



AGENDA
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, August 25, 2025 - 5:30 PM

- A. Welcome and Call to Order**
- B. Certification of Quorum**
- C. Approval of Agenda**
- D. Public Comment**
- E. New Business**
 - 1. Estatoe Trail Realignment Recommendation and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application
- F. Adjourn**

Agenda Posted, Website, Sunshine List (August 21, 2025)
D. Hodsdon, City Clerk

STAFF REPORT
City Council, Monday, August 25, 2025

Title: Estatoe Trail Realignment Recommendation and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application

Speaker: Paul Ray, Planning Director
Wilson Hooper, City Manager

Prepared by: Paul Ray, Planning Director, David Todd, Assistant City Manager, Wilson Hooper, City Manager

Approved by: Wilson Hooper, City Manager

Background/Discussion

The portion of the city-owned Estatoe Trail between Jackson Ct. (off Asheville Hwy.) and Poplar St. contains two separate above-grade wooden boardwalks of approximately 300 and 260ft. For approximately the past 18 months, city staff and elected officials have been discussing the need to replace the boardwalks, which are approaching the end of their useful lives and require constant maintenance and repair to keep them open and safe for use. The discussion took on additional urgency in early summer 2025 when a portion of the longer boardwalk failed, making it impassable. While the failed section is repairable, staff believe it highly likely that other sections will fail similarly in the imminent future, meaning any temporary repair will put the city on a course of "throwing good money after bad."

While a decision on the permanent repair is being made, staff are in the process of constructing a temporary trail on a nearby extant rail bed. As a matter of true fact, this section, running through a city-owned wetland on the boardwalk, is an exception. Much of the remaining Estatoe Trail is constructed on abandoned railroad right of way, due to such ROW's availability and straight, flat configuration. There has been some discussion about permanently realigning the trail to this nearby rail bed rather than replacing the boardwalks.

At its August 20, 2025 meeting, the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee recommended pursuing a permanent trail realignment onto the unused railroad bed. Likewise, the committee recommended the Council instruct staff to pursue a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant to fund the realignment. The application for the FLAP grant is due at the end of August, thus the need for tonight's Special Meeting.

Staff will be on hand to discuss the particulars of a number of alignment/boardwalk repair options, and the pros/cons of each. Staff are seeking Council direction on which alignment they wish for the City to pursue. Staff will also seek permission from Council to apply for the aforementioned FLAP grant.

Action

Staff request Council approve a resolution identifying which alignment/repair option they

wish to pursue, and authorizing staff to prepare and submit a Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant application. The text of the resolution will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Attachments: