

RESOLUTION NO. 3048

RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE THE CAPITAL TRAILS NETWORK

WHEREAS, the Capital Trails Network is a connected system of multi-use trails (largely off-road) located in the jurisdictions that comprise the Metropolitan Washington region, including the City of Alexandria, the District of Columbia, the City of Falls Church, Fairfax City, and Prince George's, Montgomery, Fairfax, and Arlington Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Capital Trails Coalition seeks to create a world-class network of 881 miles of multi-use trails that are equitably distributed throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region (of which 479 miles are already complete); and,

WHEREAS, the regional trails network will transform public life by providing healthy, low-stress access to open space and active transportation for people of all ages and abilities to their daily destinations around the region; and,

WHEREAS, when the trails network is complete, nearly 4 million people will live within a 2-mile walk or ride of the network, giving them access to jobs, businesses, transit, and recreational opportunities, while also reducing the region's greenhouse gas emissions by bolstering its sustainable transportation network. Completing the 40 priority trail projects (91 miles of trail) will bring access to an additional 231,000 residents in underserved areas that have historically lacked safe access to trails and open space (61% of which are Black and 14% of which are Hispanic); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and other local governments in the region have already made significant progress towards planning, designing and constructing the forty (40) priority projects with 21 miles of trail currently in construction and \$100M already allocated to planned projects. This regional commitment will help ensure the adequate resources to complete the remaining miles; and,

WHEREAS, the Capital Trail Coalition projects are also City priorities that have been and will be a focus when requesting federal and state funding streams; and,

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) have both recently adopted the National Capital Trail Network, which includes the 40 priority trail projects identified by the Capital Trails Coalition, as a regional priority. The network is already being used to prioritize funding from federal, state and local grant programs including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Transportation-Land Use Connections (TLC) Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Capital Trails Coalition Network forms the crossroads of multiple regional and national long-distance trails, including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the Grand History Trail, the September 11th National Memorial Trail, the American Discovery Trail, the C&O Canal Towpath, the Great American Rail-Trail, and the East Coast Greenway, which collectively span 33 states and tens of thousands of miles; and,

WHEREAS, the results of a recent “Voices of the Region” survey conducted by MWCOG, which asked over 2,400 Washington Region residents about their travel before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, show that residents’ travel patterns have changed as a result of the pandemic and that they would like to continue to walk (53%) and bike (26%) more and drive less post-pandemic. Additionally, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has found that 65% of over 800 participants surveyed in the Washington Region consider trails and open space to be important to them; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of investing in greenspace. According to the 2020 Menino Survey of Mayors, three out of four mayors expect residents to spend more time visiting parks and greenspace than they did before the pandemic, and roughly two-thirds expect residents will spend more time biking or walking. In the same survey, 38% of Mayors expect parks/recreation to see dramatic financial cuts in their community; and,

WHEREAS, completing the trail network would make the Washington Metropolitan Area a model for other regions across the nation. As working remotely becomes the new normal for more people following the COVID-19 pandemic, our area will be competing with other regions to attract top talent. A robust regional trail network will make our region more competitive for attracting and retaining new residents and businesses, and the network will generate \$1.02B in economic impact each year; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia hereby endorses the completion of the Capital Trails Coalition Network.

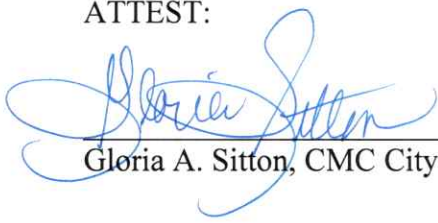
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Adopted: January 25, 2022



JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:



Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Attachment 2

Top 40 Priority Project Projects

Trail Name	Jurisdiction	Length (miles)
Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail	Prince George's	0.45
Long Bridge Section	DC/Arlington/ NPS	0.45
Memorial Bridge Sections	NPS/Arlington	.2
WB&A Bridge	Prince George's/ Anne Arundel	0.1
Oxon Run Trail (Forest Heights)	DC/ Prince George's/NPS	0.9
Arboretum Connector	DC/NPS	1.11
South Capitol St. Trail	DC	3.33
Central Ave Trail Connection	Prince George's	2
TR Bridge to N Meade St	Arlington	0.2
Piscataway Creek Trail	Prince George's	16.81
Little Paint Branch Trail	Prince George's	2.22
Georgetown Bridge over Rock Creek	DC/NPS	0.2
Key Bridge Connection to Capital Crescent Trail	DC/NPS	0.32
110 Trail/Cemetery Wall Trail	Arlington	0.73
Louisiana Ave	DC	0.59
Backlick Run Trail	Alexandria	0.77
Rock Creek Park Trail	DC/NPS	3.55
Washington Boulevard Trail Phase II	Arlington	0.59
Virginia Railroad Express/ South County East West Trail	Fairfax	17.1
Arlington Boulevard Trail	Fairfax/Arlington	7.2
Custis (I-66) Trail Extension	Fairfax	16.15

Purple Line Trail	Montgomery	4.5
Suitland Parkway Trail	Prince George's/NPS	2.4
Oxon Run Trail	Prince George's/NPS	0.9
Prince George's Connector	Prince George's	0.38
Metropolitan Branch Trail	DC	2.4
New York Ave Trail	DC	1.7
Anacostia Riverwalk Trail	DC/NPS	1.51
East Capitol Bridge Connector (Whitney Memorial Bridge Pedestrian and Bicycle Access)	DC/NPS	0.39
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MD 704)/WB&A Extension	Prince George's	6.5
Metropolitan Branch Trail	Montgomery	.62
Pennsylvania Ave Sidepath	Prince George's	3.9
Eastern Ave Trail	DC	4.5
Fort Circle Parks Trail	DC/NPS	2
Cabin Branch Trail	Prince George's	3.8
Shepherd Branch Trail	DC	3.1
North Beauregard Street	Alexandria	1.8
Connection Trail for Anacostia River Trail to Marvin Gaye Trail	DC	0.4
Anacostia Riverwalk-SW	DC/NPS	1.61
Suitland Bog Connector	Prince George's	1.8