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Carolina Thread Trail concept presented at TDA meeting

(January 12, 2008) – Colleen Frenzel, project coordinator, presented an overview of the Carolina Thread Trail concept to members of the Anson County Tourism Development Authority on Jan. 9.

Frenzel said the conceptual trail will connect communities, serve approximately 2.3 million people, have up to 40 destinations as a tourism draw and cover over 73,000 square miles.



Weaving Communities Together

The Carolina Thread Trail comprises 15 counties – Cleveland, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Iredell, Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, Union Mecklenburg and Anson in North Carolina, and Cherokee, York, Chester and Lancaster counties in South Carolina.

"The Thread represents a unique opportunity to connect communities across 15 Carolinas counties – accessible to all with a legacy of last benefits," Frenzel said during a PowerPoint presentation. "Benefits include economic, social, recreational, environmental, and health and wellness."

She said the Carolina Thread Trail has three roles:

1. Vision and Invitation -- Provide a bold vision of connected communities characterized by abundant green spaces linking people and places.
2. Public Outreach and Raising of Private Capital – Create network through a collaborative process that weaves together members of our cities, towns and counties. Funded through a private capital campaign that will be leveraged with state and federal funds (which has raised over \$15 million to date and has given out the first two planning grants).
3. Facilitation and Education of Technical Information – Oversee individual efforts and serve as a repository of technical information (to include facilitating initial collaboration and to help educate practitioners about technical information).

The outcome, she said in her presentation, is the creation of a broadly accessible resource that will be a permanent and sustainable legacy for the people in the designated region.

Right now, the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge is the only Anson County entity listed on the conceptual map.

TDA Chair Russell Sikes and board member Anna Baucom suggested the formation of a committee to look into applying for a planning grant to study what Anson County has to offer to the Carolina Thread Trail concept.

For more information, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org.

<http://www.ansonbiz-zine.biz/column.html>