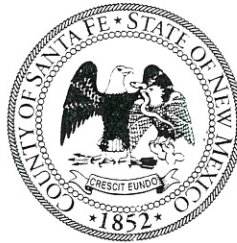


Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel M. Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 26, 2016

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Commissioner Kathy Holian, District 4 *Kash*

Via: Katherine Miller, County Manager

RE: A Resolution To Support The Grand Unified Trails System (Commissioner Holian)

SUMMARY:

This is a resolution to support collaboration between public and private entities with the common goal of enhancing and expanding trails in the greater Santa Fe area.

BACKGROUND:

The "Grand Unified Trail System" (GUTS) initiative is an effort spearheaded by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) to study and develop an integrated and unified trail system in and around the Santa Fe area. The goal of the GUTS initiative is to assist in coordinating the creation of an interconnected trail system that allows non-motorized users to travel in a loop around the greater Santa Fe area as well as between the urban center and the periphery. The GUTS initiative aims to create a unified, sustainable trails system built around the entire metropolitan area.

SFCT has approached Santa Fe County, along with other public and private entities, to request support for and participation in the collaborative trail planning and creation effort. Additional participants include Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition, the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe, the Nature Conservancy, the Commonweal Conservancy, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Bicycle Technologies Inc., the New Mexico Department of Health, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, and the City of Santa Fe.

The Santa Fe County Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) has reviewed and supports the GUTS initiative and acknowledges that it can provide additional positive opportunities for the development of the trail network throughout the community.

There is no financial commitment for construction or other costs associated with this request, aside from staff time in planning efforts.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Resolution To Support The Grand Unified Trails System.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF SANTA FE
RESOLUTION NO. 2016- _____**

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRAND UNIFIED TRAIL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County (County) owns and maintains a network of over 46 miles of trails that are enjoyed by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, including the Arroyo Hondo Open Space Trails, the La Piedra Trail, the Little Tesuque Trail, portions of the Dale Ball Trails, segments of the Rail Trail and Santa Fe River Trail, the Spur Trail, and the developing El Camino Real Retracement Trail; and

WHEREAS, County trails are part of a broader trail network that includes City of Santa Fe trails, Santa Fe National Forest trails, and various public trail easements on private land; and

WHEREAS, the County and other entities continue to invest in and improve the network of trails to provide important recreational and transportation functions along with economic development, health, education, and natural and historic preservation benefits, for area residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, gaps in the trail system can be eliminated by developing segments, as appropriate, to create more fully integrated trail systems; and

WHEREAS, connectivity between trail systems enhances safety, recreation, transportation, and the overall functionality of the trail systems; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's Sustainable Growth Management Plan, Open Land and Trails Plan, and Economic Development Plan recognize the need for enhanced collaboration between the County and other stakeholders for the development of trail connections; and

WHEREAS, planning toward a unified trail system, referred to as the Grand Unified Trail System (GUTS), is currently being undertaken by private and public partners, including the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition, the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe, the Nature Conservancy, the Commonweal Conservancy, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Bicycle Technologies Inc., the New Mexico Department of Health, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, the City of Santa Fe, Rancho Viejo, Santa Fe Community College, National Park Service's National Historic Trails, Santa Fe County, and other public entities; and

WHEREAS, the bicycling environment in the Santa Fe area has been recognized as the “silver” level by both the League of American Bicyclists and the International Mountain Biking Association, and efforts are underway to raise the level of recognition to the “gold” level; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa has recognized the unique and integral role of the horse and equine community as part of the County’s history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Santa Fe have embraced the promotion of outdoor adventure tourism and outdoor-related businesses as an important facet of economic development.

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) has reviewed and supports the GUTS initiative and acknowledges that it can provide additional positive opportunities for the development of the trail network throughout the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Santa Fe to support efforts to develop the GUTS, and to direct staff to continue to work with private and public sector partners in developing trails, as appropriate, to more fully integrate regional trail systems.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 26th day of July, 2016.

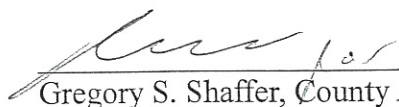
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Miguel M. Chavez, Chairman

Attest:

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

Approved As To Form:



Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney