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NEWS RELEASE

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D.C. Boundary Stones Restoration Project Among Top Regional Conservation Priorities

The District of Columbia Boundary Stones Restoration Project has been recognized by the Washington Smart Growth Alliance with placement on its 2008 Regional Conservation Priority List.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission is working with the Nation's Capital Boundary Stones Committee, which includes representatives from the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT), Federal Highway Administration, and National Park Service, to preserve and rehabilitate the original boundary markers of Washington, D.C.

The original Federal District boundary stones were placed along the Virginia and Maryland borders with D.C. in 1791 and 1792, based on work performed by surveyor Andrew Ellicott and astronomer Benjamin Banneker. Forty sandstone markers were arranged along the original District boundaries, including 14 along the boundary between Virginia and the Federal District. Thirty-eight of the original stones remain. The stones have received little maintenance over the past 200-plus years and many have been damaged.

Four Virginia local governments, including the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, and Arlington and Fairfax counties, have agreed to fund the project by providing matching funds to a Transportation Enhancement Grant that has been awarded to DDOT. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission is working on an agreement with DDOT to administer this project.

The Conservation Priorities Report notes that by 2030, the size of the National Capital Region is expected to increase by 2 million people and more than 1.6 million jobs, adding pressure to historic sites and natural environments.

For more information about The Smart Growth Alliance and the 2008 Conservation Priorities, see http://www.SGAlliance.org or call 301-219-1100.

For more information about the NVRC project to preserve the stones, contact Marshall Popkin, NVRC Environmental Planner, 703.642.4641 or mpopkin@novaregion.org .

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