

## RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 24-03

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

DATE: July 27, 2023

### **AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT FUNDS FROM LOUDOUN COUNTY TO ADVANCE POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) provides coordination for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) in Northern Virginia through a Cooperative Agreement P21AC12147-00 with the National Park Service;

WHEREAS, NVRC plays a key role coordinating and ensuring trail connectivity for alignments through Northern Virginia jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, NVRC's 2022 Corridor Analysis highlighted the large gap in connectivity of the PHNST from the Town of Leesburg in Loudoun County to Harpers Ferry National Historic Park's Northern Virginia section.

WHEREAS, the National Park Service PHNST Superintendent, Loudoun County, and other western jurisdictions have expressed the need to evaluate connectivity options for the trail west from the Town of Leesburg to Harpers Ferry National Historic Park's Northern Virginia section with additional alignment opportunities, such as the Appalachian Trail and other park and crossing connections;

WHEREAS, NVRC represents the best option for convening and engaging diverse management partners to reach consensus on options for the PHNST's connectivity and alignments in Northern Virginia;

WHEREAS, NVRC accepted Task Agreement P23AC01209-00 from the National Park Service to initiate a multi-year feasibility study to identify alignment options from the Town of Leesburg to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's Northern Virginia section.

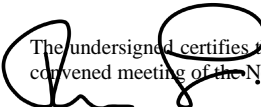
WHEREAS, Loudoun County, a partner jurisdiction and Memorandum of Understanding signatory for the PHNST, will serve as a primary stakeholder for each phase of the feasibility study, including reviews of the contractor RFP and study methodology, engagement in public outreach, and other technical assistance activities throughout the project period.

WHEREAS, the feasibility study will also support and advance Loudoun County's 2021 adopted Linear Parks and Trails Plan.

WHEREAS, Loudoun County has proposed to contribute \$125,000 in matching funds to support the multi-year feasibility study;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Loudoun County to accept no more than \$125,000 in funds from Loudoun County in support of the development and implementation of the multi-year feasibility study for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Northern Virginia.

#### **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 July 27, 2023.

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ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER