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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Carolina Thread Trail Open House Scheduled for Belmont

Charlotte, N.C. – The City of Belmont is providing the public with an informal opportunity to learn about and provide input on how it can best implement the Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) within the community.

A community open house will be held on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the mezzanine of the Student Commons Building at Belmont Abbey College. The college is located at 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. in Belmont.

With funding from the Carolina Thread Trail, the city is contracting with LandDesign, Inc. to conduct a six-month long trail feasibility study. The study will help determine the best trail alignment along the Belmont Spur Railroad corridor from Woodlawn St. to Glenway St. in downtown Belmont. (This is the inactive railroad that runs parallel to North Main St. from Belmont Abbey College to downtown.)

Representatives from LandDesign, Inc., Belmont and the Carolina Thread Trail will be in attendance to provide a project overview, answer questions, address alignment concerns, and explain the feasibility study and decision-criteria process. Maps, artist renderings and informational handouts will also be available.

“We are looking for ideas and feedback on how we can maximize the benefits of this greenway for our community,” said Adrian Miller, assistant city manager for community services for Belmont. “We are in the initial planning stages for this trail, so this is a perfect opportunity for us to engage the public and get their opinions on where the trail should go and what amenities it should include.”

The project team will analyze and evaluate all public comments before recommending a final preferred trail alignment. At the conclusion of the study, another public meeting will be held to share that proposed alignment and explain the next steps in the implementation process.

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In 2009, Gaston County – along with numerous municipalities, including Belmont – adopted a county-wide master plan for The Thread. Trail master plans provide a long-term vision for the development and implementation of trails and greenways within a county and its communities. It was the first county within The Thread’s 15-county target region to adopt such a plan. Currently, 80 miles of The Thread are open to the public in North and South Carolina with 14 active corridors under development. For more information on The Thread, go to www.carolinathreadtrail.org.

About The Carolina Thread Trail

The Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) is a 15-county, two state initiative designed to inspire and facilitate the creation and development of a regional network of trails, blueways and conservation corridors that would link more than 2.3 million citizens. With technical resources and catalytic funding from The Thread, local communities will plan and implement their portions of this greenway-interstate system. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, which is working in partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas and many local partners. For more information, go to www.carolinathreadtrail.org.

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