

**Resolution #**

**Resolution Promoting Blue Ridge Parkway Preservation and Protection**

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WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) is a national treasure started in 1935 during the depression era and finished in 1987 with Grandfather Mountain Viaduct project; and

WHEREAS, the BRP boasts a total of 469 total miles and approximately 48 miles within Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, the BRP Pisgah District runs through Buncombe County and has several major intersections with North Carolina roads in our County; and

WHEREAS, the BRP intersection at Hwy 25 in Buncombe County had the highest number of visitors (465,309) of any intersection in the entire length of the Parkway through NC and the State of Virginia last year; and

WHEREAS, the BRP visitation has an overall economic impact on the surrounding area of \$863,528,700 in 2014 according to the most recent study by the US Department of Interior; and

WHEREAS, the BRP has a very limited right of way, narrowing to as little as 400' feet in some sections of this road; and

WHEREAS, portions of the BRP in Virginia have seen some adjacent development that has severely degraded the quality of the scenic views and irreversibly impacted visitor experience and BRP cultural and natural resources negatively; and

WHEREAS, the BRP is worthy of special protection and considerations in all planning and development within the Buncombe County region; and

WHEREAS, protection and preservation of the BRP is considered in a Buncombe County overlay that currently exists in the County Zoning plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board requests the Buncombe County Planning Board and Planning staff review and make recommendations to this Board concerning the adequacy of the current zoning overlay and need for other ordinances, advisory groups, or other considerations after consultation with the BRP staff on the best way to protect and preserve the BRP, as it runs through Buncombe County, for future generations.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the Buncombe County Planning Board and Planning staff be and they are hereby instructed to consult with BRP staff and review the protection and preservation adequacy of the current BRP overlay to Buncombe County Zoning Plan.
2. That the Buncombe County Planning Board and Planning staff shall make recommendations to this Board based on findings of the review of the BRP overlay and/or any other suggested ordinances, laws, or advisory boards at the earliest possible time.
3. That this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR  
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK

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DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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COUNTY ATTORNEY