



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 16-24

PATRON: G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director
DATE: May 26, 2016

AUTHORIZATION FOR PROJECT DESIGNATION FOR FUNDING AVAILABILITY FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MARTINE ADMINISTRATION (MARAD), AMERICA'S MARINE HIGHWAY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has been involved in the coordinating of a regional response to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and as a growth community has identified transportation congestion as a major issue. This proposal seeks funding to provide for an alternative mode to single-occupancy vehicles traveling along I-95 and Route 1; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx designated the M-495 as a new Marine Highway in September, 2013; the Occoquan, Potomac, and Anacostia Rivers make up the "M-495 Marine Highway Crossing;" and

WHEREAS, In May 2014, funding was received from the Federal Transit Administration from the Ferry Boat Program, to provide for two boats and two docks on the Potomac River, however, a NEPA Analysis would be required prior to using the funding; and

WHEREAS, NVRC released the Final Market Analysis Report for Commuter Ferry Service on the Occoquan, Potomac, and Anacostia Rivers in June 2015. The report identified corridors connecting terminals with the potential for market viability and laid out recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the regional Potomac River Commuter Ferry Ridership Market Analysis recommended the following next-steps for the environmental assessment, governance, and an operations and implementation plan; and

WHEREAS, staff have identified grant resources available through the Martine Administration's Marine Highways program in which the funding could be used for planning and environmental work; and

WHEREAS, this project may alleviate traffic congestion on I-95 and Route 1; provide additional commuter transportation choices in lieu of the Metro; has the ability to move people out of Washington, DC, during emergency situations; is a more environmentally friendly commuter option; provides a cheaper options; and supports the Market Analysis next steps to conduct a NEPA Evaluation for the Potomac River;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission agrees to sponsor, and authorizes the Executive Director to submit, a \$300,000.00 proposal to the USDOT, Marine Administration for the Potomac River Commuter Fast Ferry environmental, operations and implementation plan.



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 May 26, 2016.


G. MARK GIBB, CERTIFYING OFFICER