

RESOLUTION NO. 398

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority proposed to use a major portion of the Washington and Old Dominion right-of-way as a public linear park for hiking, biking, bridle trails, and other recreation uses; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Park Authority has resolved to request the Virginia Electric Power Company to grant a fee simple title to or easement rights to the W & OD right-of-way under its control, extending from Alexandria to Purcellville; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation has removed a bridge for purposes of constructing and improving the Interstate 495 Highway project, thereby breaking the continuity of the W & OD right-of-way, and

WHEREAS, the Regional Park Authority has resolved to request the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation to seek approval of 90-10 federal funds to restore the W & OD right-of-way bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority represents a cooperative effort of six political jurisdictions for conservation and proper use of open space; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria strongly supports the above efforts of the Regional Park Authority, and wishes to express this support to all parties involved; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria is desirous of also acquiring an easement for a bike trail along the W & OD right-of-way from Valley Drive to Commonwealth Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alexandria endorses and adopts, by reference, the two Resolutions (attached hereto) adopted by the Regional Park Authority on May 15, 1975, which 1) request restoration of the I-495 bridge and 2) request use of the W & OD right-of-way.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alexandria specifically calls upon and urges the Virginia Electric and Power Company to make available the W & OD right-of-way under its control for use as a public linear park; including an easement to the City of Alexandria for a bike trail along the W & OD from Valley Drive to Commonwealth Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alexandria specifically calls upon and urges the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation to seek federal funds for restoration of the I-495 Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded forthwith to the Regional Park Authority, Virginia Electric Power Company, the State Corporation Commission, and the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation.

Adopted on June 11, 1975

Helen Vickers

Clerk

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Created under the Virginia Park Authorities Act

WILLIAM M. LIGHTSEY
Executive Director

11001 Popes Head Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Telephone (703) 278-8880

JOHN H. DAVIS
Associate Executive Director

May 15, 1975

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has plans for acquisition of fee simple title to or easement rights in the 42-mile long abandoned Washington and Old Dominion Railroad right-of-way extending from Alexandria to Purcellville, Virginia for use as a public linear park for hiking, biking, bridle trails, and other recreation uses; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Park Authority is diligently pursuing steps to acquire the W&OD right-of-way in order to fully implement its public park plan; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation, in carrying out highway improvement projects for Interstate-495 Highway, has removed a bridge spanning said Highway thus breaking the continuity of the W&OD right-of-way which is needed for the public park purposes proposed by the Regional Park Authority; and

WHEREAS, Federal Department of Transportation matching funds are available during the period of the VDH&T I-495 Highway improvement project to provide 90% of the cost of restoring a bridge sufficient for trail purposes, provided title to or other appropriate rights in the W&OD right-of-way can be acquired by the Regional Park Authority during said period of the VDH&T I-495 Highway improvement project; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of the W&OD right-of-way by the Regional Park Authority may not be finalized until after completion of the VDH&T I-495 Highway improvement project, in which event an extension of the eligibility period for federal Department of Transportation matching grant funds would be desirable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation is hereby requested to seek approval from the federal Department of Transportation to make 90% matching grant funds available on a

MEMBERS - PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS

ALEXANDRIA
Charles B. Watson, Jr.
Eugene W. Zimmerman

ARLINGTON
Robert D. King
Dwight F. Retlic

FAIRFAX COUNTY
Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson
Elizabeth Hartwell

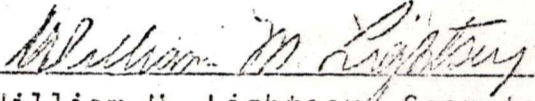
FAIRFAX CITY
C. Barrie Cook, M.D.
Andrew J. Russo

FALLS CHURCH
Walter L. Moss
William E. Davies

LOUDOUN
Frank Ruffo
Dr. James O. Wiley

continuing basis beyond completion of the present I-495
Highway improvement project for restoration of the W&OD
right-of-way bridge to serve the public park purposes
proposed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

The above Resolution was adopted by the Northern Virginia
Regional Park Authority members at a duly constituted
meeting held on May 15, 1975.



William H. Lightsey, Secretary

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Created under the Virginia Park Authorities Act

WILLIAM M. LIGHTSEY
Executive Director

11001 Popes Head Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Telephone (703) 278-8880

JOHN H. DAVIS
Associate Executive Director

May 15, 1975

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority represents a cooperative effort of six political jurisdictions for conservation and recreation purposes in a highly congested and rapidly urbanizing area where diminishing open space and increasing population are major public concerns; and

WHEREAS, the right-of-way of the former Washington and Old Dominion Railroad from Alexandria to Purcellville provides a corridor of open space connecting five of the six political jurisdictions participating in the Regional Park Authority; and

WHEREAS, the said right-of-way is owned primarily by the Virginia Electric Power Company, a public utility licensed by the Virginia State Corporation Commission, and was conveyed to said Company in the public interest for the purpose of a right-of-way for electric energy transmission; and

WHEREAS, the road bed of the said right-of-way offers an opportunity for a continuous trail for public use for recreation and as an alternate means of transportation between the most urban areas of Northern Virginia and those that are most rural; and,

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is seeking the use of the said right-of-way to provide a public linear park for hiking, biking, bridle trails, and other recreation uses; and.

WHEREAS, said trail uses would be compatible with the on-going energy transmission needs, uses, and purposes of VEPCO; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is willing to assume the costs of improving the right-of-way, constructing bridges at certain highway and stream crossings, except where an agreement with the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation may exist, and of maintaining and policing the right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, such assumption of costs by the Authority would relieve VEPCO of these financial responsibilities, and further provide them improved accessibility along the right-of-way for the maintenance of their electric energy transmission facilities thus benefiting VEPCO and their customers; and

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WHEREAS, the best public interest would be further served by agreement by VEPCO to make the right-of-way available to the Authority for the implementation of its public park program:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Electric Power Company is hereby requested to provide the portions of the W&OD right-of-way under its control for public park purposes under the jurisdiction of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and that said conveyance be made without cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Corporation Commission is hereby requested to urge the Virginia Electric Power Company to make the right-of-way available in the public interest, to serve the uses proposed by the Regional Park Authority.

The above Resolution was adopted by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority members at a duly constituted meeting held on May 15, 1975



William M. Lightsey, Secretary