

NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

2023 Update

Michael Farrell
Senior Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
February 27, 2024



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Overview of Today's Presentation

- History of the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN)
- 2023 Update
 - Benefits
 - The Revised Map and New Web Page
- Next Steps



Mount Vernon Trail (BeyondDC, flickr.com)



What is the NCTN?

- Long-distance, continuous network of low-stress, mostly off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Accessible for all ages and abilities
- Healthy, low-stress access to open space
- Clean, inexpensive, reliable transportation
- Serves nearly all TPB Priority Areas, and most People and Jobs

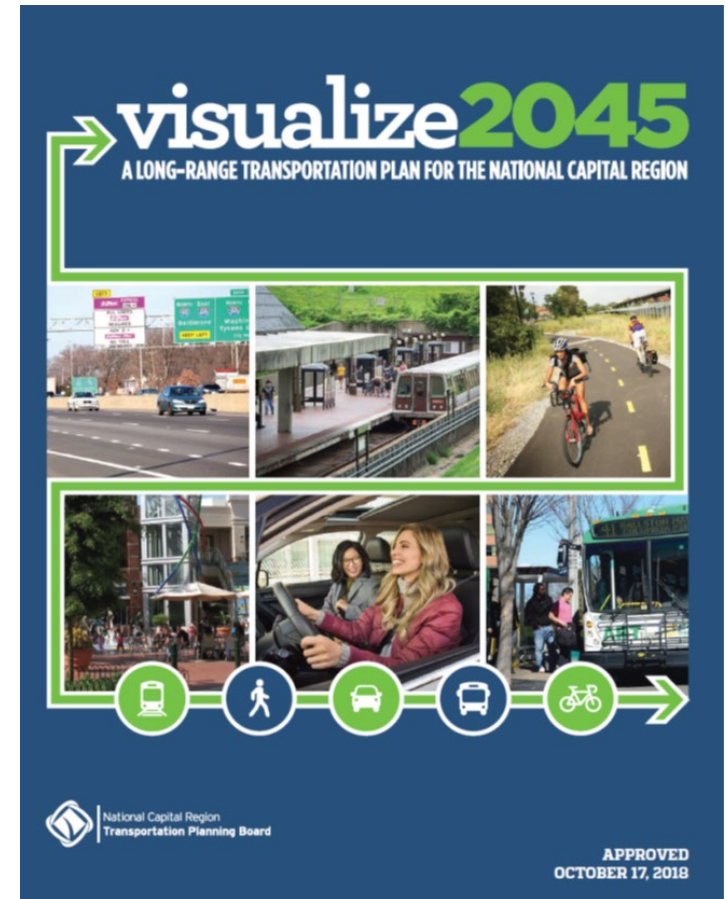


Virginia Avenue S.E.

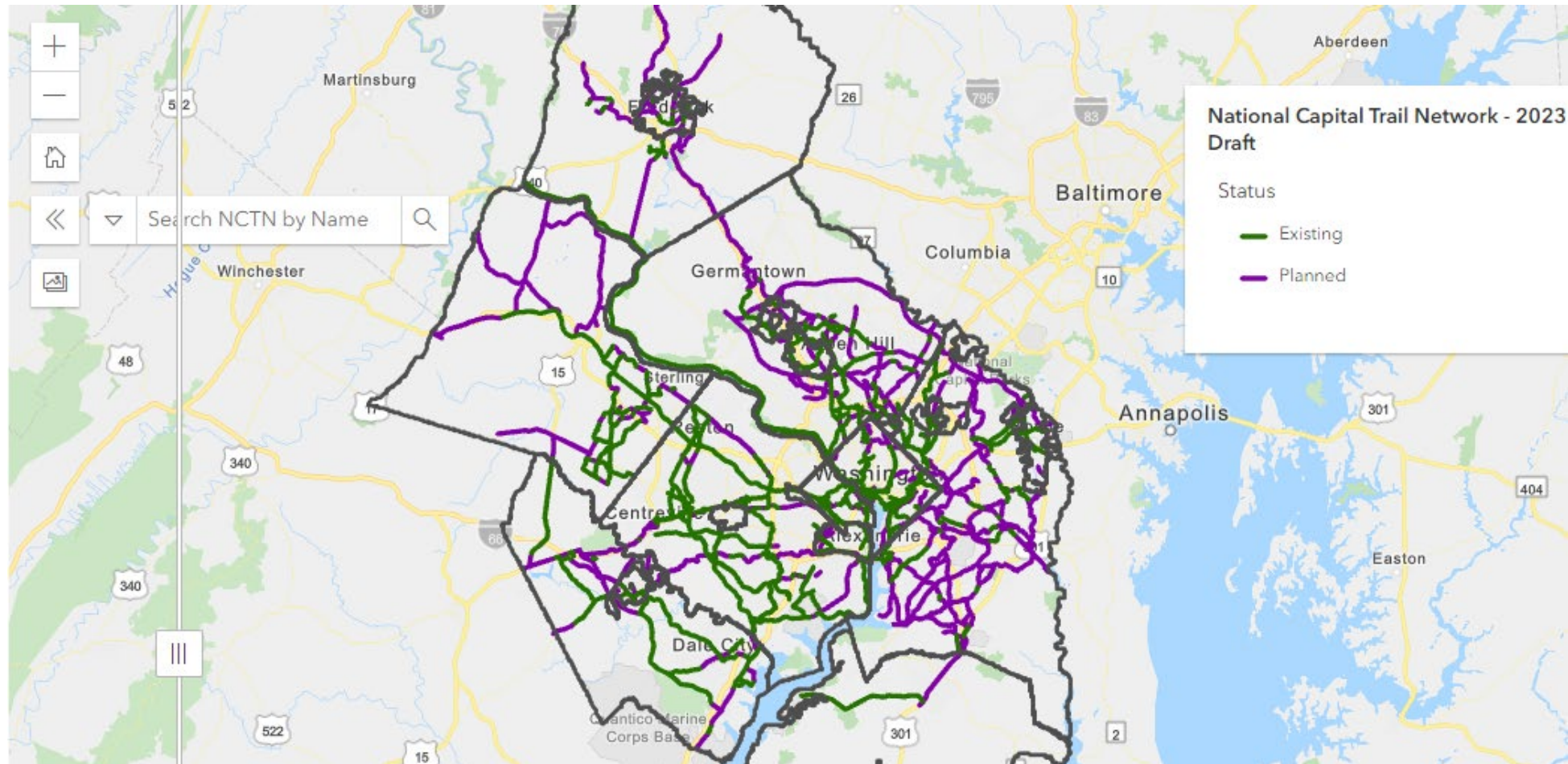


Background and Recent Changes

- December 2018 – TPB Resolution R20-2019 directed TPB staff to build upon the National Capital Trail to create a regional trail network that would extend into all TPB jurisdictions
- July 2020 - TPB approved Resolution R5-2021, adopting the National Capital Trail Network
 - Directed TPB staff to give priority to NCTN projects for TLC and TA funds
 - Report progress towards implementation
- 2023 – NCTN Map updated
 - Bike/Ped Subcommittee members, COG GIS staff



Updated National Capital Trail Network Map



The draft map and web page may be viewed at the [National Capital Trail Network web page](#).



Progress Towards Completion

NCTN	Miles 2023	Miles 2020	Difference
Existing	752	644	+108
Planned	797	778	+19
Total	1549	1422	+127
Completed Since 2020	83*		

**83 Miles
Completed
Since 2020**

- 83 miles of the National Capital Trail Network have been completed since July 2020, a rate of approximately 27 miles per year*
 - *Based on projects that transitioned from planned to existing from 2020 to 2023
- 2020 – 45% existing, 55% planned (by mileage)
- 2023 – 49% existing, 51% planned
 - At the current rate, it would take about 30 years to complete the NCTN



Priority Areas Served by 2023 Network

Buffer Analysis 1/2 mile from NCTN Features	Within NCTN Buffer	Total Number of Features	% Served
Equity Emphasis Areas	334	364	92%
Regional Activity Centers	136	140	97%
High-Capacity Transit Areas	210	225	93%
Transit Access Focus Areas	48	49	98%



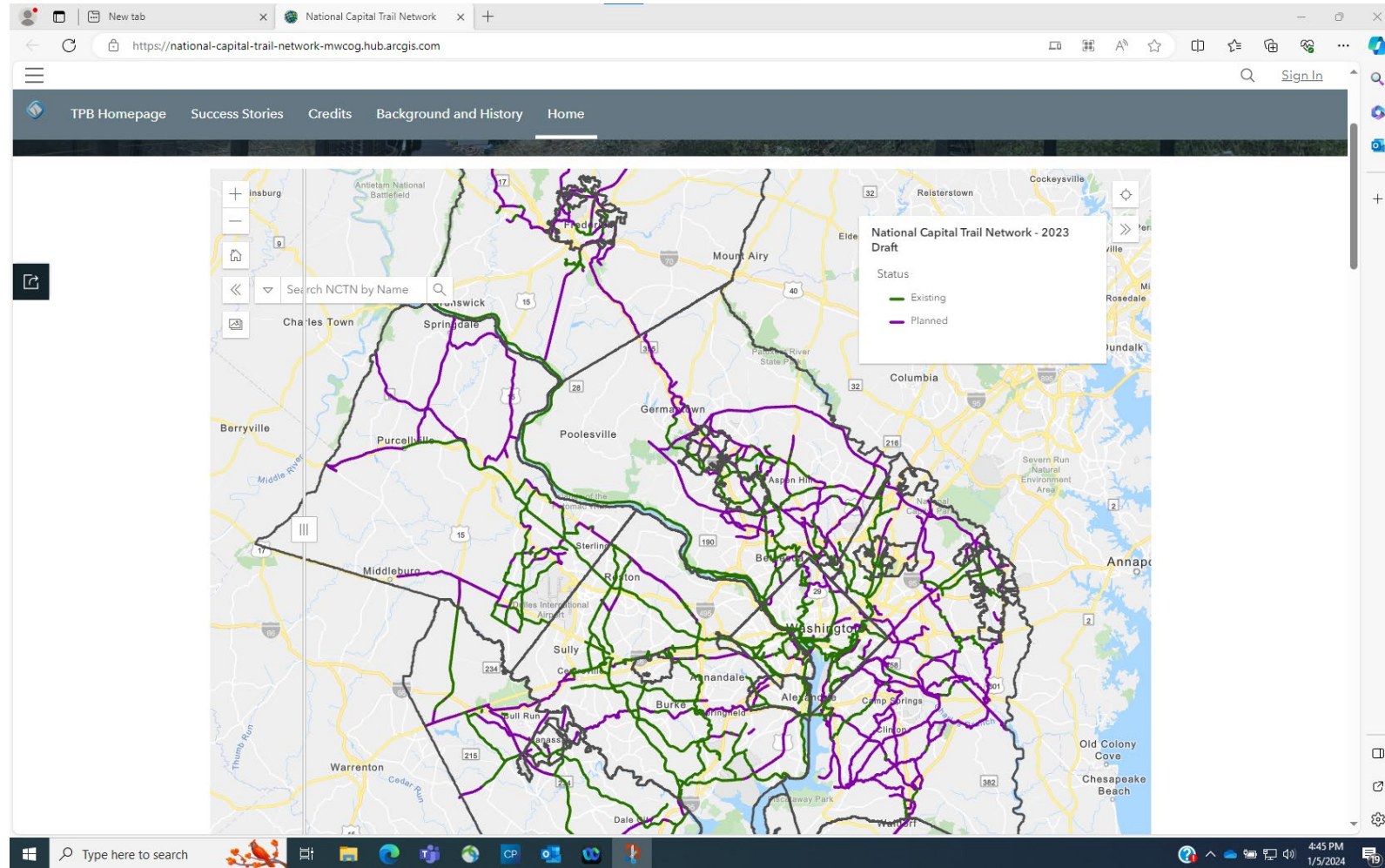
Population and Employment Served

Half Mile NCTN Buffer w/ TAZ, Cooperative Forecast 10	Within NCTN Buffer	TPB Area Total*	% Served
2020 Population	3,574,579	5,630,518	63%
2020 Employment	2,282,729	3,169,247	72%
2030 Population	3,913,552	6,139,420	64%
2030 Employment	2,569,958	3,549,888	72%

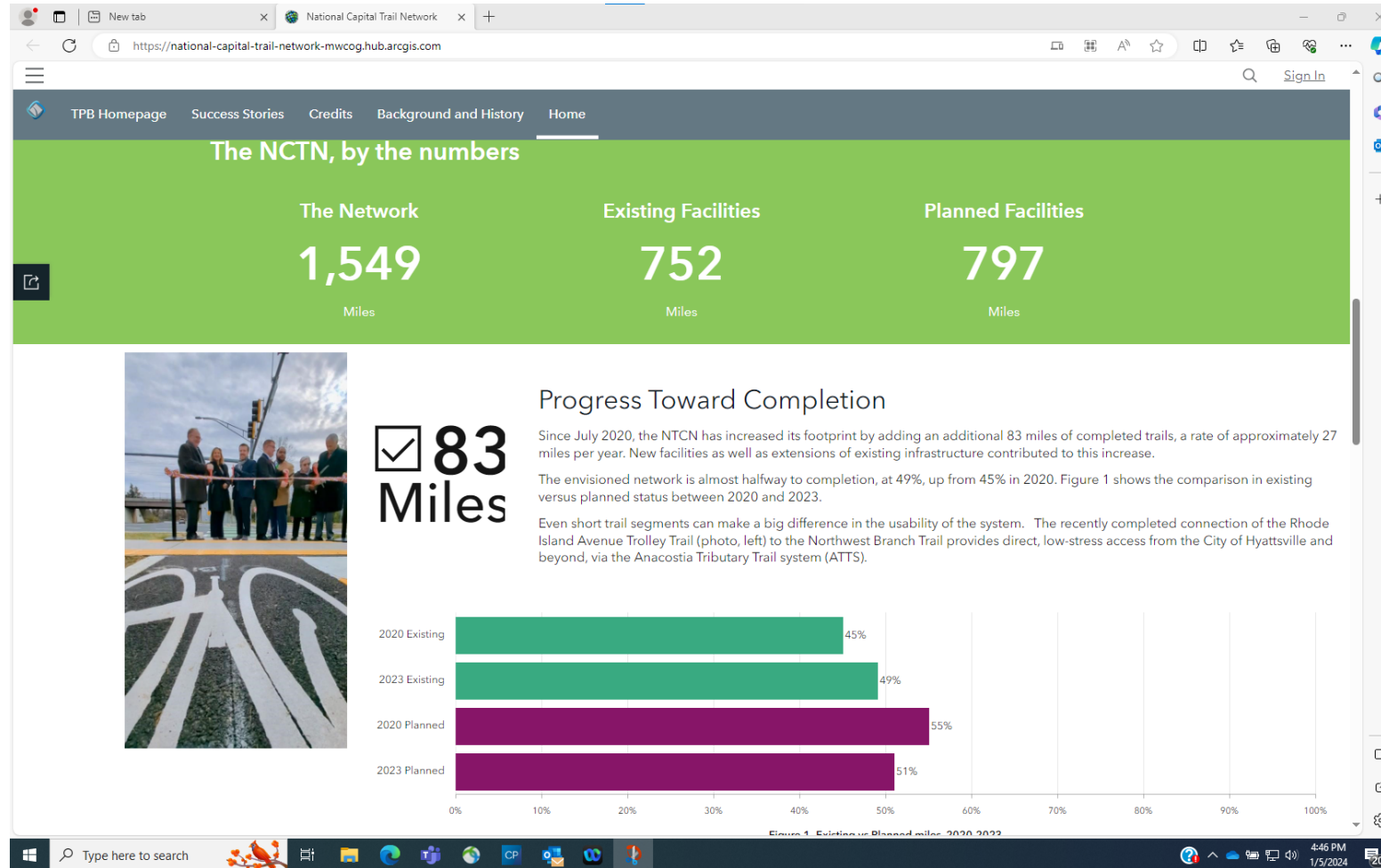
*Excludes Fauquier County



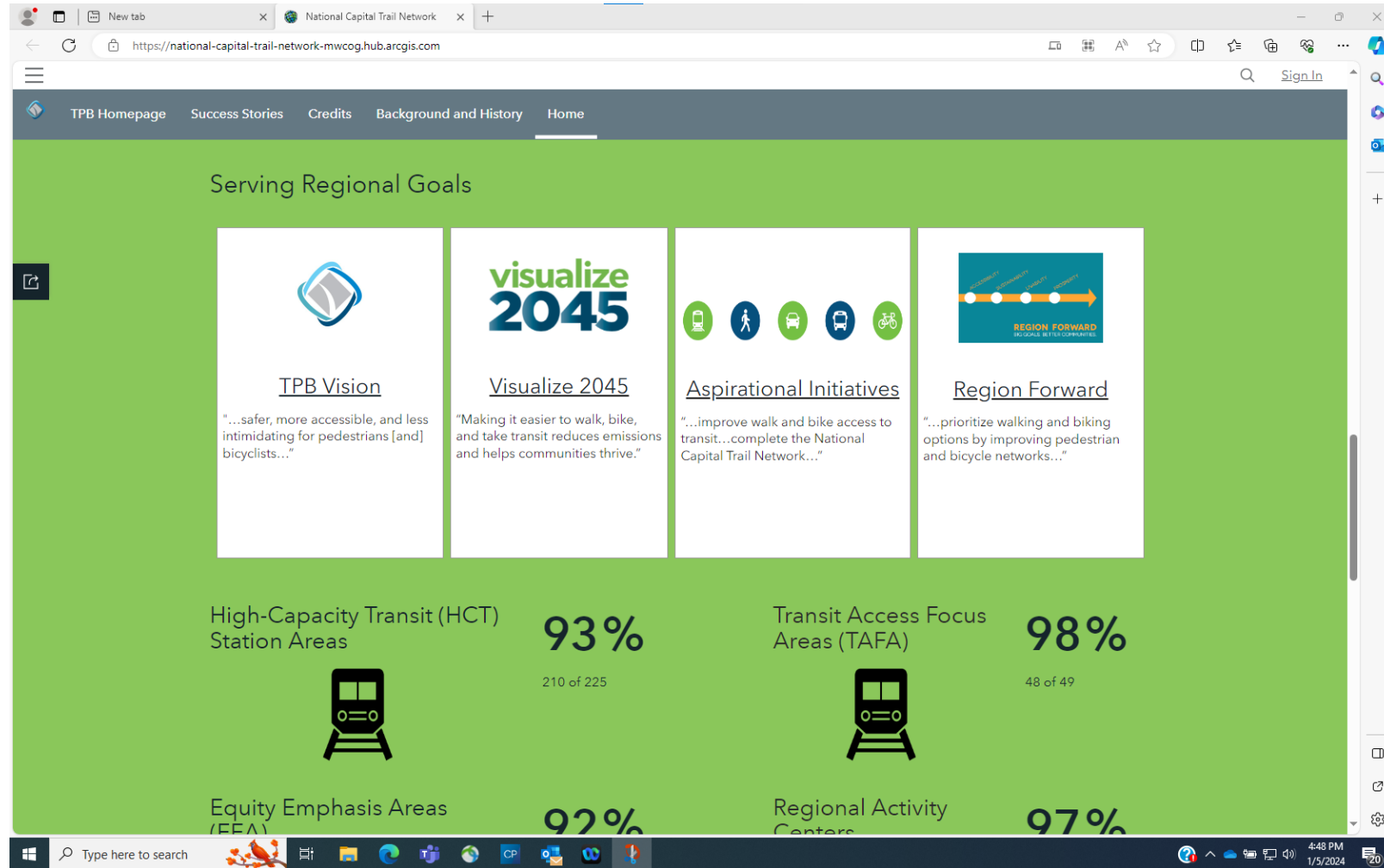
National Capital Trail Network Web Page



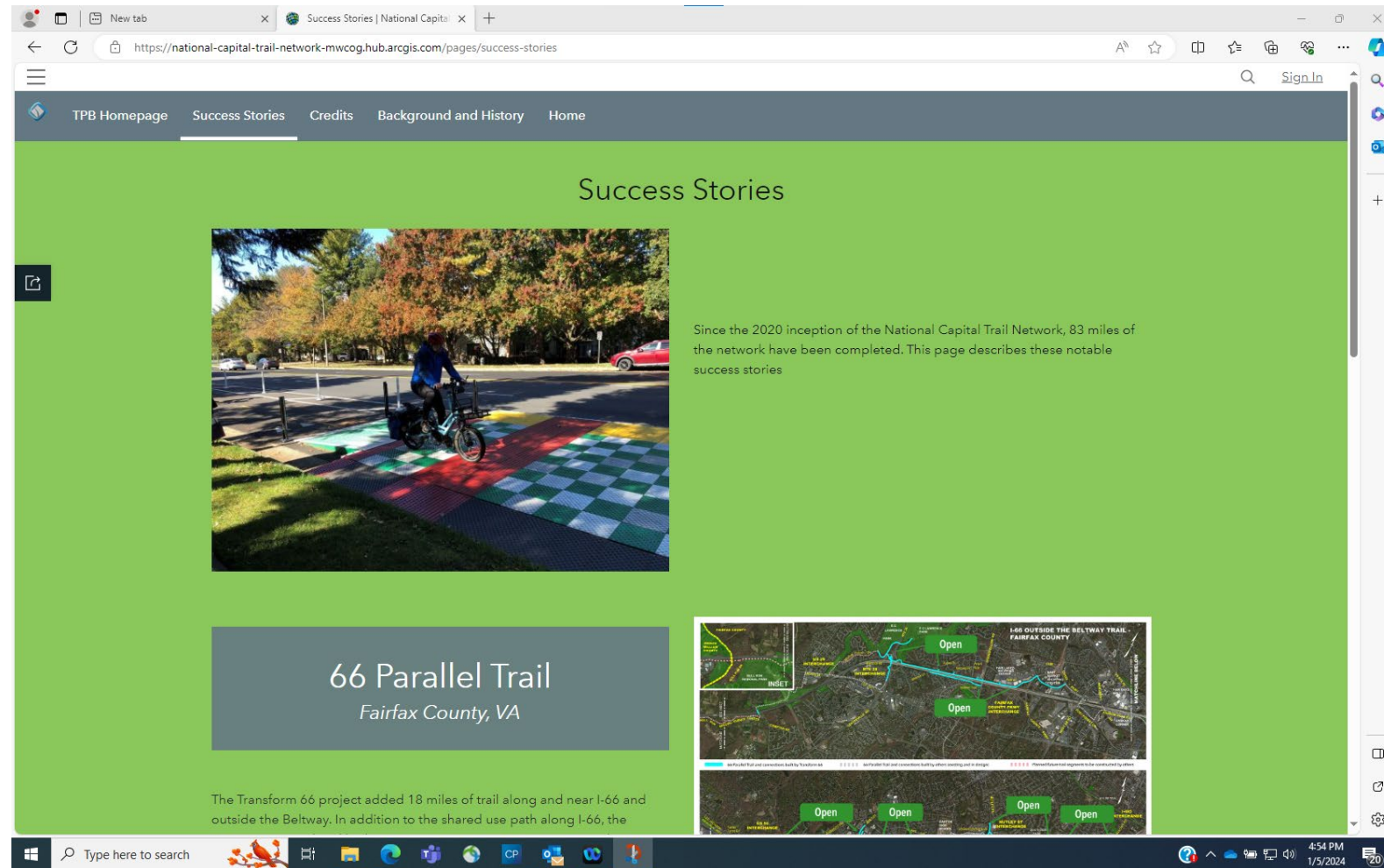
National Capital Trail Network Web Page



National Capital Trail Network Web Page

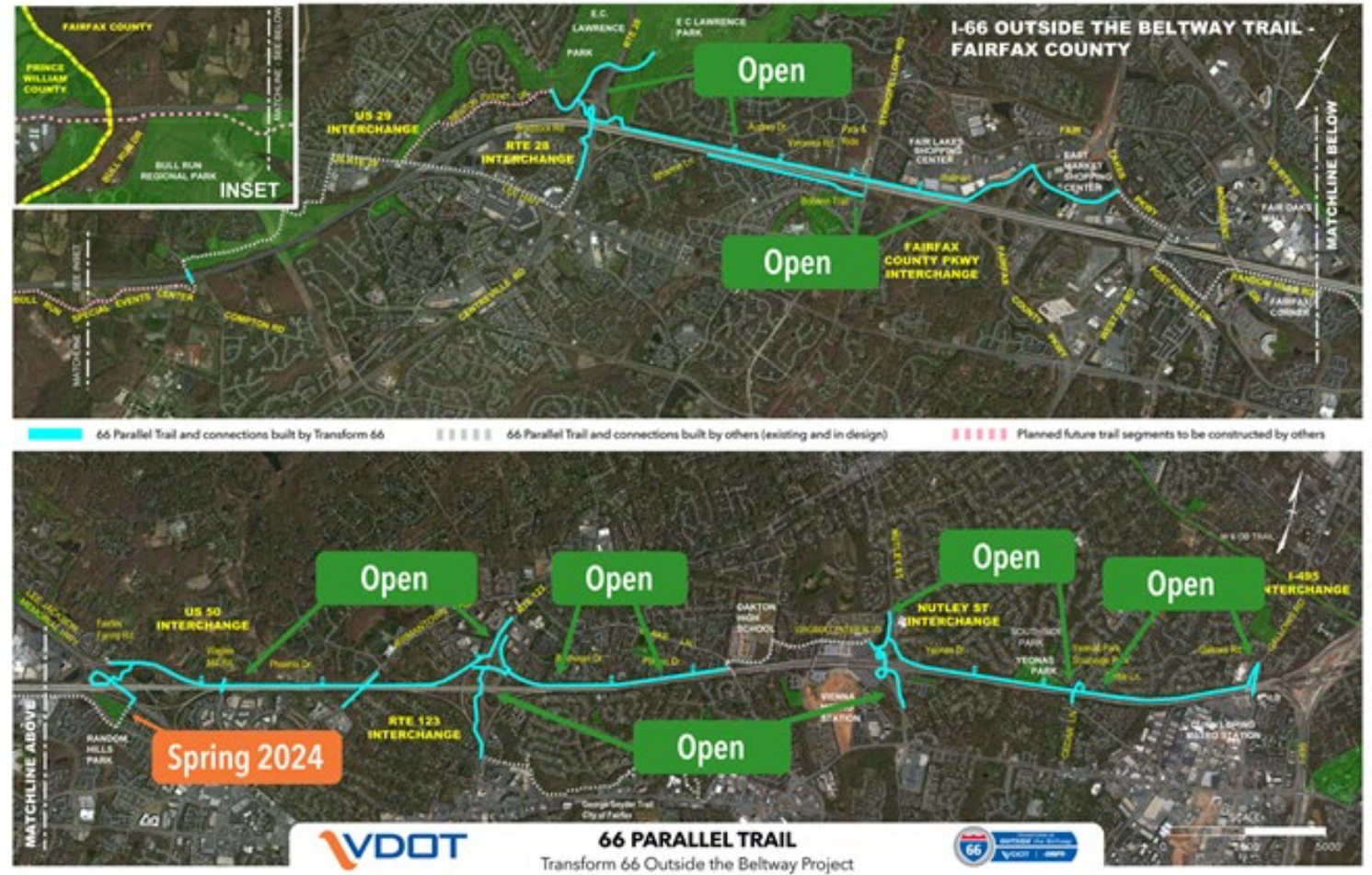


National Capital Trail Network Web Page



Notable Completed Projects - 66 Parallel Trail

- The Transform 66 project added 18 miles of trail along and near I-66 outside the Beltway
- Improved connections across and near I-66
- Connects to the existing W&OD and Custis Trails, providing a continuous off-road route from Rosslyn to Centreville



College Park Woods Connector Trail

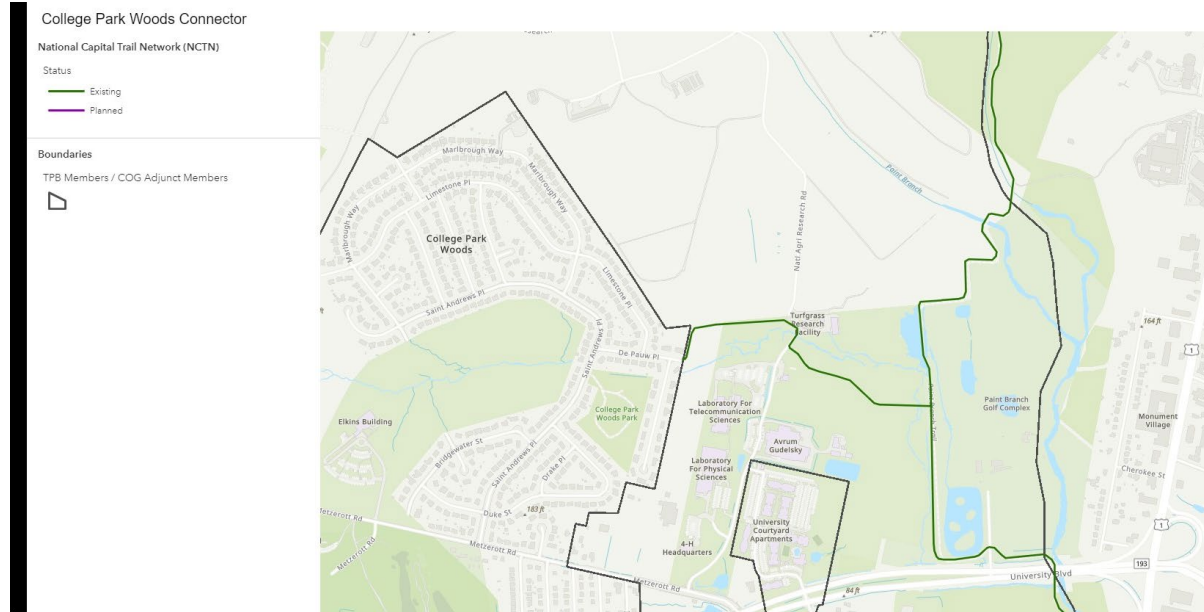


Photo credit: Jim Della-Giacoma

- Provides a safe connection between the College Park Woods neighborhood and the Paint Branch Trail, which connects to the University of Maryland campus and the rest of the Anacostia Tributary Trail System
- Before the trail opened, residents had to traverse a busy two-lane road and cross a major arterial



Frederick Douglass Bridge



- Completed in 2022, the new Frederick Douglass bridge includes wide separated paths for pedestrians and cyclists in both directions, as well as four pedestrian overlooks
- Connects existing trails on both sides of the Anacostia River, enhancing mobility and travel options that support revitalization of the area



Outlook

- TPB adopted Resolution R7-2024, approving the National Capital Trail Network, at the February 21 meeting
- Resolution R7-2024 directs TPB staff to:
 - Give *additional consideration* to projects that will implement portions of the network for technical assistance program funding.
 - *Report on progress* towards implementation of the network as feasible but *at least every two years*.
 - Work with the TPB member jurisdictions to *update the network* as feasible but *at least every two years*.
- The Resolution also calls upon the TPB members to *increase the rate of progress* in completing the National Capital Trail Network.



CONTACTS:

Andrew Meese

Systems Performance Planning Program Director
ameese@mwkog.org

Michael Farrell

TPB Senior Transportation Planner
mfarrell@mwkog.org

Charlene Howard

TPB Manager, Planning Data Resources
charlene@mwkog.org



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board