



## **Editorial: Carolina Thread Trail would add to area's quality of life**

March 23, 2011

County commissioners took another step forward Monday night in linking our county up with the Carolina Thread Trail, a project that ultimately will link us with a trail system in 15 counties in both Carolinas.

The plan actually was adopted by commissioners in 2009, but they were reluctant to embrace it entirely, and the plan was approved without an accompany map of proposed trail corridors.

In other words, the approved plan was little more than a document half-heartedly approved by skeptical commissioners.

They fixed that Monday night by unanimously approving a revised plan – including the maps – and putting us on the path (pardon the pun) to be able to seek grants and other funding sources that would make the trails a reality in Lincoln County.

Responding to concern from some citizens in west Lincoln, commissioners removed the Reepsville Road area from the map plan. Frankly, we think the people of west Lincoln may regret this years down the road.

But commissioners revised the plan to have the trail run through the planned Rock Springs Park in Denver rather than just circle it as previously planned. This will enable the county to have a better chance of obtaining state or federal grants for the trail.

Commissioners point out that they have committed zero money and are adamantly opposed to using the process of eminent domain to acquire land for the trail network, and this should ease some minds.

On the other hand, commissioners realize the potential long-term impact of the trail plan to the quality of life in Lincoln County and the value of linking communities, people and special regional points of interest by a trail network.

Commissioner George Arena says the people of East Lincoln are eager to develop trails to link such areas as Sally's Y with the Optimist Club Park, Beatty's Ford Park and other points, and we wholeheartedly agree.

People power – through volunteers and land donations – can turn a dream into a reality, and we are grateful that commissioners took steps Monday night to make it all happen.

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