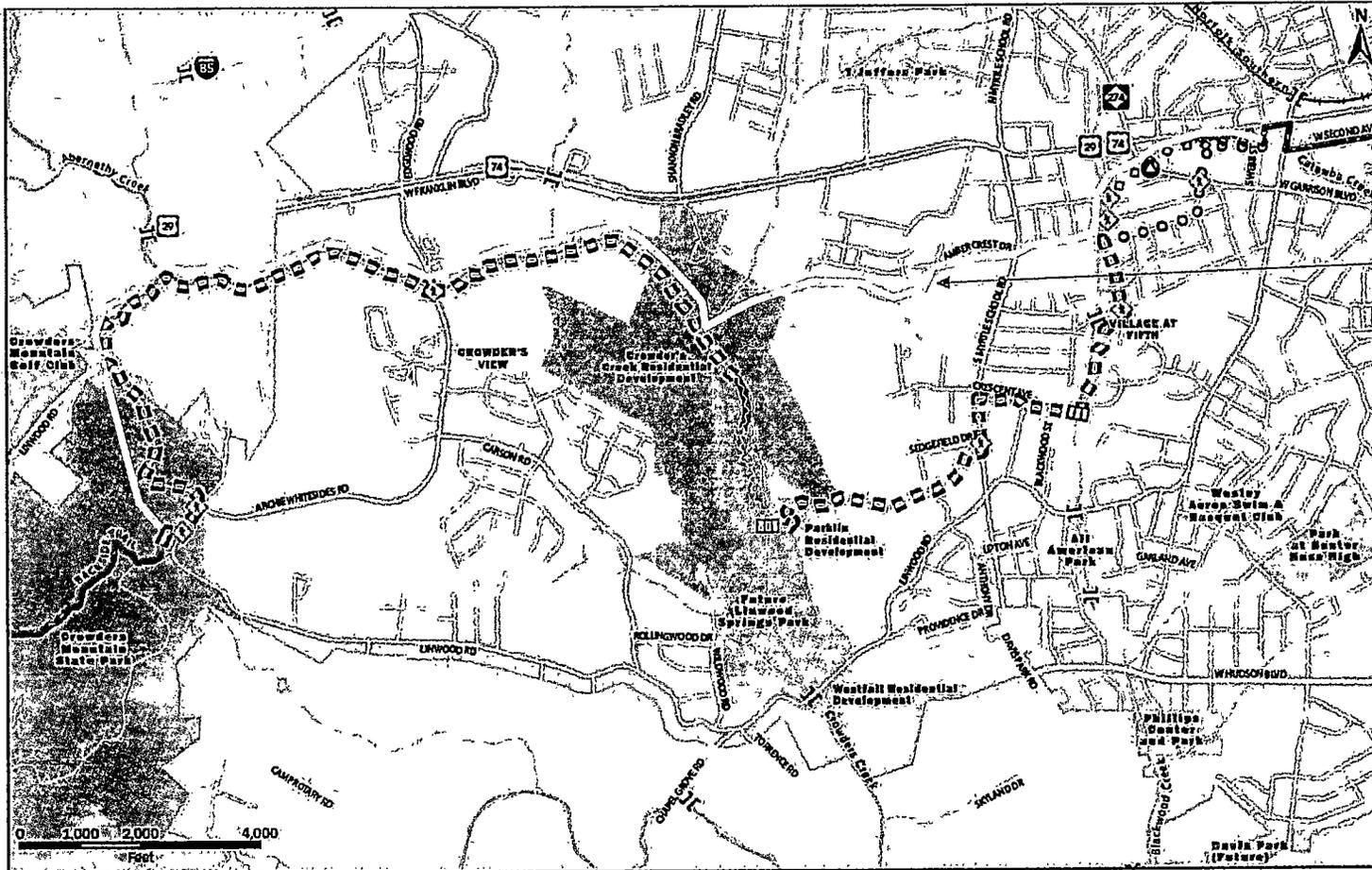
CAROLINA
THREAD TRAIL.



**GASTONIA-CROWDERS MOUNTAIN
 PAVED PATHWAYS FEASIBILITY STUDY**

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Recommended Alternative | Existing Carolina Thread Trail | Stream |
| Option A | DOT Bridge | Park |
| Option B | Pedestrian Bridge | City of Gastonia |
| Connector to Linwood Springs Park | Pedestrian Crossing | |
| Linwood Park Former Cart Path | Garrison Blvd Culvert | |



Previously adopted route

**GASTONIA-CROWDERS MOUNTAIN
PAVED PATHWAYS FEASIBILITY STUDY**

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Recommended Alternative | Existing Carolina-Thread Trail | Stream |
| Option A | DOT Bridge | Park |
| Option B | Pedestrian Bridge | City of Gastonia |
| Connector to Linwood Springs Park | Pedestrian Crossing | |
| Linwood Park Former Cart Path | Garrison Blvd Culvert | |





RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CROWDERS MOUNTAIN PAVED TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, the Carolina Thread Trail submitted a feasibility study grant application to the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for a downtown Gastonia to Crowd's Mountain Paved Pathway study

WHEREAS, the Carolina Thread Trail feasibility study grant application was approved by the NCDOT and shortly thereafter, Benesch was contracted to conduct the study

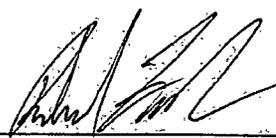
WHEREAS, the extension of greenways in partnership with the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) and private developers as a component of the Linwood Springs Park and extension through private development surrounding the park is part of the City of Gastonia Strategic Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia has worked in partnership with the Carolina Thread Trail (the grant applicant), Gaston Cleveland Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO), and the NC Department of Transportation in the development of this plan.

WHEREAS, City staff is seeking adoption of the plan by City Council to provide guidance and leverage additional funding opportunities for greenway extensions.

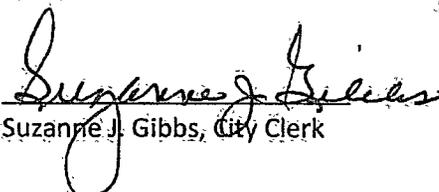
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Gastonia adopt the Crowd's Mountain Paved Trail Feasibility Study

THIS RESOLUTION adopted the 5th day of August, 2025.



 Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST


 Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk





Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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Building and Development Services Board Action

File #: 25-496

Commissioner Hovis - Building & Development Services - To Approve Amendment to the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Maps for Gaston County Communities, to Reflect the Route Recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study

STAFF CONTACT

Peyton Wiggins - Planner II - 704-866-3530

BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Resolution to support the Carolina Thread Trail. This support allowed for the development of a Master Trail Plan facilitated by Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail Planning Team to work with the County, municipalities, and neighboring communities to design, plan, and build a system of connected trails in the 15 County Region, with the mission being to bring resources to Gaston County for trail planning and construction

On March 26, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Resolution to adopt the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Gaston County Communities, an outline for a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come. The plan does not allow for property condemnation, and property easements, including abandoned railway lines, will only be acquired from willing property owners. In addition, adoption of the plan does not imply a commitment of funding by Gaston County for implementation. The plan is a concept consisting of trail connections or lines on the Master Plan Map that are flexible and can be moved as necessary

The Carolina Thread Trail has submitted a map amendment to reflect a route recommendation of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study; as shown on the attached map

The Board is requested to consider recommendation for approval of the map amendment in support of the Gastonia-Crowders Mountain Paved Pathways Feasibility Study

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution, Carolina Thread Trail Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Item, Recommended Amendment Map, and City of Gastonia Adopted Resolution

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