



May 1, 2017

Rex Linville
Piedmont Environmental Council
410 East Water St. SW, Suite 700
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Re: Support for CACF Strengthening Systems Greenways Proposal

Dear Rex,

Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville are pleased to submit this joint letter of support for the Strengthening Systems proposal to the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF) for Building a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Network. Our localities see great benefits in a coordinated greenway network in the City and County. The network would contribute to the quality of life in our region, create effective alternative transportation corridors, and make areas adjacent to these trails attractive for businesses to locate. Bicycling and walking contribute to the health of our citizens, and the network would provide cross-benefits to both localities.

Both the City and County have adopted plans for such a greenway network and have a shared conceptual vision for connecting key destinations together for commuting, recreation, and health. Despite the vision and plans, there are barriers that have kept implementation from occurring. Inter-jurisdictional work is challenging and community buy-in can be difficult to achieve. Our area's topography is also an implementation factor. A concerted effort to identify the sequencing and phasing of construction and to educate and engage the public would move our localities toward realizing the vision of a coordinated greenways network. This effort would complement ongoing Memorandums of Understanding between Charlottesville and Albemarle promoting regional cooperation in the areas of housing, transportation, education and environmental stewardship.

Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville are pleased that your proposal includes the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission as a key member of the project team. TJPDC provides an independent partner for these discussions and brings considerable expertise in working with the public to provide education and opportunities to engage in the process. Their skills in mapping and visualizations will be assets in community engagement efforts.

We look forward to hearing of the success of your application and to working with the PEC and TJPDC to realize our shared vision for this key community asset. Our localities will participate in meetings to develop and build consensus on sequencing and phasing of projects in the greenway network, actively support public outreach, and work with partners to carry out the resulting implementation process.

Sincerely,

Diantha H. McKeel, Chair
Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Mike Signer, Mayor
Charlottesville City Council