

ITEM 8 – Information
January 17, 2024

National Capital Trail Network Update

Background: Staff will review the update of the National Capital Trail Network, one of the TPB initiatives of Visualize 2045. The board will be asked to approve the update at its February meeting.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Michael Farrell, TPB Senior Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Updated National Capital Trail Network
DATE: January 11, 2024

This memorandum will discuss the draft 2023 update of the National Capital Trail Network, one of the TPB Aspirational Initiatives of Visualize 2045.

BACKGROUND

In July 2020, TPB adopted [Resolution R5-2021](#), approving the National Capital Trail Network, a regional, continuously connected network of existing and proposed shared-use paths. The network is intended to provide healthy, low-stress, reliable transportation for people of all ages and abilities, with interjurisdictional connectivity. Any project that helps complete the network receives priority consideration for funds that the TPB administers, such as [Transportation-Land Use Connections](#) and [Transportation Alternatives](#) funds.

UPDATE PROCESS

Resolution R5-2021 envisioned periodic updates to the network. Recently, TPB staff worked with the jurisdictions and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee to produce a revised National Capital Trail Network, and addressed input and comments received by December 2023, including from briefings to the TPB Technical Committee.

PROGRESS

Approximately 83 miles of the National Capital Trail Network have been completed since July 2020, a rate of approximately 27 miles per year. This estimate is based on projects that transitioned from planned to existing from 2020 to 2023, as identified by jurisdiction staff. The share of existing miles in the network grew from 45% in 2020 to 49% in 2023, while the share of planned miles fell from 55% to 51%. In addition, projects were added to the network, increasing the total network mileage to 1,549 miles, an increase of 127 miles compared to 1,422 miles in the 2020 network. At the current rate of construction, it will take about thirty years to complete the network.

NEXT STEPS

Please review the draft map and web page at the [National Capital Trail Network web page](#).

Staff will present the draft National Capital Trail Network update to the TPB at the January 17, 2024 meeting for review, and will propose the update for approval at the February 21 meeting. If board members have any comments on the network update, please let staff know by February 9.