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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THERMAL BELT RAIL TRAIL TEMPORARY CLOSURE
JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 9
PAVED THERMAL BELT RAIL TRAIL FROM RUTH TO SPINDALE CLOSED FOR
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Rutherford County, NC (January 25, 2018): The existing paved rail trail extending from Ruth to Spindale will be closed for rail and cross tie removal activities on Wednesday, January 31, 2018. The trail will reopen to the public on February 9, 2018 with a gravel base. Construction activities will be part of the Rutherford County Thermal Belt Rail Trail project which consists of the construction of approximately 13 miles of a 12-foot-wide paved trail in Rutherford County running from Gilkey to Forrest Hunt Elementary School in Forest City. The highly-anticipated project will provide a safe route for pedestrian and bicycle travel as a non-vehicular transportation alternative in connecting neighboring towns and communities of Rutherford County. The trail is expected to spur local economic growth, attract tourism, enhance local natural and culture resources and provide a great health and wellness option.

Bids for the Thermal Belt Rail Trail project will be received in February 2018 with construction anticipated to begin in April and expected to be completed by late 2018.

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