



Oct 7, 2025

To:

W. Bowman "Bo" Ferguson, City Manager
City of Durham

Claudia Hager, County Manager
Durham County

Katherine Cathey, County Manager
Person County

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Executive Director

Dennis Markatos-Soriano

This letter serves to express East Coast Greenway Alliance's (ECGA) commitment to convey awarded grant funding to the City of Durham, Durham County, and Person County for a total amount of \$1,000,000, thereby reimbursing a portion of the costs for the acquisition of the Norfolk Southern rail corridor in Durham and Person counties. This commitment is expressly contingent on ECGA's receipt of funds from the North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), through the 2024 Complete the Trails Land Acquisition Program, and in compliance with all applicable grant requirements.

As a North Carolina State Trail partner organization, ECGA was awarded \$1,000,000 on October 21, 2024 by the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. The grant award is for the express and specific purpose of acquiring the "Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail" property for use as the East Coast Greenway State Trail.

The Conservation Fund is under contract to close on the property with Norfolk Southern Railway this year. The Conservation Fund will convey the property to NCDOT for use as a public greenway trail facility. Under the acquisition arrangement, each local government will provide a portion of the required local match funding. Upon receipt of





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the grant funds, ECGA will reimburse each local government for a share of the total amount of the grant award according to the proportional share of the local match:

Person County: \$143,110

Durham County: \$428,445

City of Durham: \$428,445

ECGA will submit required due diligence documentation to State Parks for review as it becomes available. Once State Parks approves all required due diligence documentation for the property acquisition, ECGA will enter under contract with State Parks in order for the funds to be available for reimbursement. Once under contract, ECGA will submit a request for funds to State Parks, which is expected to take 6-10 weeks to be processed. When funds are received, ECGA will transfer the funds to each respective local government according to standard procedure.

The East Coast Greenway Alliance is grateful to partner with the City of Durham, Durham County, and Person County on this important generational opportunity. We are confident the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail project will be a transformative amenity with myriad layered benefits for local neighborhoods, the cross-county region, the State Trails system, and the national East Coast Greenway.

Sincerely,

Dennis Markatos-Soriano, Executive Director
East Coast Greenway Alliance

