

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-62-2021

Proposed by Council Members Glaros, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Franklin, Ivey,
Streeter, Taveras, Hawkins, Harrison, Dernoga and Turner

Introduced by Council Members Glaros, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Franklin, Ivey,
Streeter, Taveras, Hawkins, Harrison, Dernoga and Turner

Date of Introduction June 8, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Capital Trails Coalition

3 For the purpose of providing information about the Capital Trails Coalition and the Capital Trails
4 Network; providing for the healthy lifestyle that hiking and biking can advance; providing for the
5 high number of users when the Capital Trails Network is completed; providing for the receipt of
6 Federal and State funds; providing that the Capital Trail Network has been designated a regional
7 priority; providing that the Capital Trail Network provides a crossroads with multiple regional
8 and national trails; providing for the increase use of hike and bike trails during COVID-19;
9 providing for the investment in greenspace; providing that the County will be a model for other
10 jurisdictions; providing for a significant economic impact; endorsing the region completing the
11 40 priority projects of Capital Trails Coalition Network by 2025; and requesting the County
12 Executive and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), as
13 well as the State of Maryland and the Federal Government, to assist in prioritizing Prince
14 George's County Capital Trails Network projects for funding.

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

19 WHEREAS, The Capital Trails Coalition seeks to create a world-class network of 881
20 miles of multi-use trails that are equitably distributed throughout the Washington D.C.
21 metropolitan region, of which 242 miles are planned in Prince George's County; and

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

4 WHEREAS, when the trails network is complete, nearly 4 million people, including more
5 than 540,080 working age adults in Prince George’s County, will live within a 2-mile walk or
6 ride of the network, giving them access to jobs, businesses, transit, and recreational
7 opportunities, while also reducing the region’s greenhouse gas emissions by bolstering its
8 sustainable transportation network. Completing the 40 priority trail projects in the region (91
9 miles of trail) Attachment A, will bring access to an additional 231,000 residents in underserved
10 areas that have historically lacked safe access to trails and open space; and

11 WHEREAS, regional local governments have already made significant progress towards
12 planning, designing and constructing the 40 priority projects with 21 miles of trail currently in
13 construction and \$100M already allocated to planned projects. This regional commitment will
14 help ensure the adequate resources to complete the remaining miles by 2025; and

15 WHEREAS, the Capital Trail Coalition projects are also County/City and MNCPPC
16 priorities that will be a focus when requesting federal and state funding streams; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, our region’s
18 Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
19 (MWCOG) have both recently adopted the National Capital Trail Network, which includes the
20 40 priority trail projects identified by the Capital Trails Coalition, as a regional priority. The
21 network is already being used to prioritize funding from federal, state and local grant programs
22 including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Transportation-Land Use
23 Connections (TLC) Program; and

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

29 WHEREAS, the results of a recent “Voices of the Region” survey conducted by MWCOG,
30 which asked over 2,400 Washington Region residents about their travel before, during and after
31 the COVID-19 pandemic, show that residents’ travel patterns have changed as a result of the

1 pandemic and that they would like to continue to walk (53%) and bike (26%) more and drive less
2 post-pandemic. Additionally, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has found that 65% of over 800
3 participants surveyed in the Washington Region consider trails and open space to be important to
4 them; and

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

10 WHEREAS, completing the trail network would make the Washington Metropolitan Area a
11 model for other regions across the nation. As working remotely becomes the new normal for
12 more people following the COVID-19 pandemic, our area will be competing with other regions
13 to attract top talent. A robust regional trail network will make our region more competitive for
14 attracting and retaining new residents and businesses, and we know the network will generate
15 \$1.02 billion in economic impact each year, including \$190 million annually in Prince George's
16 County.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
18 County, Maryland, that the County Council endorses the region completing the 40 priority
19 projects of Capital Trails Coalition Network by 2025.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council requests the County Executive and
21 the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, as well as the State of Maryland
22 and the Federal Government, to assist in prioritizing Prince George's County Capital Trails
23 Network projects for funding.

Adopted this 22nd day of June, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

TOP 40 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: Federal Hill Drive to Summerfield Rd	Fairfax	2.2
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/ Prince George's	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
Montrose Parkway East	Montgomery	1.3
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