

## RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 21-08

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro  
Executive Director  
DATE: December 10, 2020

### AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK AND ACCEPT FUNDING TO DEVELOP A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE M-495 REGIONAL COMMUTER FAST FERRY SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has been involved in the coordination of a regional response to the transportation congestion and as a result of the growth experienced during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), through development of alternative modes to single-occupancy vehicles traveling along I-95 and Route 1; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation designated the M-495 as a new Marine Highway in September 2013; with the Occoquan, Potomac, and Anacostia Rivers making up the "M-495 Marine Highway Crossing;" and

WHEREAS, a commuter ferry may alleviate traffic congestion on I-95 and Route 1; provide additional commuter transportation choices in lieu of few other alternatives; have the ability to move people out of Washington, DC, during emergency situations; have the ability to move freight on the river, be a more environmentally friendly commuter option than building more highway lanes; provide cheaper options than building a new bridge over the Potomac; and

WHEREAS, NVRC commissioned and released a Final Market Analysis Report for Commuter Ferry Service on the Occoquan, Potomac, and Anacostia Rivers in June 2015, identifying corridors connecting terminals with the potential for market viability; and

WHEREAS, the Maritime Administration's Marine Highways program awarded the Northern Virginia Regional Commission funding to support planning efforts focused on an Infrastructure Gap Analysis that was completed December 2019, identifying the infrastructure investments needed to develop a new commuter ferry service from Woodbridge, VA to Joint Base Anacostia/Bolling (JBAB), and then into SW/SE DC; and

WHEREAS, still needed is development of a "business case" that will include a detailed description of all aspects of the service, governing structure, financial model, and engagement with the private sector;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission agrees to seek and accept \$500,000 in funding from the District Department of Transportation, from other jurisdictions, and from the private sector to be used primarily for obtaining expert consultant services for development of the business case for the M-495 Regional Commuter Fast Ferry Service.

#### 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 December 10, 2020.

  
ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER



Chairman: Hon. [Name] | Vice Chairman: Hon. Cydney Neville | Treasurer: Hon. Kathy Smith | Executive Director: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.

A regional council composed of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park, and the towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, and Vienna