BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FOR TRAILS	)))	RESOLUTION NO. 08-3936 Introduced by Council President David Bragdon

WHEREAS, the Metro Council is committed to the principle and practice of sustainability in the region; and

WHEREAS, sustainability can be expressed in terms of the triple bottom line of equity, environment, and economy; and

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking trails add to the social equity of the region by providing mobility and reducing congestion; offering access for children, low income residents and other non-drivers; contributing to physical health and well being; offering opportunities for fun and recreation; and helping ensure safe travel for cyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking trails contribute to the environment by reducing auto emissions and greenhouse gases; keeping oil and other pollutants out of the region's streams and waterways; and cultivating stewardship and appreciation for nature; and

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking trails contribute to the economy by increasing tourism; reducing congestion; increasing the speed of freight movement; providing transportation infrastructure at a lower cost to the public; and reinforcing the Portland Metropolitan Region's brand and image worldwide as the leader in sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the original trails system in the region was conceived of over 100 years ago with a vision for a 40 mile trail loop; and

WHEREAS, since that time the vision has expanded to include a 950-mile network of regional trails has expanded to include all 25 cities and four counties within the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, only a fraction of the trails in the network are complete and many gaps remain; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council has launched Connecting Green as a means to implement our vision for the region's parks, trails and natural areas; and

WHEREAS, completing the trails network and achieving the many benefits it would provide is a priority for Connecting Green and is of key importance to the region;

now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that,

1. The Metro Council hereby establishes the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails to develop an overall strategy for funding and completing the regional trails system and to make a clear case for need to complete the trails network;

2. The Council President has nominated and the Metro Council hereby appoints the committee chair and members as set forth in Exhibit A;
3. The Blue Ribbon Committee on Trails shall meet for approximately six months between May 5 and October 30, 2008 to fulfill the committee charge as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein, with administrative, technical and research support form Metro staff as needed.
4. The committee chair shall present to the Metro Council the results of the committee's work after October 30, 2008.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 24 day of April, 2008.

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David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney