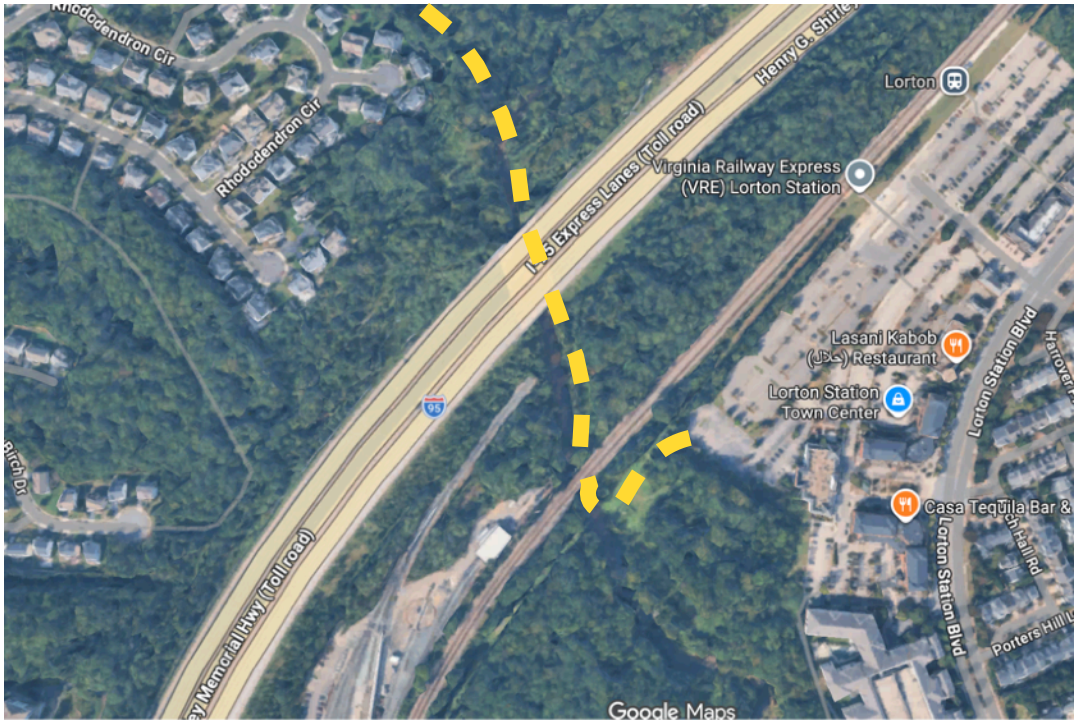
Transportation Resolution 2026-08

South County FEDERATION

Resolution supporting a pathway along Pohick Creek under Interstate 95 & the rail tracks by the Lorton VRE Station to connect the Potomac Heritage Trail to the Cross County Trail



Whereas, a Pohick Valley Stream Trail has appeared on the Fairfax County Trails plan as early as 1972 & continues to be on the Fairfax County Active Transportation Plan,

Whereas, the proffers for the Lorton Station development in 1996 included a pathway along Pohick Creek,

Whereas, in 2011, because of disagreements over design of the trail, a sum of $36,000 was placed in escrow by the Lorton Station developer, Robert Hausler of KSI,

Whereas, the Potomac Heritage Trail Association has been meeting with local officials since 2017 about connecting the trail to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail by way of a trail along Pohick Creek,

Whereas, Toole Design completed a study in 2019 proving the feasibility of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail connecting to the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail by way of Pohick Creek,

Whereas, the Lorton 2040 Visioning Plan was approved unanimously by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in July 2026 including a multi-use path along Pohick Creek,

Whereas, the Potomac Heritage Trail Association presented to the Federation's Transportation Committee at their September 18, 2026 committee meeting on the proposed trail,

Whereas, the railway bridge over Pohick Creek is planned to be replaced as part of the Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project by the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DPRT) & Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) working with CSX Freight rail service,

Whereas, at the September 23, 2026 meeting of the Fairfax County Community Advisory Group hosted by the VPRA & Virginia Railway Express (VRE) when asked about a potential trail, VPRA staff stated that no "recreational trail" could be included under the agreement with CSX for planned construction of the new railway bridge over Pohick Creek,

Whereas, at that meeting, Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck disputed the classification of the multi-use path as "Recreational" but instead as a vital transportation link for Lorton residents on either side of Interstate 95,

Whereas, under HB2088, passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2009, the Rails with Trails Report directs that "all proposed trail projects on railway property must be processed through the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR),"

Whereas, DCR leads the process in coordination with the Virginia DPRT, railroads, VPRA, & other project stakeholders,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the South County Federation, in representing the residents of Lorton on both sides of Interstate 95 & the railway, request the Department of Conservation & Recreation approve the addition of a multi-use path as part of the design of the new railway bridge over Pohick Creek for the Franconia to Lorton Third Rail Project.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution will be issued to the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Virginia Department of Transportation State Trails Office, Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association.

President

10/14/2026
Date