



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Michael Farrell, Senior Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Expand the National Capital Trail – Status Report
DATE: May 31, 2019

OVERVIEW

The TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the work plan for the Expand the National Capital Trail Project at its January meeting. This memo will summarize the progress made on the project to date.

BACKGROUND

In Fall 2018 the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee recommended expanding the National Capital Trail into a regional trails plan. The Subcommittee's recommendations were presented to the TPB in November 2018, leading to the adoption of TPB Resolution R10-2019 in December, 2019.

Resolution R10-2019 directed staff to expand the TPB-endorsed 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. Staff is to build on previous work done by TPB and others, and to report on progress by end of June 2019, including as practicable, a report on potential sources of funding.

Projects that are part of this regional trail network could receive priority consideration for Transportation-Land Use Connections (TLC) funding, as well as Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) funding.

PROCESS

TPB Staff is working with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, and the outer jurisdictions to expand the National Capital Trail into a regional trails plan. Using the trails network, [goals](#) and [Criteria for Network Inclusion](#) that the Capital Trails Coalition has developed as a starting point, the network will be extended to include all the TPB member jurisdictions.

PROGRESS

Task	Status
Identify needed resources, including planner and GIS staff time.	Completed. Staff time is available.
Meet with the Capital Trails Coalition to be briefed on the data gathering process.	Completed. A successful information exchange meeting with the Coalition was held on March 8.
TPB will agree to house the trails data.	Agreed. COG/TPB will gather and house trails data.
Bike/Ped Subcommittee will review and approve the work plan, goals statement, and Criteria for Network Inclusion.	Completed. B/P Subcommittee reviewed and approved the work plan in January, adopted the goals statement and Capital Trails Coalition network at the March meeting, and approved the Criteria for Network Inclusion at the May meeting.
Carry out site visits to the outer jurisdictions.	Site visits held in Frederick County, Prince William County, and Loudoun County. Met with Charles County staff at COG; site visit anticipated in the near future.
Gather GIS data on existing and planned trails and other bike facilities.	In progress.
The Subcommittee chair will make a progress report to the TPB	Slated for June or July, depending on TPB schedule.
In consultation with the relevant jurisdictions, staff will select trails for inclusion in the regional trails network, using the approved goals and selection criteria.	Summer 2019
The Subcommittee endorsement of the expanded regional trails network	Fall 2019
TPB Approval	Fall 2019

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to gather GIS layers for trails and other bicycle facilities. When this work is complete, staff will apply the Criteria for Network Inclusion to create a draft network, which will be vetted by the outer jurisdictions prior to review and approval by the Subcommittee. Subcommittee endorsement and TPB approval of the expanded network are anticipated for Fall 2019.