



Confederate Road Names Follow-Up

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Board Transportation Committee
June 14, 2022

Background



- **June 2020** – Board asked History Commission to create inventory of Confederate street names, monuments, and public places; and research impacts.
 - History Commission submitted report in December 2020.
- **July 2021** - Board created Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) to review the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.
- **August 2021 - December 2021** - CNTF met, sought public input, prepared recommendations, and submitted Final Report to Board. Recommended:
 - Changing the names of both roadways and submitted alternate names for each.
 - That the Board consider providing financial assistance to those affected.
- **February 8, 2022** – CNTF Chair presented Final Report to Board.
- **The Board requested staff undertake additional outreach to businesses and residents.**



Community Response

Outreach to those in corridor, including online survey, conducted April-June 2022

- Postcard mailed to businesses and property owners in April
- Feedback initially slow, so staff expanded outreach effort and feedback increased.

Response through Thursday, June 9, 2022:

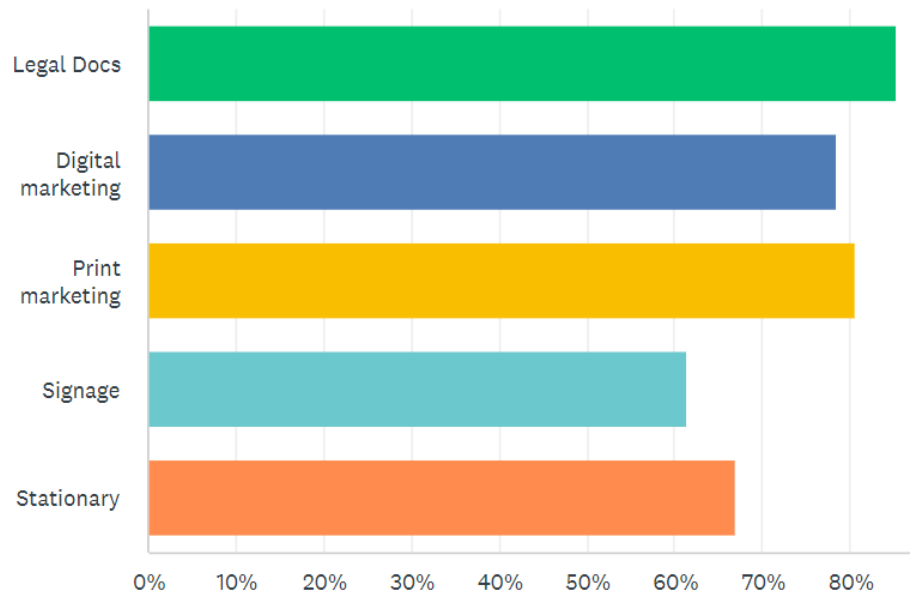
- Over 128 survey responses (English-120, Korean-8, and Spanish-1) and 8 voicemails from businesses and residents
 - Survey Respondents
 - 74% of survey responses were from Lee Highway
 - 25% of survey responses were from Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway

Survey Results

- If the current name of Route 29 in Fairfax County (Lee Highway) is changed, could such a change cause you any financial expenses? (89 respondents answered the question):
 - Yes – 68 (76%)
 - No – 15 (17%)
 - Don't know – 4 (5%)
 - Possibly – 2 (2%)
- If the current name of Route 50 in Fairfax County (Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway) is changed, could such a change cause you any financial expenses? (46 respondents answered the question):
 - Yes – 33 (72%)
 - No – 10 (22%)
 - Not Sure- 2 (4%)
 - Possibly – 1 (2%)

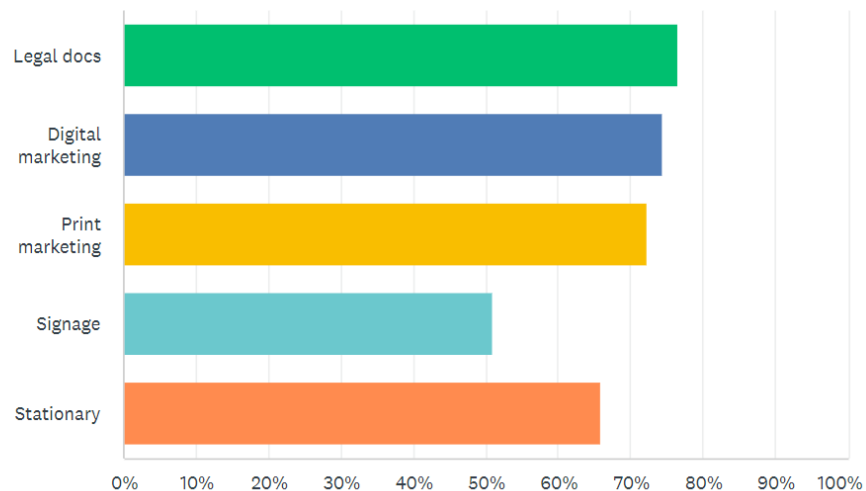
If the current name of Route 29 in Fairfax County (Lee Highway) is changed, what costs would you or your business incur? Select all that apply.

Answered: 88 Skipped: 32



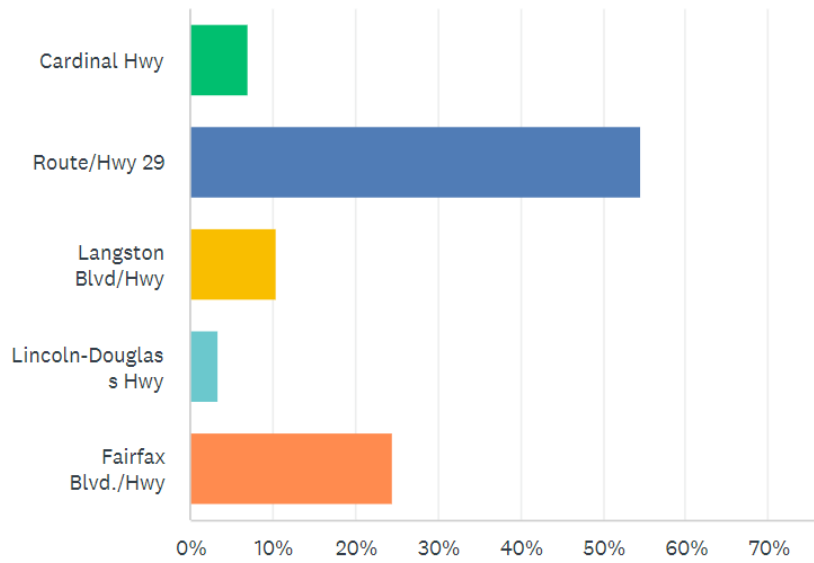
If the current name of Route 50 in Fairfax County (Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway) is changed, what costs would you or your business incur? Select all that apply.

Answered: 47 Skipped: 73



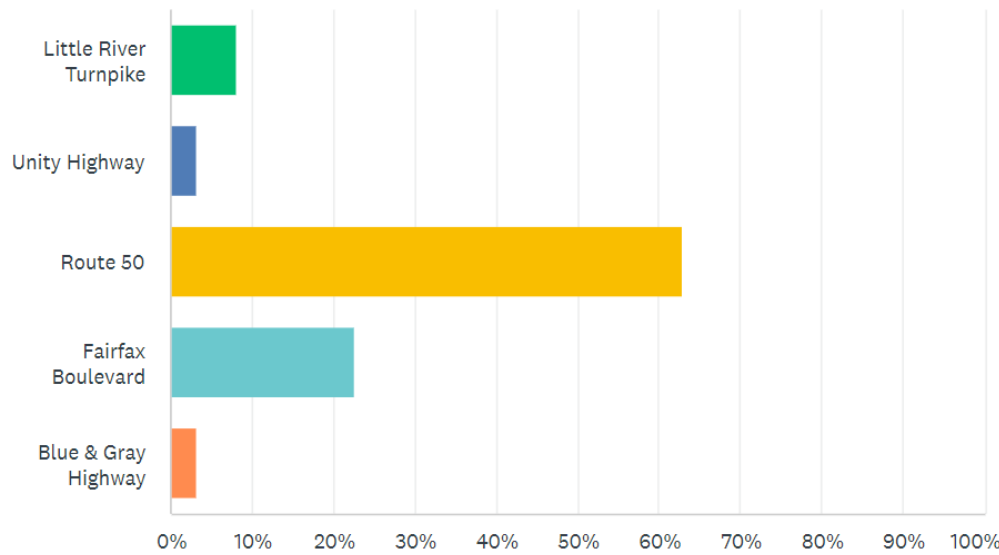
If the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors decides to change the name of Lee Highway, which one of the following would you prefer as the new name:

Answered: 86 Skipped: 34



If the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors decides to change the name of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, which of the following would you prefer as the new name:

Answered: 62 Skipped: 58



Considerations of Implementation

Cost of Signage

- The Board would need to pay the cost of any changes.
- County and VDOT conducted an inventory of all the signs related to both roadways.
- Costs to replace vary per type of sign and the length of recommended name.
- Estimated cost ranges from \$1.0 million to \$4.2 million.
 - Upper estimate is unlikely.
- Final cost dependent on names selected.



Actions by Neighboring Jurisdictions on Route 50 and Route 29

- Arlington has renamed Route 29 as Langston Boulevard .
- Loudoun County is returning their portion of Route 50 to Little River Turnpike.
- Prince William County has not focused on a review of the name of Lee Highway (U. S. Route 29).
- City of Fairfax holding Public Hearing on June 14 regarding various road names in the City, including Lee Highway and Old Lee Highway. Council action is scheduled for June 28, 2022.

Considerations of Implementation

Aid to Businesses

- Adjacent jurisdictions are considering whether to provide grants to offset cost of road name changes:
 - Prince William County
 - Created a Route 1 Refresh Grant program - provides financial assistance to businesses on U.S. Route 1 to mitigate the financial impacts of ongoing construction and renaming Jefferson Davis Highway to Richmond Highway.
 - Provides levels of financial assistance for replacing printed materials and signage; website updates, marketing and other related expenses.
 - Loudoun County
 - Board directed staff to develop a grant program to reimburse business owners for expenses related to the renaming of Route 7 and Route 50.
 - Staff will return to the Board later this year with recommendations.
 - Some public outreach has begun.



Discussion / Feedback

- How would Board like to proceed?
- Would the Board like to consider financial assistance program for those directly impacted or something similar?

Next Steps?

If Board advances a name change:

- Approve resolution requesting CTB make the change.
- Commit to associated costs.

