

## RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 22-27

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

DATE: March 24, 2022

### RESOLUTION TO PURSUE AND ACCEPT GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL CONNECTIVITY TO COMMUNITIES AND PARKS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) has supported the coordination of local trail and greenway initiatives throughout the Northern Virginia region; and

WHEREAS, NVRC has, in the past, assisted local governments in the planning and implementation of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (POHE); and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has provided technical assistance funding to NVRC to assist local governments in the planning and development of the POHE in Northern Virginia under a master cooperative agreement P20AC01050; and

WHEREAS, NVRC has coordinated local efforts to discuss and research policy issues since 2000 through the POHE Public Land Managers Committee; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has expressed an interest in supplementing NVRC'S efforts in this capacity to provide periodic additional resources to assist in the development of the POHE in Virginia; and

WHEREAS staff from the Counties of Arlington, Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William, and the towns of Leesburg and Occoquan have partnered with NPS and NVRC in the planning and development of the PHNST; and

WHEREAS NPS and NVRC entered into a task agreement from 2020 through 2025, P20AC01050 that includes engaging the POHE land managers group, renewing the regional MOU with NPS, engaging a regional group of stakeholders on public access to rivers and streams, performing scenic resource inventories, and initiating a regional public water access plan; and

WHEREAS, NVRC has identified additional task activities related to the POHE in Northern Virginia, including completing signatures and associated signing ceremony for the renewed Memorandum of Understanding at George Washington's Mount Vernon, conducting geospatial analysis of trail data with demographic and health opportunity information and transit, facilitating a workshop on transportation and pedestrian impacts of a recent NPS feasibility assessment, and supporting Virginia DCR and trail managers with a health and economic benefits assessment of trails and linear parks for the Northern Virginia POHE network; and

WHEREAS the Northern Virginia Regional Commission was awarded of \$75,662.90 as needed to provide technical assistance and developing a benefits and equity study and dashboard, resulting in a number of recommendations for better amenities, connection to communities, and data collection through trail counters; and

WHEREAS the Northern Virginia Regional Commission was awarded \$70,310 and is currently updating a corridor analysis for the Potomac Heritage Trail Corridor; and

WHEREAS there are a number of technical assistance and grant opportunities that could support these recommendations such as the Rivers Trails, Conservation Assistance, National Park Foundation grants, using NVRC staff time to support local priorities for trail improvements,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, That NVRC pursue grant applications and technical assistance programs for up to \$110,000 with the National Park Foundation, National Park Service, and other resources for grants and technical assistance to augment work with the National Park Service on the Potomac Heritage Trail such as the NPF Capacity Building grant. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to accept such grants on behalf of the Commission.

#### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on March 24, 2022.

  
ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER

