

NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

Presentation of New Draft Map

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Transportation Planning Board
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Overview of Today's Presentation

- Background leading to the development of the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN)
- Review of trail development activities
- Criteria used for designation of an existing or planned trail to be on the network
- The draft map, presented for TPB review, with potential action at a future TPB meeting
- Next/future steps



Mount Vernon Trail (BeyondDC, flickr.com)

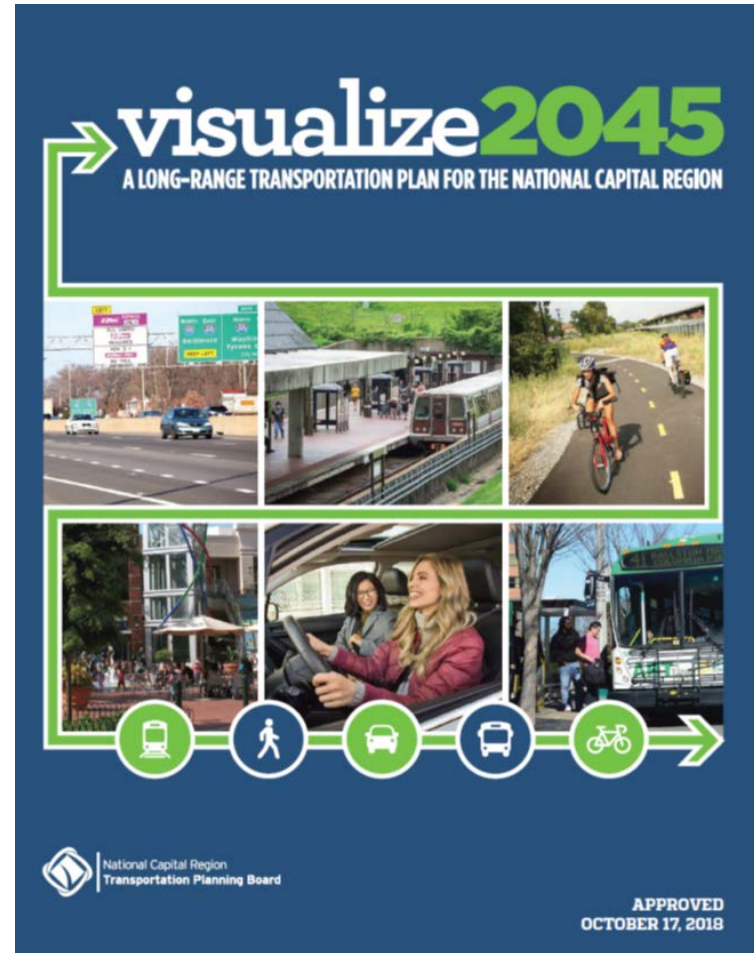
Background

- 2014-2016 – Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee worked with the National Park Service and other partners to define the National Capital Trail, a 60-mile circumferential trail in the region’s central jurisdictions
- 2016-2018 – The Capital Trails Coalition (housed at WABA and Rails to Trails) expands the National Capital Trail route into trails plan covering the core of the Washington Region



TPB Adopts the National Capital Trail

- October 2018 – TPB adopted the National Capital Trail as an Aspirational Element of Visualize 2045
- 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



Review of Activities to Prepare the NCTN Map

- Staff Data Gathering (2019-2020)
 - Reviewed and adapted Capital Trails Coalition information
 - Obtained additional information, especially from jurisdictions/areas not in the original coverage (e.g. Charles, Frederick, Loudoun) or updated since (e.g. Montgomery)
- Subcommittee Review
 - TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee endorsed use of the Capital Trails Coalition's data (March 2019); trail selection criteria (May 2019); initial draft map (January 2020)
 - TPB Technical Committee reviewed map, provided comments for further work (February 2020); endorsed revised map for today's TPB review (June 2020)



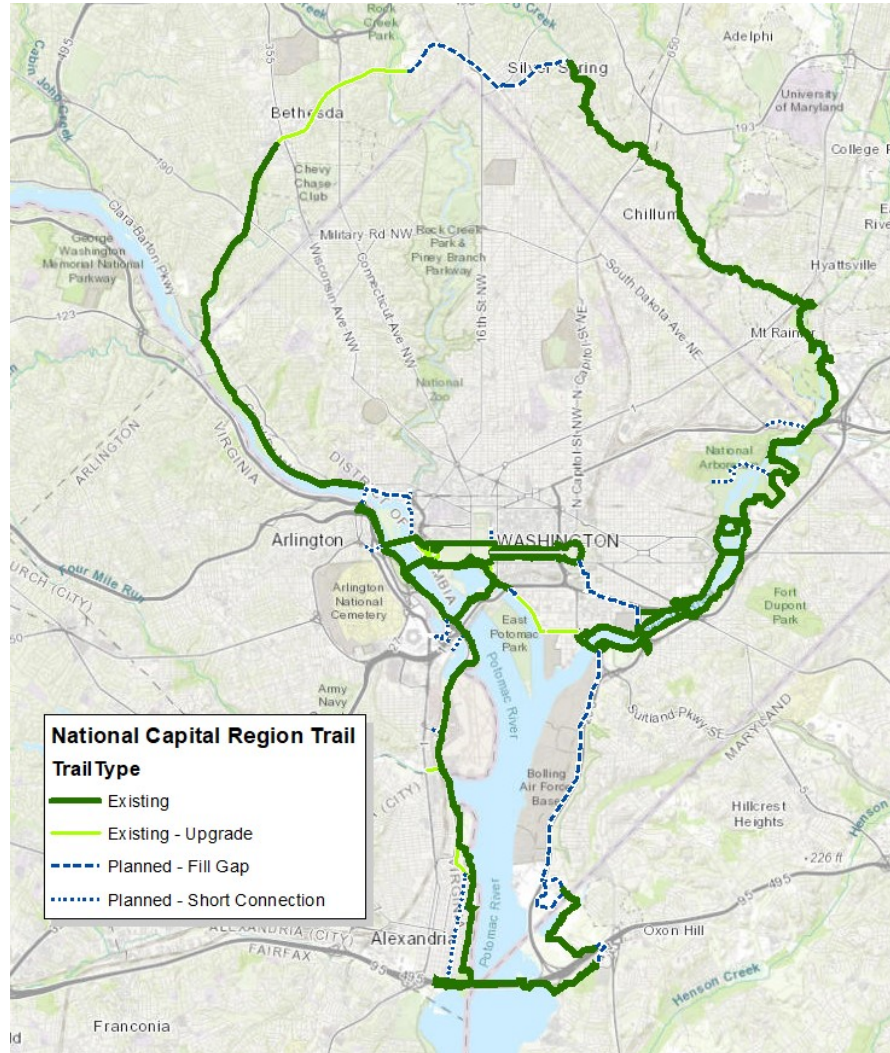
Criteria for NCTN Inclusion

- Long-distance facilities (many local trails not included)
- Accessible for all ages and abilities; designed for non-motorized use; suitable for both transportation and recreation
- Off-street path width minimums (10 feet for new construction, 8 feet for existing paths); must be paved
- On-street facilities must be protected from moving traffic (i.e. parked cars, curbs, flexposts)
- Must have connectivity to the overall regional network (limited exemptions to above criteria allowed to ensure connectivity)
- Can be existing or planned (must be in an approved plan)



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

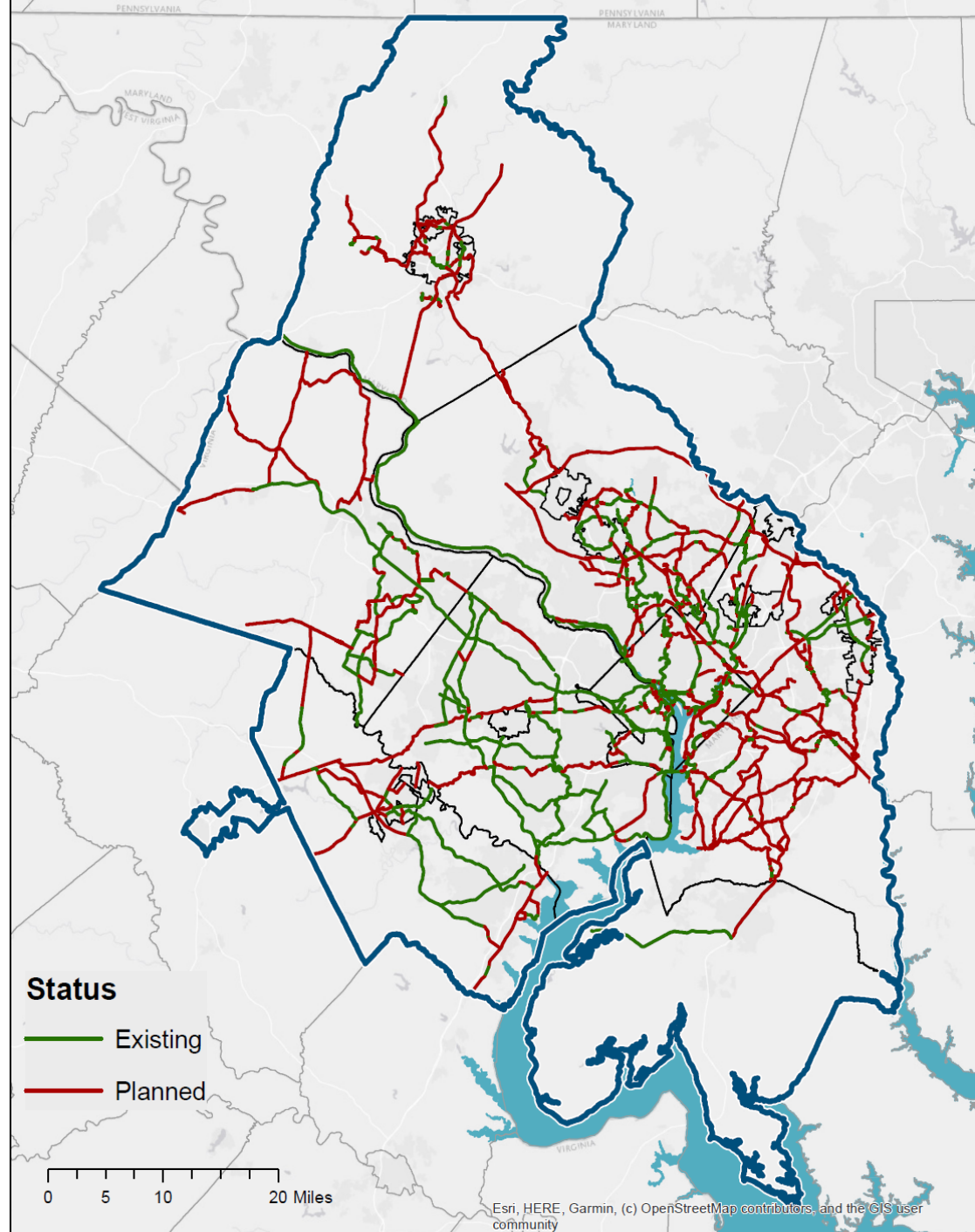


New: National Capital Trail Network – Draft Map (2020)

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



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Next/Future Steps

- TPB review period; proposed TPB adoption of the NCTN at a future meeting
- Use to help prioritize funding
 - Transportation Alternatives Program
 - Transportation – Land Use Connections Program
- Network updates
 - Periodic updates to the network (likely annually) 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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