



## PASO DEL NORTE TRAIL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, trails and outdoor recreation opportunities are an excellent way for people to get outdoors and explore their communities, plus trails create important connections between amenities (parks, schools, businesses), which can lead to economic development, and improve overall quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, trails and greenways create healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible places to bike, walk, hike, jog, or skate. In doing so, they make it easier for people to engage in physical activity; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to helping control weight, physical activity helps prevent heart disease, helps control cholesterol levels and diabetes, slows bone loss associated with advancing age, lowers the risk of certain cancers and helps reduce anxiety and depression; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paso del Norte Trail corridor extends roughly 60 miles—the full length of El Paso County from the New Mexico–Texas border at Anthony south along the Rio Grande, past the Franklin Mountains and Sunland Park, through Downtown El Paso, the Medical Center of the Americas, Chamizal National Memorial, Playa Drain, and then southeast into the rural communities of the Mission Valley, past the historic missions, to the farmlands beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paso del Norte Trail Master Plan was funded by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation and published in October 2018 with the goal of serving as a regional attraction that connects communities, celebrates El Paso's history and culture, highlights the Rio Grande and El Paso neighborhoods, promotes health and active living, and catalyzes economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of the Paso del Norte Trail Master Plan was led by a team of volunteers and staff from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, County of El Paso, City of El Paso, El Paso Water, El Paso Water Improvement District No. 1, El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, UTEP Institute for Healthy Living, and Houghton Financial, and with input and support from hundreds of residents and dozens of committed and engaged stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, a goal of the Paso del Norte Trail is that it be a destination-worthy trail that functions as a recreation and transportation trail, becoming a source of pride and positive focus for the County, by serving as a cornerstone for future trails, supporting the County's vision for eco-tourism, community health and recreational opportunities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that El Paso County Commissioners Court adopts the recitals stated above and supports the implementation of the Paso del Norte Trail Master Plan.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2019.**

  
Ricardo A. Samaniego  
County Judge