

**CHARTER
STATE OF TENNESSEE
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON GREENWAYS AND TRAILS**

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Greenways and Trails was established by Governor Phil Bredesen on August 29, 2005;

WHEREAS, greenways and trails are of vital importance to the State's well-being;

WHEREAS, greenways and trails provide many benefits to Tennesseans, including recreation opportunities that benefit health and fitness; protection and improvements of the scenic quality of Tennessee; access to parks, scenic vistas, natural treasures, historic places, and wildlife viewing; alternative forms of transportation; improving water quality and lessening the impacts of flooding; protecting forests, wetlands, and other natural areas that provide habitat for wildlife and wildlife migration corridors; enhancement of the economy of Tennessee by increasing adjacent property values and attracting new industry, stimulating re-investment to blighted urban areas, and encouraging tourism across Tennessee;

WHEREAS, the Council plans for the development of a statewide connecting system of greenways and trails for the benefit of all Tennesseans;

WHEREAS, the Council reports and promotes activities to address greenways and trails needs in Tennessee;

WHEREAS, the Council fosters partnerships and encourages the participation of local, federal, private, and non-profit organizations to accomplish the objectives of this Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Council assists in ensuring that the administration of the federal Recreational Trails Program as set forth in the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (Pub. Law. No. 114-94) by following the laws, rules, regulations and guidance for this federal grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE,

1. There is hereby established within the Department of Environment and Conservation, a Commissioner's Advisory Council on Greenways and Trails to address issues pertaining to greenways and trails in Tennessee. The Council shall be composed of no less than nine (9) members who are users or supporters of greenways and trails or professionals who work in the field of trail and greenway planning or natural resources. The Council shall represent both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users and shall meet not less than once per fiscal year.

Council members should represent the diversity of the state of Tennessee in geographic location, gender, race, national origin, age, and ability. At least one member shall be selected who

represents persons with disabilities.

All members shall serve staggered terms of office ranging from two (2) to four (4) years. Members may serve successive terms of office. The Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation shall annually appoint the chairperson and may appoint the vice-chairperson of the Council. The members shall serve without pay, but may be compensated for travel expenses at the discretion and option of the Commissioner. Travel reimbursement is limited to the State's Comprehensive Travel Regulation rates for board members.

Selection of members on the Council shall be made in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Federal Highway Administration to establish a recreational trail advisory committee, as required to receive allocations of federal recreational trails funds. The Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation shall appoint all members.

2. The Council may make recommendations to sponsor seminars and workshops on greenways and trails topics and target specific groups needing special attention in the area of greenways and trails. The Council shall serve as a clearinghouse for information on greenways and trails and make recommendations for such legislation as may be necessary and appropriate to further its goals.
3. The commissioners, or their designees, from the following departments and state agencies shall serve in an ex-officio capacity on this Council: the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation or Bureau of Parks and Conservation designee; the Commissioner of Agriculture or Division of Forestry designee; the Commissioner of Tourist Development or designee; the Commissioner of Transportation or designee; and the Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency or designee. The Commissioner of Environment and Conservation will invite the participation of other departmental and legal personnel that have an interest in greenways and trails.

Ex-officio members will have primary and continuing responsibility for the participation and cooperation of the department or institution relative to the Council.

4. The Commissioner shall invite the participation of all federal agencies that have an interest in greenways and trails.
5. The Council may establish subcommittees and steering committees, as necessary, to address specific issues such as education, geographic information system planning, bike and pedestrian issues, promotions and events, regional planning, fundraising, grants, and other critical issues.
6. For administrative purposes, the Council shall be attached to the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Department of Environment and Conservation will assist the Council by providing support staff as assigned by the Commissioner. The Council may collaborate with,

advise, and receive support, both financial and otherwise, from other organizations under such guidelines and limitations as the Commissioner may from time to time approve.

7. The Commissioner's Advisory Council on Greenways and Trails shall promote, effectuate, and further the principles and aims of this Charter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 30th day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Lee", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR