

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK

WHEREAS, the work of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has been guided by the overarching goals of Prosperity, Accessibility, Livability, and Sustainability as espoused in COG's *Region Forward* Vision for the region; and

WHEREAS, *Region Forward* highlights the interrelationship of land-use planning and transportation; and

WHEREAS, improving walking and bicycling infrastructure improves quality of life and access to the region's communities; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2020, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved TPB Resolution R5-2021 adopting the National Capital Trail Network, directing TPB staff to give additional consideration to projects that will implement portions of the network for its Transportation Alternatives and Transportation-Land Use Connections grant programs, asking for the network to be updated annually, and asking TPB members to prioritize projects, programs, and policies that will implement portions of the network; 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, 71 percent of the region's population, 76 percent of the jobs, 136 of the region's 141 Activity Centers, or places primed for future growth, and 308 of the region's 351 Equity Emphasis Areas, or geographic areas with high concentrations of low-income and/or minority populations, are all within a half-mile of the network; and

WHEREAS, the National Capital Trail Network is anticipated to benefit many of the goals and targets of *Region Forward*, including reducing daily vehicle miles of travel (VMT) per capita, increasing the share of walk, bicycle, and transit trips, increasing bicyclist and pedestrian safety, improving health through opportunities for active transportation, and increasing opportunities for non-motorized, less-polluting travel; 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 BY THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The Board endorses the National Capital Trail Network, acknowledges its expansion as an important milestone for regional planning, and recognizes that it has the potential to help the region work toward its shared goals of prosperity, accessibility, livability, and sustainability, as well as equity, safety, and health.

For these reasons, the Board encourages area jurisdictions and agencies to prioritize trail facilities that will contribute to completing the portions of the network that is still unbuilt.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on August 12, 2020.

Patricia A. Warren, Executive Assistant