

## **Confederate Names Task Force Email Messages:**

**From:** DOT Confederate Names Task Force  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 5:34 PM

**Subject:** Street renaming?

Good afternoon ,

Thank you for reaching out to inquire about changing street names. When there is a request to change a neighborhood street name, Fairfax County residents can submit the following to Fairfax County's Land Development Services:

- 1). A petition signed by at least 51% of the lot owners on the street:
- 2). A one-time fee in accordance with the Fairfax County Sign Shop price list for the cost of manufacturing the sign(s); and
- 3). Street name change request can be submitted and tracked online.

Additional information on changing neighborhood street names and subdivision names is available at [Addressing and Street Names | Land Development Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Thanks again, and I hope I've answered your question. Please feel free to reach out to me at this email address.

Malcolm Watson  
Transportation Planner

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:29 PM \_\_\_\_\_  
**To:** DOT Info <[DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** [Street renaming?](#)

Is there a process to propose renaming streets?

I live on Captain Marr Ct in Fairfax Station.

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**From:** DOT Confederate Names Task Force <DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 6:23 PM  
**To:** DOT Info <DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Renaming Confederate Roads

Thank you for your email. Your perspective on the renaming of Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway is important. For that reason, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established a diverse community task force to discuss the two roadway names and consider alternative names. Members of the task force include one representative each from the History Commission, the Planning Commission, the Transportation Advisory Commission, the Economic Development Authority, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations, and others.

Further, the Board charged the Confederate Names Task Force with developing an outreach process for engaging the community to include, but not be limited to, virtual forums to secure the community's input on whether to change the names of these two roadways, the implications of changing the names of the roadways and alternative names for the roadways.

If the task force recommends changing the names, these suggested names would then be incorporated into a community survey to solicit feedback. Following the completion of task force recommendations and the community survey, the Board will hold one or more public hearings to allow formal public comment on whether the roadway names should be changed. Following the public hearing(s), the Board will act to keep the road names the same or change them. If the Board votes to change the names, the action should include a resolution that would be transmitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board requesting that the names be changed and committing to the cost of changing signage.

Thanks again for your email. Your continued participation in this process is important. Please, stay involved. The next scheduled meeting for the Confederate Names Task Force is September 13, 2021. While there is a desire to meet in person, to protect the health and safety of all participants in light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, this meeting will be held virtually. The public will be able to view the meeting live on the Fairfax County Government Cable Channel 16 and on the County website live stream at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream>), or by listening in via phone by calling 703-324-5300.

Best,  
Malcolm Watson  
Transportation Planner

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**From:** DOT Info <DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 5:38 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Renaming Confederate Roads

**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2021 9:42 PM  
**To:** Clerk to the BOS <[ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Renaming Confederate Roads

To the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,

I am opposed to the establishment of a Task Force on Confederate Road Names as is proposed for the Board of Supervisors Meeting on July 13th. The establishment of such a task force is detrimental for the following reasons:

1. It erases history.
2. Such a task force is already biased and will likely recommend the removal of Confederate road names as seen by the fact the the task force has an NAACP member but no member of a Confederate heritage group or Confederate veterans descendants group.
3. Given that the likely outcome is the removal of the Confederate road names, such an move would be a grave act of disrespect to the thousands of Virginia and Fairfax County veterans who fought for Virginia and the Confederacy and are represented and honored by Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson, whose names are likely to be removed given the biased and unbalanced membership of the task force.
4. In addition to the Virginia and Fairfax County Confederates who would be dishonored by the changing of the Confederate Road signs, 30,000 Native Americans and several thousand Hispanics who fought for the Confederacy, as well as their descendants, would be dishonored by the removal of Lee and Jackson as these great generals are not only given reverence by the roads signs, but so are their soldiers and anyone who served in the Confederate forces who looked up to or were inspired by these honorable Virginia veterans.
5. It is part of a continuation of Critical Race Theory(CRT) in local government with the goal of vilifying White Americans and dividing this country along the lines of race.
6. Renaming these roads is a continuation of the leftist movement of erasing history and names following such examples as the renaming of Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City by leftist Vietnamese communists on which subject many Vietnamese refugees in this community resent.
7. The cost to change road names will be shouldered by both the Fairfax County tax payer, as the state will not pay for the cost, and individual residents and businesses who will have to change any signage or material bearing their current addresses.

8. Isn't this the same thing the Taliban are doing?

Sincerely,

*"For all the happiness mankind can gain, is not in pleasure but in rest from pain."  
-- John Dryden 1631-1700*

**From:** [Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 1:25 PM](mailto:Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 1:25 PM)  
**Subject:** R.E. Lee, Recollections and Letters etc.

Hi Kristi,

At the meeting last night a number of statements were made, including by the guest speaker, that I took some exception to. The format of the meetings is such that one cannot unmute and interject. That would be discourteous to the person speaking. So one must wait, and one person should not monopolize time that has to be shared by all. Also, if I pick up on a point to make, that does not mean that I can formulate the words for a question or comment immediately. So even if I could interject a comment, the time for it passes. I guess I'm not so good at notetaking or articulating thoughts on the fly.

I also perceive that the planners of the agenda assume that most people generally do not know about Lost Cause efforts to minimize slavery, or the exalting of the war effort and the top generals. That may be true for some, but for those who have studied the war, we have listened to countless lectures over the years and read about most aspects of CW history beyond the battles, i.e.: the legality of secession, state sovereignty and loyalty, Reconstruction, KKK violence, Jubal Early's cabal etc.

Following Reconstruction, white political corruption was (I believe) a direct reaction to the Radical Republicans and the Union Leagues who swarmed the region after the war and helped elect blacks to power at state and local levels—all to ensure a permanent black Republican political base while ex-Confederates were disenfranchised. When one considers Republican efforts to divide freedmen from former masters and whites, does it not throw some light on possible reasons for violence and black voting restrictions as whites corruptly regained power? As evil as it was, one has to look beyond the obvious. For every action, there is a reaction. If you turn a 240-year-old culture and way of life upside-down by force and destruction, and kill 750,000 people while you're at it, wouldn't you expect to encounter bitter resentment that might lead to bad consequences? Could it have been otherwise? Yes, I think it could have.

Below is a link to a "Goodreads" review of a republished *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* by his youngest son, Capt. R.E. Lee Jr. in 1904. Be sure to read the entirety of readers comments afterward. I forward this link to counter the view that Lee was simply a "traitor" and a "slaveowner" who wanted to "destroy" the United States. I heard something similar said last night about Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It's the current media narrative which Dr. Tarter knows is not true. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11061428-recollections-and-letters-of-general-robert-e-lee>

As I mentioned, **Lee Highway** was one of a hundred or more named "Auto Trails" that "good roads" organizations were advocating for in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The nation's roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted

obstacles at the dawn of the automobile age. When Model T Fords appeared in 1908, they were designed to navigate these horrible roads, but it was obvious to businessmen and local boosters that improved roads were desperately needed. The Great War in Europe and a young army officer named Dwight Eisenhower also figured in the great American road story and the linking together of transcontinental routes under various names.

The links below provide historical context. I think it's obvious that the name "Lee Highway" did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project "white supremacy." In reality, Lee's name was obvious for a Southern transcontinental route just as the Lincoln Highway was a shoo-in for a Northern route. Remember, this is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary period and veterans of both sides are still living and Lee was a Southern hero. The background below on **Lee Highway** and the transcontinental road movement should have been a priority for task force agenda planners rather than One Fairfax, DEI, and Mr. Tarter's take on the Lost Cause and white superiority.

### **Lee Highway**

<https://americanroads.us/autotrails/leehighway.html>

Dr. S.M. Johnson, A Dreamer of Dreams. FHA Highway History, The Lee Highway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Lee Boulevard

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johnson.cfm>

Zero Milestone in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/zero.cfm>

Photo Gallery Along Lee Highway (Mid-1920s)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>

Lee Highway, Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee\\_Highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway)

### **Added material:**

The links below are columns by the late Walter E. Williams, professor of Economics at GMU. Williams was one of the best thinkers and commentators in the business. A great mind and a clear, succinct writer.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Insults to Black History, 6/24/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/71596-insults-to-black-history-2020-06-24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nonsense, 9/2/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/73106-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-nonsense-2020-09-02>

Please review the links above and see if you don't think that the task force would benefit from this additional information. Having heard Dr. Tarter's views, I think they would appreciate it. Please forward to each member.

Thank you,  
Ed Wenzel

**Subject:** Re: Lee-Jackson Mem. Highway

Hi Ed,

I apologize for not getting back with you sooner – I've been crushed this week with meetings with various clients and am usually much more timely in getting back with people! Sorry about that. I did receive your email and forwarded it to our planning group that is supporting this initiative. A packet is coming out via email tomorrow to the whole Task Force with several attachments, including your attachments below as well as some others including a Project plan and a detailed report from the History Commission which contains lots of research. That is all good background for folks on the Task Force to be familiar with.

At this point, we will be shifting our attention away from what happened in the past and looking toward the future. The conversation next time will focus more on what is it important to you all about Fairfax County and what are the messages you want to send to current and future residents of the County that we want to create in Fairfax County, and ultimately in what way are symbols like street names reflective of that. As to your question about the agenda, Julie and I along with Chair Spain discuss the meeting design and the building blocks for the conversations, based on our experience working with many community groups and teams and we ultimately refine and develop the agenda with the planning committee. It's important to me and Julie that all voices are heard and we are neutral facilitators of the process to help enable that kind of engagement by all of you.

Thanks again for reaching out, and I will request that your email be forwarded to the Task Force.

Best,

Kristi

***Kristi Dooley, PCC, MPA***  
Executive Coach and Consultant  
True Purpose Leadership  
[www.truepurposeleadership.com](http://www.truepurposeleadership.com)

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**Date:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 12:24 PMT

**Subject:** Lee-Jackson Mem. Highway

Kristi,

I hope you received my e-mail of ~~Tuesday night~~ because there's a lot for people to read and ponder before our next meeting which is only 4 days away. People need to read that and understand. Has it been forwarded? It did not come to my address. After the first two meetings highlighted One Fairfax/DEI and Lost Cause/white supremacy topics, it's very obvious where the task force organizers are trying to steer us. This has to be countered because there's a whole lot more to the subject than is

being put on the agenda. BTW, who is responsible for making up the agenda? That would be good to know.

The one highway that I did not include in the prior e-mail is the **Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway** (Rt. 50). I was surprised that Dr. Tarter did not know the original name of Rt. 50. Of course it was the *Little River Turnpike* as someone said. I would guess that the name was changed to “Lee-Jackson” in the 1920s (not sure; couldn’t find anything on it.). And yes, that was the Jim Crow period, but again, there was a good reason for the name Lee-Jackson and it had little to do with Jim Crow.

History records that **Stonewall Jackson’s Corps** of the **Army of Northern Virginia** advanced down the Little River Turnpike on September 1, 1862 toward Ox Hill (West Ox Road) attempting to cut off Union Gen. John Pope’s army near Jermantown. Pope’s forces were retreating on the Fairfax-Centreville Road (Rt. 29) after their defeat by Lee at Second Manassas. But at Ox Hill, Jackson encountered Federal divisions of Gens. Stevens, Reno and Kearny and a severe battle was fought late in the afternoon during a violent thunderstorm. The Federals were part of the Union III and IX Corps and they had moved northward from Rt 29 in an attempt to block Jackson. The battle of Ox Hill (or Chantilly) was a unplanned clash that ended the Campaign of Second Manassas.

**Gen. Robert E. Lee**, who was surveilling the opening of the battle from beside the turnpike, came under Union artillery fire near the point where today’s Fairfax County Parkway crosses over Rt. 50. Jackson’s artillery was parked to the north toward Fair Oaks Hospital but they could not see the battlefield because of dense trees surrounding it and thus were not engaged. Jackson’s 17,000 troops were hard pressed by the 6,000 attacking Federals. Two hours later when darkness fell, there were 516 Confederate casualties and more than 1,000 Union. Gens. Stevens and Kearny were both killed in the action. The Federals retreated that night and Jackson held the field. During the battle, **Gen. James Longstreet’s Corps of the ANV** arrived and occupied the Greenbriar and Chantilly area to the west, their camps sprawling on both sides of Rt. 50 as far as Loudoun County. Jackson’s forces held the Ox Hill ridge and west to Greenbriar. Lee’s army rested on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, they marched toward the Potomac and opened the Maryland Campaign that resulted in the bloodiest battle of the war at Antietam.

In the 1920s when the name **Lee-Jackson** replaced Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, it was a perfectly understandable thing to do. The Battle of Ox Hill and Jackson’s flank movement down Rt. 50 was the *most important historical event that had ever occurred along that stretch of highway* (which then was as rural as in 1862). The timing of the name change was undoubtedly because of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and because naming highways was a part of the “auto trail” movement. Fairfax County has far more Civil War history than most counties and that’s our heritage. So why not Lee-Jackson? If some today don’t like that, then how about being “tolerant” as the DEI folks are always telling us to be... **What makes a community unique is its history and the “sense of place” that its historic names and monuments provide. That’s what makes one community different from another. In Fairfax County, when you erase Confederate names like Lee, Jackson, Stuart, and Mosby, you destroy that sense of place—the place where those Confederates made history. That’s why people who study the war come to Fairfax—because it has such a rich Civil War history and reminders of it are part of our sense of place. Without Lee, Jackson, Stuart, and Mosby, Fairfax County is just another overcrowded suburb with no names or monuments to remind us (or heritage tourists or visitors) of the epic events that occurred here. Why would we do that? The names of Lee, Jackson, Stuart, and Mosby are icons of Civil War history. They tell people where they are. They are in Virginia. This is not New York or New Jersey.**

And BTW, in 1915 (also during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary) two monuments were erected at Ox Hill to commemorate Stevens' and Kearny's deaths. A 50 x 100 ft. plot of land was given to former Union soldiers by John and Mary Ballard who owned the farm where the battle was fought. Ballard was a former Confederate cavalryman who had lost a leg during the war and was wounded several times. The monuments were erected at the time of a GAR convention in Washington and the dedication was attended by both Union and Confederate veterans. Previously, in 1904, Ballard had commanded the Marr Camp of Confederate Veterans in Fairfax C. H. and was instrumental in erecting the "Marr monument" that the BOS unceremoniously removed last November. So Ballard gave land on his own farm to erect monuments for two Union generals, but his monument for the first Confederate killed in the war, Capt. John Q. Marr, was disgracefully ripped out of the ground after 116 years by a virtue signaling BOS that wanted to prove how woke they were. That was a landmark monument, and it wasn't even "to" Capt. Marr. The inscription only gave a bearing and distance to the place where his body was found. But that was too much for our sanctimonious BOS because Marr was a Confederate officer and they said it "glorified" him. So they caved to the forces of intolerance and cultural cleansing and erased the most visible artifact of Civil War heritage in Fairfax County.

Please forward this e-mail to the task force.

Thank you,  
Ed Wenzel

## **Fairfax County Tweets for Confederate Names Task Force** **September 13 -14, 2021**

**3:45 PM · Sep 13, 2021**@FairfaxCounty

The task force examining the renaming of Lee and Lee Jackson Memorial Highways meets tonight. Stream it live starting at 7 p.m. Details: <https://bit.ly/3C0naNg>

3:46 PM · Sep 13, 2021 ·

**3:53 PM · Sep 13, 2021 ·**

George Floyd Blvd.!

**5:19 PM · Sep 13, 2021 ·**

Do it! No honors for traitors, no monuments for those that venerate traitors.

**4:19 PM · Sep 13, 2021**

When you erase history, no matter you disagree or find it egregious you are bound to repeat it. Bad or not, keep the names and make it an educational moment. For it will haunt you after as it's not your job to change history.

**5:21 PM · Sep 13, 2021 ·**

Yeah, I used to live on Rommel Ct. They changed it to Mulberry Ct., and then everything I knew about WW2 was instantly erased from my mind and all the books were burned. Sad.

**4:14 PM · Sep 13, 2021 ·**

FFS.

## **Comments received via Twitter after posting about the** **meeting scheduled for September 13.**

**1:19 PM · Sep 10, 2021**@FairfaxCounty

The task force examining the renaming of Lee and Lee Jackson Memorial Highways will meet Monday, Sept. 13. Stream it live starting at 7 p.m. Details: <https://bit.ly/3C0naNg>

**1:33 PM · Sep 10, 2021 ·**

Does this ever end? Again, following this we should rename Fairfax and the Governor's mansion has to go. Slippery slope much..?

**9:35 PM · Sep 10, 2021 ·**

Can't we please just STOP?!? My goodness.

**9:39 PM · Sep 10, 2021**

There's too many of them

**9:17 AM · Sep 11, 2021 ·**

Keep at it, LONG overdue on correcting our past mistakes. Even Lee didn't want any of this to begin with

**1:23 PM · Sep 10, 2021 ·**

Embrace, learn and Grow from the past. Don't wipe it away

**11:13 AM · Sep 11, 2021 ·**

Why don't you rename the Highway "Hell Hole" that name represent Northern Virginia region better.