

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

WHEREAS, the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board (TPB), as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, the TPB Vision, adopted in 1998, states that the region "will plan and develop a transportation system that enhances and protects the region's natural environmental quality, cultural and historic resources, and communities", calling for protection of sensitive environmental, cultural, historical and neighborhood locations; and

WHEREAS, the TPB Vision calls for convenient bicycle and pedestrian access, increased walk and bike mode share, and implementation of a regional bicycle/trail/pedestrian plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, adopted in 2014, set the goal of providing a comprehensive range of transportation options, identified the challenge of unsafe and incomplete walking and biking infrastructure, and supported a strategy of expanding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2018, the TPB approved a new long-range transportation plan, called "Visualize 2045," that meets federal planning requirements, addresses the federal planning factors and goals in the TPB Vision and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, and includes a new "Aspirational Element" as specified by TPB Resolution R8-2018; and

WHEREAS, in Resolutions R12-2018 and R10-2019, the TPB directed that the National Capital Trail be a part of the Visualize 2045's aspirational element, and that TPB staff expand the National Capital Trail to provide connectivity to other major trails in the region, thereby creating a regional trail network that extends into all TPB member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with these resolutions, TPB staff gathered information from the Capital Trails Coalition; from areas not included in the Capital Trail Coalition's plan, such as Charles, Frederick, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties; and from those that have made major recent updates to their planned bicycle network, such as Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020 the TPB was briefed on the draft National Capital Trail Network map; and

WHEREAS, TPB staff has developed a revised network map based on comments received subsequent to the June 2020 TPB presentation; and

WHEREAS, the National Capital Trail Network will provide a continuous pedestrian and bicycle network of over 1400 miles of trails and other low-stress facilities, of which over 600 miles already exist and almost 800 miles are planned, serving the entire region in an equitable manner; and

WHEREAS, 70% of the region's population lives within a half-mile of the network, and 98% of the jobs are within two miles of the network; 136 of the region's 141 Activity Centers are within a half-mile of the network, as are 308 of the 351 Equity Emphasis Areas; and

WHEREAS, the National Capital Trail Network will transform public life by providing healthy, low-stress access to open space and clean, inexpensive, reliable transportation for people of all ages and abilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD:

1. Adopts the attached National Capital Trail Network.
2. Directs TPB staff to undertake the following activities:
 - Give additional consideration to projects that will implement portions of the network for Transportation Alternatives and Transportation-Land Use Connections funding.
 - Report on progress towards implementation of the network on an annual basis.
 - Work with the TPB member jurisdictions to update the network, to reflect anticipated new agency bicycle and pedestrian plans, on an annual basis.
3. Asks its members to prioritize projects, programs, and policies that will implement portions of the National Capital Trail Network. All projects, programs, and policies must be implemented in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner, consistent with the TPB Vision.