

ITEM 11 – Action

July 22, 2020

National Capital Trail Network

Action: Adopt Resolution R5-2021 to approve the National Capital Trail Network.

Background: At its December 2018 meeting, the TPB approved a resolution to begin work on implementing the aspirational initiatives from Visualize 2045, including expanding the National Capital Trail into a network that extends to all TPB member jurisdictions. The TPB was briefed on the National Capital Trail Network in June and now will be asked to approve the network.

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.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Michael Farrell, TPB Senior Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: National Capital Trail Network
DATE: July 16, 2020

This memorandum will discuss the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN), the final changes to the network map, expected benefits, and proposed actions going forward. The updated network map is attached for TPB review. At the July 22 meeting, the TPB will be asked to adopt Resolution R5-2021 to approve the National Capital Trail Network.

BACKGROUND

At its December 2018 meeting, the TPB approved a resolution to begin work on implementing the aspirational initiatives from Visualize 2045, including expanding the National Capital Trail into a network that extends to all TPB member jurisdictions, by building on work already done by the TPB and others. TPB staff worked with jurisdictional staff and others in 2019-2020 to define that network. The TPB was briefed on the draft National Capital Trail Network in June.

RECENT CHANGES TO THE NETWORK

In response to comments received after the June meeting, some minor changes were made to the routing of the National Capital Trail Network within the City of Manassas at the request of Manassas staff.

BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

The National Capital Trail Network is intended to be a network of long-distance, mostly off-street facilities, designed for non-motorized use. The 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.

When complete, the National Capital Trail Network will include over 1400 miles of trails and other low-stress facilities, of which 645 miles already exist, and 780 miles are planned.

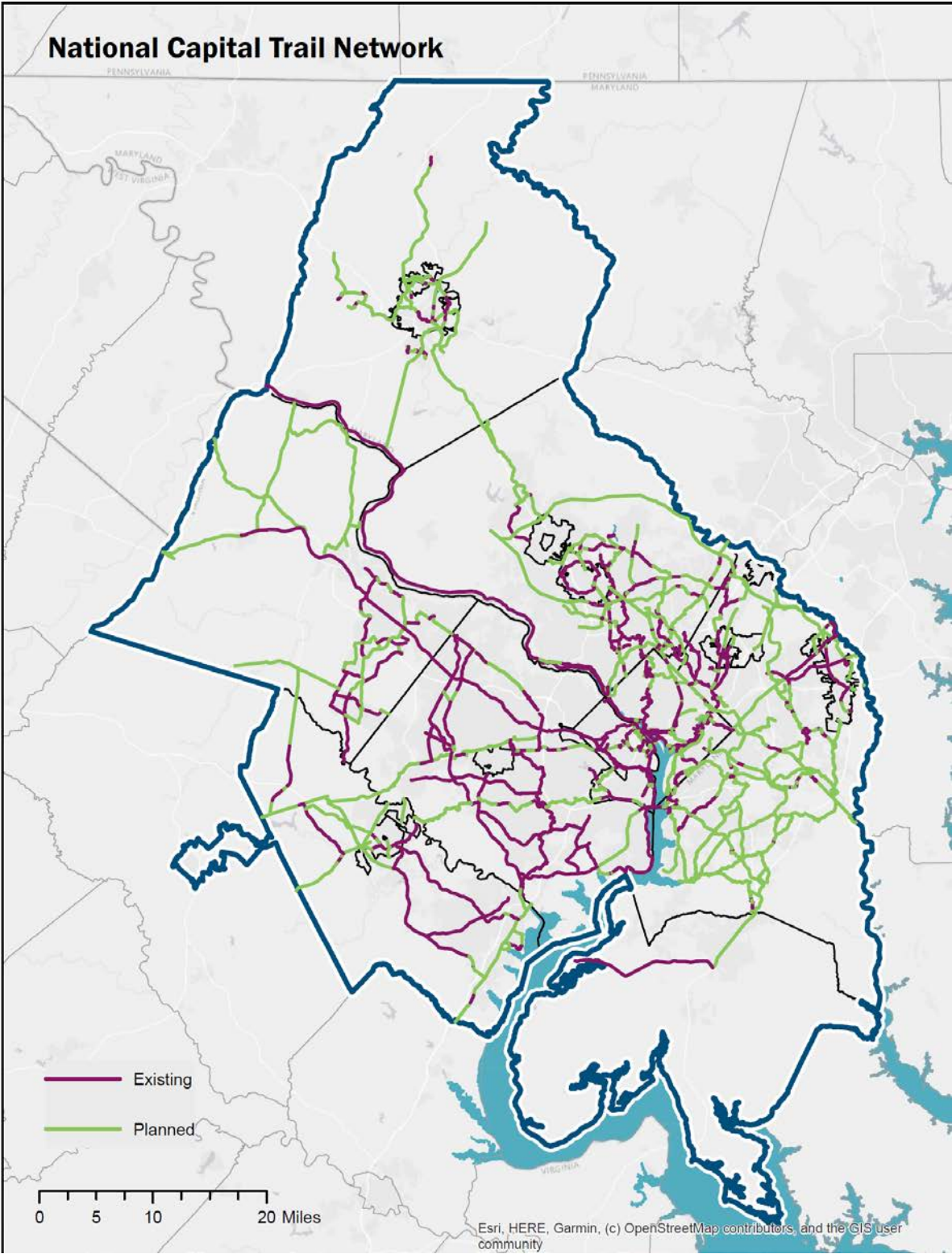
Most of the population and jobs in the Washington region will be within easy walking or biking distance of the National Capital Trail Network. 70% of the region's population lives within a half-mile of the network, and 98% of the jobs are within two miles of the network. 136 of the region's 141 Activity Centers are within a half-mile of the network, as are 308 of the 351 Equity Emphasis Areas.

NEXT STEPS/ PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS

The National Capital Trail Network will be used to help prioritize funding for the Transportation Alternatives program and the Transportation Land Use Connections program.

There will be periodic updates to the network (likely annually) to reflect new facilities and new information.

The National Capital Trail Network will be included in the update of the overall Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in FY 2021.



<https://www.mwcog.org//maps/map-listing/national-capital-trail/>

NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

Revised Map

Michael Farrell
TPB Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
July 22, 2020



Overview of Today's Presentation

- Background of the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN)
- Recent changes
- Benefits
- The revised map
- Next/future steps

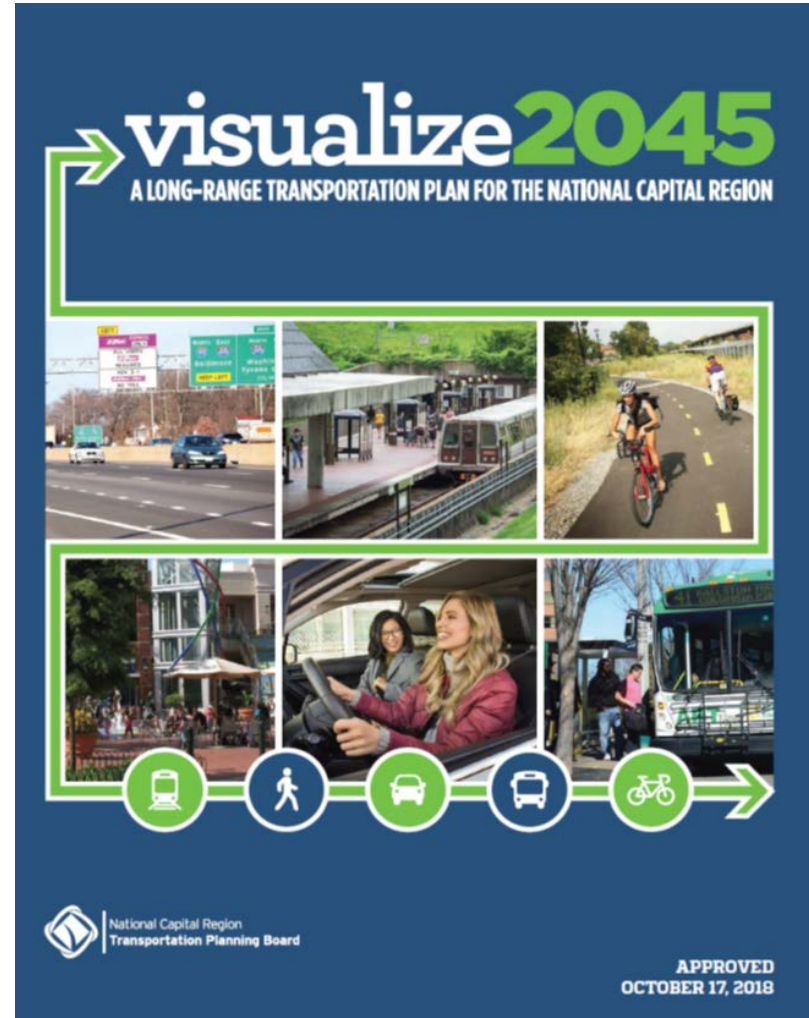


Mount Vernon Trail (BeyondDC, flickr.com)



Background and Recent Changes

- December 2018 – TPB Resolution R20-2019 directed TPB staff to build upon the National Capital Trail to create a regional trail network that extends into all TPB member jurisdictions
- NCTN Presented to TPB in June 2020
- Received public comment
- Made changes in City of Manassas



Benefits

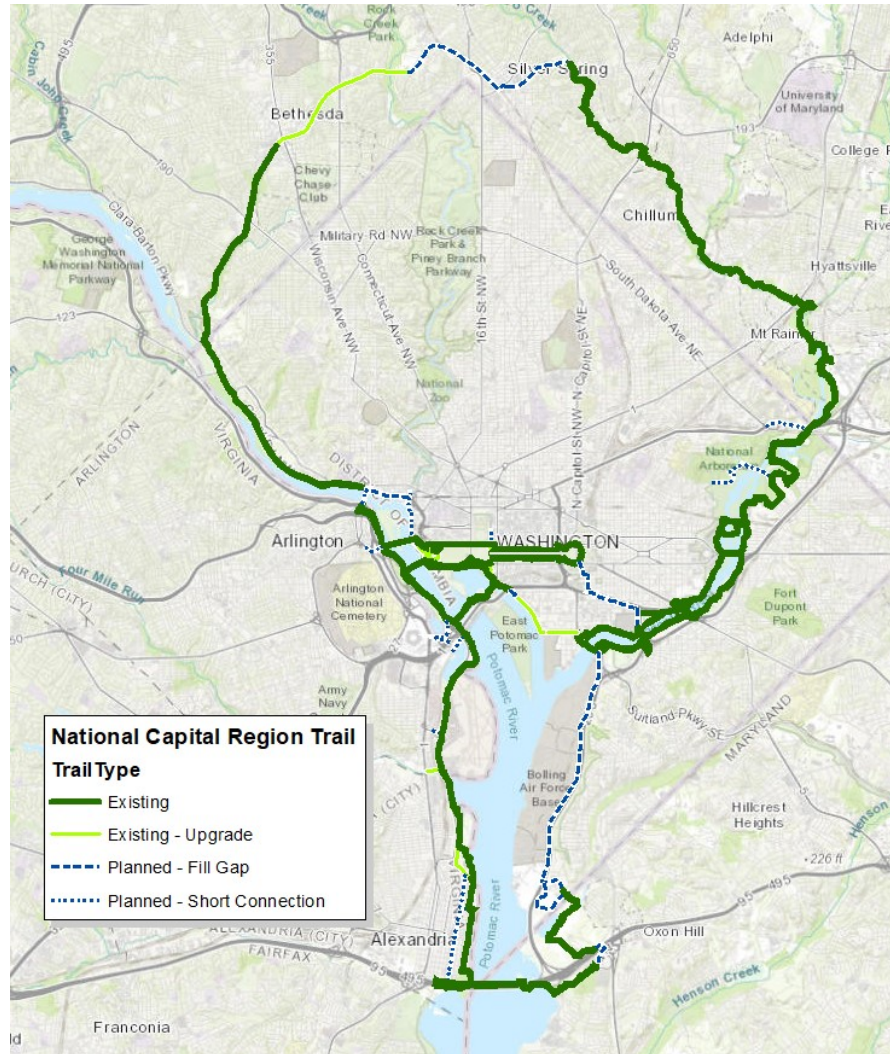
- Long-distance, continuous network of low-stress, mostly off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities
 - 1400 miles of facilities (645 miles already exist)
- Accessible for all ages and abilities;
- Healthy, low-stress access to open space
- Clean, inexpensive, reliable transportation
- Serves most people, Activity Centers
 - 136 of 141 Activity Centers and 308 of 351 Equity Emphasis Areas are within ½ mile of the network



Virginia Avenue S.E.



National Capital Trail (2018)



- TPB adopted in October 2018 as an Aspirational Element of Visualize 2045
 - 60 total miles total
 - 21 miles unconstructed
 - 3 miles need upgrading

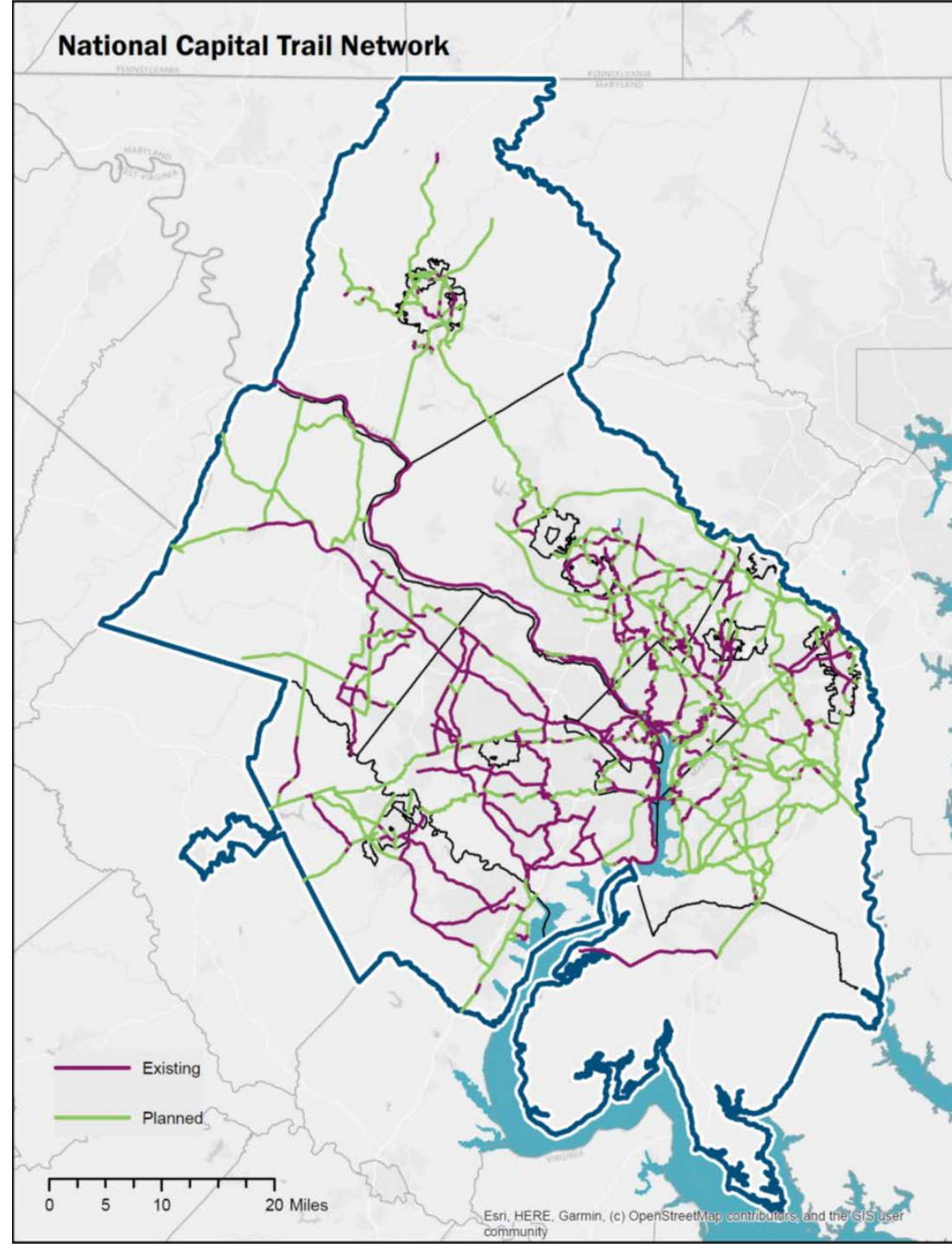


National Capital Trail Network Map (2020)

<https://www.mwcog.org//maps/map-listing/national-capital-trail/>



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board



Next Steps

- Review and Adopt Resolution R5-2021
- Use NTCN to help prioritize funding
 - Transportation Alternatives Program
 - Transportation – Land Use Connections Program
- Network updates
 - Periodic updates to the network to reflect new facilities, new information
- Update of the overall Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in FY 2021, with the NCTN included



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