

Regional Council of Governments & Economic Development District serving Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County

RESOLUTION 2020-02

SUPPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINEAR HIKE & BIKE TRAIL NETWORK IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY ENHANCING THE CONNECITIVTY OF RESIDENTS IN HIDALGO AND CAMERON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), the regional Council of Governments serves and represents over 1.3 million residents of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties and the surrounding region; and,

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC advocates for the region's vast economic and community development while encouraging cooperation among units of government to improve the region's health, safety, and general welfare; and,

WHEREAS, quality of life projects throughout the Rio Grande Valley have become a regional priority to enhance sustainable economic growth, support recreational activities, and an active lifestyle with the vision of the Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network; and,

WHEREAS, many city and county projects have already advanced regional infrastructure towards hike & bike connectivity, the opportunity to further progress as a region is available; and,

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network will include the hike & bike trail infrastructure in place or planned for across Cameron and Hidalgo County connecting the projects such as CaraCara Trails network, and many other trail systems across Hidalgo County in cities such as Edinburg, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr, and San Juan; and,

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network will have origin destinations points such as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campuses eastward in Brownsville, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campuses northward in Edinburg, westward in Mission; and,

WHEREAS, the grand vision of a continuous, Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network consisting of existing and planned trail systems as one linear continuous system is one day attainable; and,

WHEREAS, infrastructure planning efforts should prioritize connecting to trails already in existence or planned for to offer our communities the safest most seamless connectivity for hike & bike mobility.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the cities and counties represented by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council hereby endorse and support the advancement of a connected network of Regional Hike & Bike Trail infrastructure to one day offer our community a seamless alternative mode of transportation access across the Rio Grande Valley.

Adopted this <u>26th</u> day of <u>February 2020</u>

Mayor David Suarez, President