

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PROJECT IN MARYLAND FOR TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FUNDING UNDER THE SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2023**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, reauthorized November 15, 2021 when the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law, for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the FAST Act's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) Program, which is part of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), provides a portion of funding based on the relative share of the total State population sub-allocated to large urbanized areas, and the MPO is required "to develop a competitive process to allow eligible entities to submit projects for funding ... in consultation with the relevant State"; and

WHEREAS, the TA Set-Aside Program provides funding for transportation programs and projects defined as eligible per Section 11109(b)(1); 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(1) of the IIJA; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) are responsible for determining the total federal funding amount allocated to the TPB, determining project eligibility, project implementation, and project oversight; and

WHEREAS, the TA Set-Aside Program provides an opportunity to fund projects that implement regional policies reflected in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, in the Equity Emphasis Areas, and related to the seven initiatives endorsed by the TPB in December 2017 and January 2018, which include promoting Regional Activity Centers, improving pedestrian and bicycle access to transit, and completing the National Capital Trail Network; and

WHEREAS, a solicitation for TA Set-Aside applications for FY 2023-2024 was conducted by the Maryland Department of Transportation between April 15 and May 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the TPB's TA Set-Aside Selection Panel for Maryland met on June 27 and June 30, 2022, and recommended funding for one application, the Frederick & Pennsylvania Line Railroad Trail (F&PL Trail), based on project readiness for construction and the project's ability to meet regional selection criteria; and

WHEREAS, although the Selection Panel decided to fully expend the TPB's available suballocation on the F&PL Trail project, the panel also strongly supports funding for other applications from our region and therefore requested that MDOT consider using statewide TA Set-Aside funds for those unfunded projects, and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2022, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the recommended project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board approves the project for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for FY 2023 in Maryland, as described in the attached materials and as listed below:

- Frederick & Pennsylvania Line Railroad Trail (F&PL Trail), Frederick County, \$5,280,000

The TPB further urges MDOT to use a portion of the statewide TA Set-Aside sub-allocation to provide funding for the following priority applications from the National Capital Region:

- Twinbrook Safe Routes to School and Transit Access Feasibility Study, City of Rockville
- West 7th Street Protected Bicycle Lane 100% Design, City of Frederick
- Traffic Calming Feasibility Study - Catocin Furnace National Register Historic District, Frederick County
- Downtown Connectivity Study, City of Frederick

Adopted by the Transportation Planning Board at its regular meeting on July 20, 2022