

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-107

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 2, 2021

To recognize the Capital Trails Coalition and their goal to complete the remaining top 40 priority projects of the Capital Trails Network, an 881-mile connected network of multiuse trails serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, by 2025 and the full network of trails by 2030.

WHEREAS, the Capital Trails Network is a connected system of multi-use trails located in the jurisdictions that comprise the Washington Metropolitan region, including Washington, DC, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax; and Prince George's, Montgomery, Fairfax, and Arlington counties;

WHEREAS, the Capital Trails Coalition seeks to create a world-class network of 881 miles of multi-use trails that are equitably distributed throughout Washington, DC and the Washington Metropolitan region;

WHEREAS, 68.2 of the 111.4 miles specifically planned for Washington, DC are already completed;

WHEREAS, the trails network will transform public life by providing access to open space and healthy, low-stress transportation options;

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 strengthening its sustainable transportation network;

WHEREAS, completing the 40 priority trail projects will provide an additional 91 miles of trail accessible to an additional 231,000 residents in areas that have historically lacked safe access to trails and open space;

WHEREAS, the District and other jurisdictions already have made significant progress towards planning, funding, designing, and constructing these priority projects, signifying a collective regional commitment to providing the resources necessary to complete the remaining miles by 2025;

WHEREAS, the results of a recent "Voices of the Region" survey conducted by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, which asked over 2,400 Washington Region residents about their travel before, during and after the COVID-19

pandemic, showed 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;

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the region, has approved the trail network map and endorsed the project as one of its aspirational initiatives to support reaching our climate goals;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of investing in greenspace, and according to the 2020 Menino Survey of Mayors, 3 out of 4 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;

WHEREAS, as working remotely becomes the new normal for more people following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington Metropolitan region will compete with other regions to attract top talent, and a robust regional trails network with the associated green space will attract and retain residents and businesses, in addition to the trails network's potential to generate \$1.02B in economic impact each year, according to an economic impact analysis; and

WHEREAS, completing the trails network would make the Washington Metropolitan region a model for other regions across the nation, and demonstrate the value of working together to create a network of trails for everyone to enjoy.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution be cited as the "Capital Trails Coalition and the Capital Trails Network Recognition Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the Capital Trails Coalition and supports the goal to complete the Capital Trails Network bringing a connected, safe, accessible network of trails to the District of Columbia and beyond.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.