

**BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
RESOLUTION #18-7**

**ACCEPT THE PATAPSCO REGIONAL CONCEPT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX**

**WHEREAS**, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region, encompassing the Baltimore Urbanized Area, and includes official representatives of the cities of Annapolis and Baltimore, the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's as well as representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Department of Planning, the Maryland Transit Administration, and Harford Transit; and

**WHEREAS**, the regulations implementing the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act require the metropolitan planning process to provide for projects and strategies that address these factors, among others: "Increase the accessibility and mobility options available for people and for freight" and "Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight"; and

**WHEREAS**, the strategies that support the regional goals of the BRTB, as enumerated in the region's current long-range plan—*Maximize2040: A Performance-Based Transportation Plan*—include, among others: "Continue to invest in pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs, especially those that link to activity centers and public transit" and "Enhance the quality of human health by providing multimodal transportation infrastructure and services that promote active living and physical activity and minimize transportation-related emissions"; and

**WHEREAS**, the BRTB directed the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, through its Unified Planning Work Program, to develop a concept plan and implementation recommendations for a potential Patapsco Regional Greenway, a shared-use path system along the Patapsco River valley that would connect neighborhoods and destinations in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard and Carroll counties to improve opportunities for transportation, recreation, and economic development for adjacent communities. (See Attachment)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that staff of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council have worked with a consultant to develop the final *Patapsco Regional Greenway Concept Plan and Implementation Matrix* in accordance with all the applicable federal requirements and has presented this document to the BRTB for its consideration.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the BRTB, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region, accepts the findings and recommendations of the Patapsco Regional Greenway Concept Plan and Implementation Matrix at its November 28, 2017 meeting. Further, the BRTB reserves the right to adopt one or more of its recommendations in developing the next long-range transportation plan and/or subsequent Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).

11-28-17

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Date



Valorie LaCour, Chair  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board



# THE PATAPSCO REGIONAL GREENWAY

The Patapsco Regional Greenway (PRG) Concept Plan and Implementation Matrix identifies and prioritizes a shared-use path system along the Patapsco Valley between Sykesville and the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. This 58-mile system uses existing trails, roads and utility corridors to connect neighborhoods and destinations in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard and Carroll Counties. A completed greenway system will improve opportunities for transportation, recreation and economic development for communities along the route.



### Capitalize on the region's existing trail system

This plan identifies 58 miles of high quality shared use path facilities with 10 miles currently completed including the Waterfront Promenade, Gwynns Falls Trail, Grist Mill Trail and Freedom Park Trail. Proposed sections of the Patapsco Regional Greenway also create critical connections with the BWI Trail and B&A Trail, which extend south to Annapolis.

### Coordination is key to expanding the system

The Patapsco Valley is home to many caretaker groups including the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park and the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). These organizations contribute significantly to the maintenance and enhancement of existing greenway trails . Establishing a steering committee to guide the greenway's expansion will help leverage existing support and coordinate various multijurisdictional efforts. For example, engaging volunteer labor can help to build 6 miles of the recommended natural surface trails.

### Plan ahead for improvements

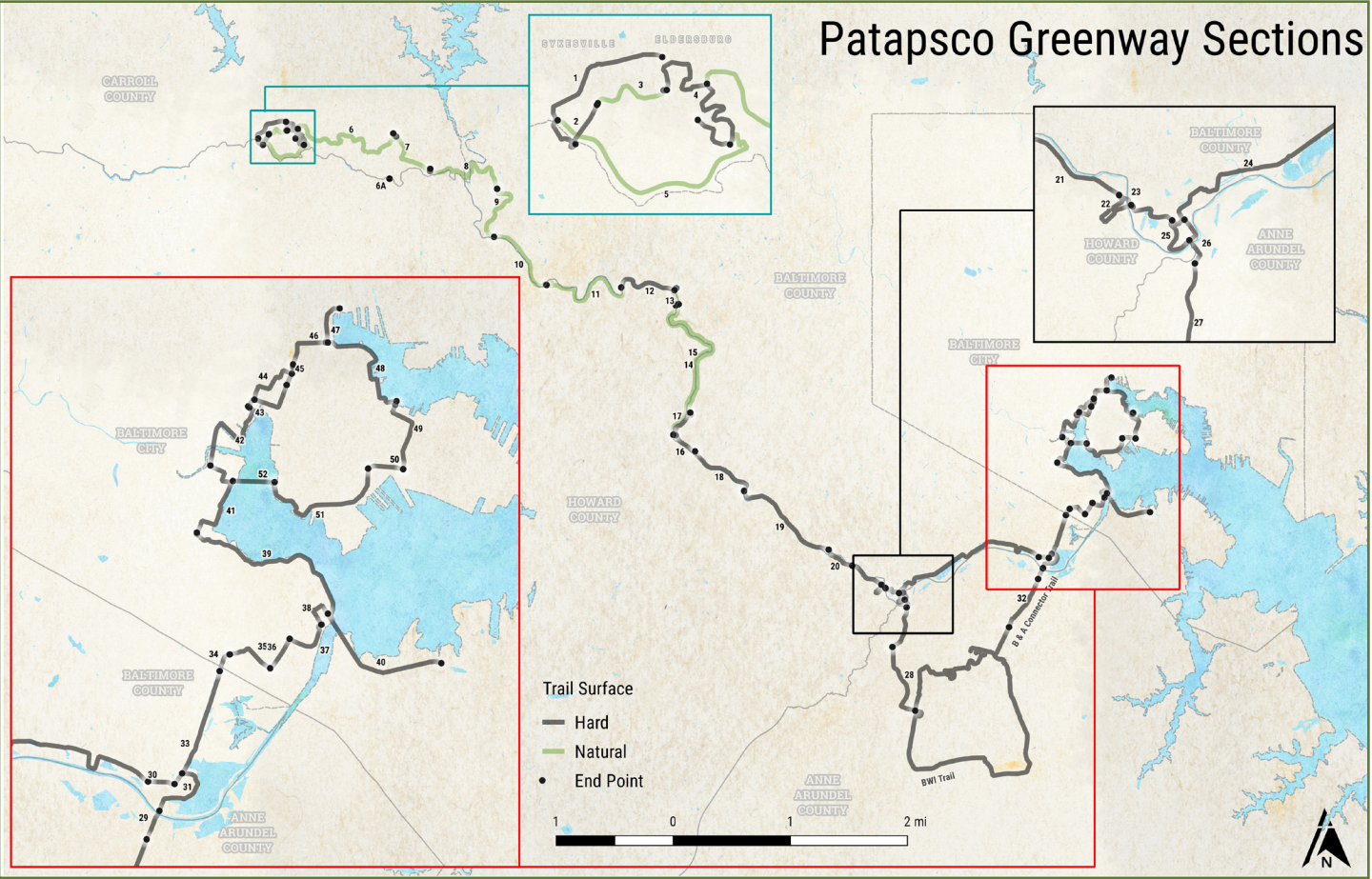
To efficiently move toward completion of the greenway, complex projects, such as the shared-use path bridge from Cherry Hill to the Patapsco Light Rail station, must be incorporated into capital improvement programs. To expedite the process, scheduling of the planning, design and construction for major greenway improvements should be coordinated between affected agencies and jurisdictions.

### Establish a clear wayfinding system

With approximately 34 miles of the proposed greenway already in place along a variety of sidewalks, trails and utility corridors, the most efficient way to designate the route is to develop a sign or 'blaze' system where greenway users can follow the markers along the route. This signage should be accompanied by wayfinding that directs users to local communities and destinations along the way.

### The Patapsco Regional Greenway will become a regional asset

The PRG will enhance local and national trail systems. As the project comes together the benefits of developing a connected network will be shared by each community along the route. With citizen support and agency cooperation the success of the greenway is limited only by funding and time. The recommendations in this plan are designed to layout a framework for how the project can be developed leveraging its strong support across the region.



KEY STATISTICS	
COMMUNITIES SERVED	GREENWAY SYSTEM
Arbutus	Oella
Catonsville	Relay
Cherry Hill	South Baltimore
Ellicott City	Sykesville
Federal Hill	Westport
Halethorpe	Woodlawn
Lithicum	Woodstock
Marriottsville	
TRAILS CONNECTED	RIGHT OF WAY
B&A Trail	81% publicly owned
BWI Trail	4% Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) owned
Freedom Park Trail	15% other private property
Grist Mill Trail	BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT PHASES (BY LENGTH)
Gwynns Falls Trail	12.4% Existing
	49.3% Short term
	38.3% Long term