

MOTION: Eileen Sheridan

February 27, 2024

SECOND: Neil Nelson

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 24-4

RE: POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL PREFERRED ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF OCCOQUAN AND BELMONT BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail extends along the Potomac River from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Virginia's Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County is an important segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail traversing from the Town of Occoquan south to the Stafford County line; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Occoquan is at the crossroads of national trails and greenways, which enhances its livability; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity exists for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail to closely follow the Occoquan River shoreline from the Fairfax County crossing at Occoquan to Woodbridge rather than along traffic congested roads; and

WHEREAS, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail can traverse from Poplar Lane to the I-95/Route 123 VDOT right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail can follow the VDOT right of way on the west side of the I-95/Route 123 intersection and continue to the Occoquan River by going under the I-95 bridge and then continuing under the Route One and railroad bridges, thus avoiding traffic congested roads; and

WHEREAS, this trail route will enhance the scenic and recreational values of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and has the support of the Town of Occoquan and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association; and

WHEREAS, the Trails and Blueways Council adopted a resolution on September 26, 2023, that the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail take advantage of the trail alignment to be as close to the Occoquan River as possible to connect the Town of Occoquan to the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge at Belmont Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan currently shows two potential Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail routes with the one going under I-95 as the preferred route;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council hereby endorses for consideration the route of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as it takes advantage of the I-95/Route 123 VDOT right of way going north to, and then under, the I-95 bridge and then continuing along the shoreline of the Occoquan River under the Route One and railroad bridges; and

FURTHER, the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council encourages the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and its Departments of Parks and Recreation, and Transportation, and the Virginia Department of Transportation to ensure that the design for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail reflects this enhanced scenic route for the benefit of its citizens.

Votes:

Ayes: 13

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 0

Absent from Meeting: 1

SIGNED:



Prince William Trails and Blueways Council chair