



A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

For consideration at the October 10, 2017 General Membership Meeting

In support of preserving all or portions of the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle as an enduring example of local rail history of the late 19th Century and for use by the public of a renovated/rebuilt bridge as a multi-purpose pedestrian trail and transportation corridor east of Foxhall Road.

Whereas,

The Foundry Branch Trestle (the “Trestle”) is located in the air rights over the foot of Glover Archbold National Park at Canal and Foxhall Roads; and

Whereas,

From approximately 1897 to 1962 the Trestle served the Washington, DC community as a bridge over the Foundry Branch valley for the trolley line which ran from Prospect Street in Georgetown to the DC/Maryland state line and beyond to the historic Glen Echo Park; and

Whereas,

The Foundry Branch Trestle and the land for the trolley right of way corridor immediately adjacent to the Trestle is owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); and

Whereas,

The National Park Service (NPS) has jurisdiction over the land under and adjacent to the Trestle and therefore has a vested interest in the status and use of the Trestle; and

Whereas,

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is responsible for the development of multi-purpose trails and transportation corridors within Washington, DC; and

Whereas,

The sidewalk along Foxhall Road, from MacArthur Boulevard to Canal Road and along Canal Road to M Street, NW does not meet ADA standards for accessibility and is unsafe to both pedestrians and bicyclists trying to travel to and from Georgetown to Foxhall Road and points west in the Palisades; and

Whereas,

The Foundry Branch Trestle lies within the boundaries of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association and abuts the boundaries of the Palisades Citizens' Association; and

Whereas,

WMATA commissioned and published in 2014 an engineering study of the physical status of the Trestle which revealed that the structure was in need of immediate repairs and was likely in danger of collapse; and

Whereas,

Representatives of WMATA, NPS, and DDOT have met to discuss the status of the Trestle, the costs to stabilize and repair it, and the costs to rebuild and/or replace it; and

Whereas,

The DC Preservation League, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, the DC Recreational Trails Advisory Committee, and the Georgetown Business Improvement District are in favor of preserving and restoring the Trestle as part of a trail east of Foxhall Road; and

Whereas,

The Palisades Citizens' Association conducted a survey of its members and citizens in the area and obtained over 800 responses revealing widespread support for saving the Trestle; and

Whereas,

The Palisades community is committed to the importance of access to public non-motorized transportation corridors, the concept of historic preservation, healthy recreational alternatives, and neighborhood connectivity;

Now therefore, be it resolved,

To recommend to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Council, WMATA, NPS, and DDOT that action be taken to preserve and rebuild the Foundry Branch Trestle for use as a multipurpose pedestrian and bicycle transportation corridor east of Foxhall Road.