



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Meeting Announcement

Federal Highway Administration & Cherokee County launch study on Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail across Cherokee County; Seeks public comment

Cherokee County, S.C. – The Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, in collaboration with Cherokee County, Carolina Thread Trail, and National Park Service have launched a Preliminary Engineering Study (Study) for a portion of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Cherokee County was the recipient of a \$1,800,000 Federal Lands Access Program grant that is funding the planning and preliminary design of approximately 26 miles of Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail to Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Approximately 35 miles of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail traverses Cherokee County as it extends from the City of Chesnee to its terminus at Kings Mountain National Military Park. It commemorates the route of patriot militia in their pursuit of Major Patrick Ferguson and the loyalist militia under his command to Kings Mountain, where the patriots defeated British Major Patrick Ferguson's loyalist forces in a battle that shifted the momentum of the American Revolution.

"This study represents an important step forward for Cherokee County," said Merv Bishop, Cherokee County Administrator. "By improving connections between our communities, natural resources, and Kings Mountain National Military Park, we're creating new opportunities for recreation, tourism, and economic growth while honoring the history that defines this region."

The grant will be used to create a preliminary trail design that will advance the project towards construction. Once complete, the trail will provide an inviting way for walkers, hikers and bicyclists to travel from Gaffney to Kings Mountain National Military Park safely off roadways via greenways, sidewalks, and natural surface trails. The route will also connect key destinations including Blacksburg, Cherokee Ford Recreation Area, Gaffney, Lake Whelchel, and the Broad River together.

To learn more about the study and provide feedback on potential features, the community is invited to attend a public meeting.

Gaffney's Crossroads

301 N Limestone St

Gaffney, SC 29340

July 21, 2026 | 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Blacksburg Museum

100 N Shelby St

Blacksburg, SC 29702

July 22, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

For more information or to provide feedback online, visit www.OVVITrail.com.

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Cherokee Ford Trail, Cherokee County, SC. Photo by Erin McAbee.

Additional photos available upon request.

About The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail was established on September 8, 1980, as a 330-mile commemorative route and one of 21 congressionally designated national historic trails in the country. Overmountain Victory is the first national historic trail east of the Mississippi River and the only national historic trail in South Carolina. The trail commemorates, preserves, and interprets the spirit of patriot militia and their routes through Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina to the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. Public and private partnerships support the trail. For more information about the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, visit the trail webpage at www.nps.gov/ovvi or Facebook at www.facebook.com/overmountainvictoryNHT/.

About Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail

Catawba Lands Conservancy is a local, nonprofit land trust dedicated to saving land and connecting lives to nature in the Southern Piedmont of North Carolina. The Conservancy protects more than 18,000 acres of land and serves Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Union counties. The

Conservancy is committed to improving the quality of life in the communities it serves by protecting clean water, wildlife habitats, farmland, and natural open spaces for public benefit. The Conservancy also leads the Carolina Thread Trail, a regional network of trails, greenways and blueways focused on linking more than two million citizens through fifteen counties in North and South Carolina. For more information, visit catawbalands.org and carolinathreadtrail.org.