



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

December 30, 2021

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As Chairperson of the Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF), I am submitting the CNTF Recommendation Report. The report reflects approval of the recommendation to change the name of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. In addition, the report also includes the top five alternate names suggested, as voted on by the entire Task Force.

The Suggested Alternative Names for Lee Highway are:

- Cardinal Highway
- Route/Highway 29
- Langston Boulevard/Highway
- Lincoln-Douglass Highway
- Fairfax Boulevard/Highway

The Suggested Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Highway are:

- Little River Turnpike
- Unity Highway
- Route 50
- Fairfax Boulevard
- Blue & Gray Highway

There was much discussion over the results of the Community Outreach Survey. Although the results came back with a majority of respondents who did not want to change the names, it should be noted it was an unscientific survey. There were limited controls in place to prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times and there were no restrictions that would disallow input from respondents outside of the County. There was no sampling conducted to extrapolate the data to ensure it reflected the diverse population or to ensure equal representation from each magisterial district within the County. The exact number of respondents only represent 2 percent of the entire county whose population is well over one million.

We believe that as individuals or members of various organizations throughout the County, a majority of the CNTF voted to embrace the One Fairfax Policy and voted on recommending the name change to the two major highways in Fairfax County.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Spain
Chairperson
Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force

Confederate Names Task Force Recommendation Report

December 2021

I. Mission:

In 2020, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) requested that the Fairfax County History Commission create an inventory of Confederate-related street names, monuments, and public places in Fairfax County; research legal and financial implications of possible name changes; and seek input from other county entities. Based on the information generated by the History Commission and presented to the BOS, they chose to establish a diverse community Task Force. There were also groups of community members who expressed concerns about the appropriateness of these names, which also prompted the Board of Supervisors to come up with the following statement.

“In Fairfax County, our diversity is our greatest strength and it’s important that we honor and celebrate that diversity,” said Fairfax County Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay in a statement. “We cannot ignore what the Lee and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway names represent in our community and especially to our African American neighbors. The Confederate Names Task Force, which includes a diverse group, will examine and make recommendations on how both roadways can better reflect our values as we chart a positive path together for the future.” (Chairman Jeffrey McKay)

II. Purpose of the Confederate Names Task Force

In July 2021, the [Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established the Confederate Names Task Force \(CNTF\)](#) *“to review the names of **Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29)** and **Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50)**, and to make recommendations to the Board on, (a) whether to change the names of one or both roadways, and (b) if such a recommendation is made, provide recommendations on proposed alternative names.”*

The Task Force was also tasked to develop an outreach process that would engage the community. The process would include, but would not be limited to, forums, to secure community input on whether to change the names of these two roadways and provide the implications of any name changes.

In the Board meeting materials dated July 13, 2021, it was noted that *“in addition to its deliberations, the task force will seek public input as it prepares the recommendations. The task force will also be asked to coordinate its deliberations with the efforts of neighboring jurisdictions considering changes to the names of the same roads.”*

III. Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) Process

The CNTF held 11 meetings, both remote and in person. The thrust of each meeting was as follows:

On **August 16, 2021**, the CNTF discussed the procedure for remote participation, the meeting logistics, and saw videos about The One Fairfax Policy and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA).

On **September 13, 2021**, Brent Tarter, research historian, author, and Senior Editor at the Library of Virginia, made a presentation entitled “*Historical Context: Decisions in the Commonwealth – Then and Now.*” After his presentation, the CNTF finalized our ground rules concerning how we would conduct ourselves for the rest of the task force meetings.

On **September 20, 2021**, the CNTF received an update on the plans for community feedback and engagement. We decided to have several community listening sessions to hear directly from Fairfax County residents. The CNTF established a Community Outreach subcommittee to design a broader community engagement strategy that included briefings in supervisory magisterial districts. The CNTF also discussed the History Commission’s report that was shared with the Board of Supervisors on December 7, 2020. Finally, the CNTF discussed the characteristics of the community that were most valued and identified our key principles. The specific key principles can be found in the meeting minutes for September 20, 2021.

On **September 28, 2021**, the Community Outreach subcommittee met to identify the goals of the community engagement activity and develop an outreach strategy that would maximize public participation and feedback.

On **October 7, 2021**, the Community Outreach subcommittee met again to review and finalize the survey to the greater community, determine a publicity strategy, outreach, and community listening sessions.

On **October 10, 2021**, the Community Outreach subcommittee presented their work to the CNTF, who voted to approve the outreach process. We also had a presentation on what decisions and approaches had been implemented by surrounding jurisdictions. Although we listened to the plans of adjacent jurisdictions to change the names of these highways in their counties, the CNTF did not allow the plans to affect our point of view.

On **October 18, 2021**, the CNTF finalized the public engagement strategy and received a briefing on the cost implications of changing the street names (though we were reminded that those costs were the responsibility of the BOS, and not ours, as we made our recommendations). We ended the meeting by developing the criteria to be used to come up with alternative names, if the CNTF recommended name changes.

On **November 8, 2021**, the CNTF reviewed and discussed the community feedback received thus far from the community survey, social media, and emails. (We were also reminded that this was a **nonscientific** survey. There was no sampling associated with the survey that would allow the results to be extrapolated to the larger community). We then reviewed the conversation from October 18, 2021, meeting about the principles important to us when

considering highway names. Finally, we took a “pulse check” to see where each of us stood on the question of whether to change the highway names. Please note: the entire community outreach and communication strategy will be defined at the end of this section.

On **November 30, 2021**, the CNTF received an updated presentation on community input (provided in Section IX – Appendix A), voted to recommend to the BOS to change the names of both roads, and began discussions of possible suggestions for name replacements. We also chose a committee to draft our final Task Force report to the BOS.

On **December 13, 2021**, the CNTF reviewed the lists of alternative names; discussed the positives and negatives of each choice; and voted on the top five for each highway. We also reviewed, discussed, and voted on the outline of the final draft Recommendation Report Outline that would be used to build the final recommendation report to the BOS.

On **December 20, 2021**, the CNTF discussed and voted on aspects of the contents contained in the final draft recommendation report and the dissenting opinions. There were several motions that were voted on and approved. Specific information can be found in the meeting minutes for December 20, 2021, which were captured and are included in the link below.

All the minutes of each of the CNTF meetings can be found at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force>

Public Outreach and Community Feedback

The CNTF public outreach subcommittee developed a public outreach strategy to solicit feedback from the community on the Task Force work. In total, the Task Force received more than 23,000 responses from the public through this outreach effort. A summary presentation of the public input received can be found in **Appendix A¹ Community Input Summary**. The strategy, along with the public feedback received through a survey; emails; phone calls; social media; letters; and community listening sessions, can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force>. The CNTF Public Engagement Sub-group strategy can be found in **Appendix B Confederate Names Task Force Public Engagement Sub-group**. It is important to note that the survey conducted as part of the CNTF public outreach efforts was nonscientific meaning there was no scientific sampling done that would allow the results to be extrapolated to reflect the sentiments of the entire Fairfax County community.

¹ Please note that the Public Input Summary presentation from November 30, 2021, in Appendix A does not include the final count and breakdown of all email comments received. The final count and breakdown of email comments received is as follows:

| Emails received | Keep the names | Change the names | No opinion/unclear |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1,010 | 725 | 285 | 0 |

IV. Voting status of whether to rename Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway

Following the final presentation on the community input in the November 30 meeting, a Confederate Names Task Force member made the motion to make a recommendation on whether to change the name of Lee Highway. Discussions were shared by members of the Task Force as to their thoughts for their final decisions. The results of the vote to change the name of Lee Highway are reflected below:

Figure 1: Recommendation to Rename Lee Highway

| Decision | Number of votes |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Approved | 20 |
| Opposed | 6 |
| Abstained | 0 |

The Task Force then moved forward and made the motion to vote on the recommendation on whether to change the name of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. Once again, discussions were shared by the members of the Task Force as to their thoughts for their final decision. The results of the vote to change the name of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway are reflected below:

Figure 2: Recommendation to Rename Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway

| Decision | Number of votes |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Approved | 19 |
| Opposed | 6 |
| Abstained | 1 |

Details regarding the specific discussions and the names of those who voted to approve, oppose and abstain can be found in the November 30, 2021, meeting recording [https://www.ebmcndn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=Confederate Naming 11 30 2021](https://www.ebmcndn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=Confederate_Naming_11_30_2021).

V. Alternative Names Process

Based on the majority votes received from the CNTF to change the name of both Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Highway, the CNTF would now be challenged with determining the alternative names they felt might best represent the Fairfax County constituents at large. The Task Force was then presented with a process for narrowing down specific names per each task force member.

The Task Force members received a listing of the top 100 names that were suggested by respondents to the countywide survey, ranked according to those names suggested most often. Taking into consideration the names suggested in the survey responses, as well as their own ideas, Task Force members suggested their top two alternative road name preferences (two for Lee Highway and two for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway) along with their rationale for those names and sent this information to staff.

Staff compiled the list of the alternative road names submitted by the Task Force members and sent this aggregate list with rationale to the Task Force members. Task force members were

asked to indicate their top two preferences from this list. At the December 13, 2021, meeting, the Facilitators shared the six most preferred alternative names for each roadway from this survey. During the meeting, Task Force members had the opportunity to advocate for the names they felt most strongly about, then the members each noted the two names from this pared down list that they supported. From that process, a slate of five names with the most support emerged. A motion was made to recommend this resulting slate of names to the Board of Supervisors as the alternative names to consider for Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.

This activity was completed for both Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Figures 3 reflects the CNTF Recommended Approved Alternative Slate of Highway Names for Lee Highway along with the number of votes in ranking order.

Figure 3: Recommended Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29) in Order of Votes Received

| Recommended Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29) | Votes |
|--|-------|
| Cardinal Highway | 13 |
| Route /Highway 29 | 9 |
| Langston Blvd/Highway | 6 |
| Lincoln-Douglass Highway | 6 |
| Fairfax Boulevard/Highway | 5 |
| Billy Lee Highway | 2 |
| Centreville Pike | 2 |

The same narrowing selection process would be followed for the Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50).

Figure 4: Recommended Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) in Order of Votes Received

| Recommended Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) | Votes |
|---|-------|
| Little River Turnpike | 16 |
| Unity Highway | 12 |
| Route 50 | 6 |
| Fairfax Boulevard | 4 |
| Blue & Gray Highway | 3 |
| Cardinal Highway | 2 |

The next step was to then tally the alternative names with the most votes. The alternative names with the most votes were included in the Slated Names for Lee Highway (Route 29) and Slated Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50). A vote of each Task Force member provided that the following names would be recommended to the Board of Supervisors:

Figure 5 reflects the votes by which the CNTF approved the slate of Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29).

Figure 5: Votes to accept Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29)

| Votes to accept Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29) | Votes |
|--|-------|
| Approved | 19 |
| Opposed | 1 |
| Abstained | 2 |

Figure 6 lists the CNTF Recommended Top Five Alternative Names for Lee Highways (Route 29).

Figure 6: Recommended Top Five Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29) in Order of Votes Received

| Recommended Top Five Alternative Names for Lee Highway (Route 29) | Votes |
|---|-------|
| Cardinal Highway | 13 |
| Route/ Highway 29 | 12 |
| Langston Boulevard/Highway | 6 |
| Lincoln-Douglass Highway | 6 |
| Fairfax Boulevard/Highway | 5 |

Figure 7 reflects the votes by which the CNTF approved the slate of Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50).

Figure 7: Votes to accept Alternative Names for Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50)

| Votes to accept Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) | Votes |
|---|-------|
| Approved | 19 |
| Opposed | 0 |
| Abstained | 3 |

Figure 8 lists the CNTF Recommended Top Five Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50).

Figure 8: Recommended Top Five Alternative Names for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) Order of Votes Received

| Recommended Alternative Highway Names for Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) | Votes |
|---|-------|
| Little River Turnpike | 16 |
| Unity Highway | 12 |
| Route 50 | 6 |
| Fairfax Boulevard | 4 |
| Blue & Gray Highway | 3 |

Finally, having taken the steps to recommend renaming two of the most important roads in Fairfax County, the Task Force urged the Board of Supervisors to consider making this the last such Task Force instituted for the purpose of renaming highways. This is said not because there are no other streets in the County that could be considered for having their names changed,

but, because doing so in a “top down” manner risks having future changes become a divisive exercise with an undetermined ending that could lead to unpredictable costs to Fairfax County taxpayers, its residents, and its business owners. The Task Force supports and encourages local citizens to use the existing processes found on the County’s website to change street names they find troublesome.

VI. Final Comments

The CNTF Chairwoman and members would like to thank Chairman McKay and the Board of Supervisors for trusting and nominating them to participate in a process that provided the opportunity to work in the spirit of the One Fairfax Policy. We knew the task of recommending alternative names for Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) would reveal personal and emotional moments and differences of opinion. We needed to thoughtfully consider keeping the existing names or changing the names to accommodate the equity initiatives and growing diversity in Fairfax County. The final recommendations contained in this report meet the existing BOS policies and we recommend their adoption.

Please be advised, four Dissenting Opinions have been included in **Appendix C Dissenting Opinions**. They reflect the opinions of those CNTF members who either opposed or abstained from voting in favor of the name changes for Lee Highway and or Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.

VII. Conclusion

As the decision of the CNTF is to recommend the BOS change both the existing names of Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) was approved, the Task Force recognizes that if the BOS approves the recommendations, there will likely be major impositions upon the residences, businesses, and communities along these corridors of Fairfax County. It is our hope the Board of Supervisors would consider providing financial assistance to those affected by the name change.

VIII. Listing of Confederate Names Task Force Members

The following table lists the names, Magisterial Districts, and affiliations of the Confederate Names Task Force members:

| Representative | District | Organization (if applicable) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Evelyn Spain | Chairperson | Fairfax County Planning Commission |
| Alex Berke | Providence District | N/A |
| Bunyan Bryant | Mason District | N/A |
| Michael Champness | At-large | Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) |
| Richard Correia | Braddock District | Random Hills Civic Association |
| Elizabeth Crowell | At-large | Fairfax County Park Authority |
| Robert H. Floyd | Braddock District | N/A |
| Shirley Ginwright | Mount Vernon | Communities of Trust |
| Barbara Glakas | Dranesville District | N/A |
| Edwin Henderson | Providence District | Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation |
| Isham Lamba | At-large | N/A |
| Jeanne Leckert | Braddock District | Marymead HOA |
| Jenee Lindner | Springfield District | Friends of the Historic Fairfax Courthouse |
| Susana Marino | At-large | Northern Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce |
| Blake Myers | Springfield District | Bull Run Civil War Roundtable |
| Peyton Onks | Springfield District | N/A |
| Marvin Powell | Sully District | Small Business Commission |
| Cheryl-Ann Repetti | Sully District | History Commission |
| Roni Robins | Braddock District | A.J. Dvoskin & Associates |
| Sue Kovach Schuman | Providence District | History Commission |
| Paul Sheppard | Providence District | First Baptist Church of Merrifield |
| Tim Thompson | At-large | Fairfax Federation of Civic Organizations |
| Julie Park Tsui | Providence District | N/A |
| Jevon Walton | Braddock District | N/A |
| Ed Wenzel | Springfield District | Trustees of the Kearny & Stevens Monuments at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park |
| Philip Wilkerson | Braddock District | N/A |
| Phylicia Woods | Providence District | Women's Commission |

IX. The Appendices

- A. Community Input Summary
- B. Confederate Names Task Force Public Engagement Sub-group
- C. Dissenting Opinions



Community Input Summary

Confederate Names Task Force Meeting
November 30, 2021

Anna K. Nissinen

Chief of Communications, Marketing and TDM Programs
Fairfax County Department of Transportation



Important Considerations

- Public outreach process from Oct. 13 through Nov. 12, 2021.
- Process was not scientific nor statistically significant.
- Input received provides a data point for Task Force's consideration.
- Nearly 23,000 respondents provided input through:
 - A survey in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Farsi, Urdu and Arabic (online and print).
 - Phone calls, emails and letters.
 - In-person and virtual community listening sessions.
 - Social media.



CNTF Community Input Summary - Engagement

| Platform | Number of Engagements |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Survey respondents | 21,820* |
| Emails | 983 |
| Social Media | 484 |
| Phone calls | 380 |
| Letters | 34 |
| Listening sessions | 21 |

** Languages breakdown: English (online) - 21,513; English (paper) - 100; Arabic - 1; Chinese - 67; Farsi - 3; Korean - 49; Spanish - 73; Urdu - 2; Vietnamese - 12.*



CNTF Community Input Summary – Keeping/Changing Names

| Platform | Keep the names | Change the names | No opinion/unclear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Survey | | | |
| <i>Route 29</i> | 11,652 | 8,032 | 354 |
| <i>Route 50</i> | 10,904 | 7,960 | 456 |
| Phone calls | 333 | 47 | 0 |
| Letters | 29 | 5 | 0 |
| Listening sessions | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Emails* | 435 | 158 | 0 |
| Social Media | 141 | 54 | 289 |
| Total | 23,500 | 16,265 | 1,105 |

** To-date, County staff has reviewed 593 of the 983 email comments received.*



CNTF Community Input Summary - Impacts

| Online Survey Responses (English) | Very Positively | Positively | Neutral | Negatively | Very Negatively |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| <i>How would keeping the name affect you or your community (economically, socially, etc.)?</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Route 29</i> | 5,813 | 2,289 | 5,106 | 3,656 | 2,731 |
| <i>Route 50</i> | 5,468 | 2,199 | 4,714 | 3,376 | 2,814 |
| <i>How would changing the name affect you or your community (economically, socially, etc.)?</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Route 29</i> | 3,566 | 3,337 | 3,654 | 3,393 | 5,445 |
| <i>Route 50</i> | 3,432 | 3,167 | 3,494 | 3,021 | 5,234 |



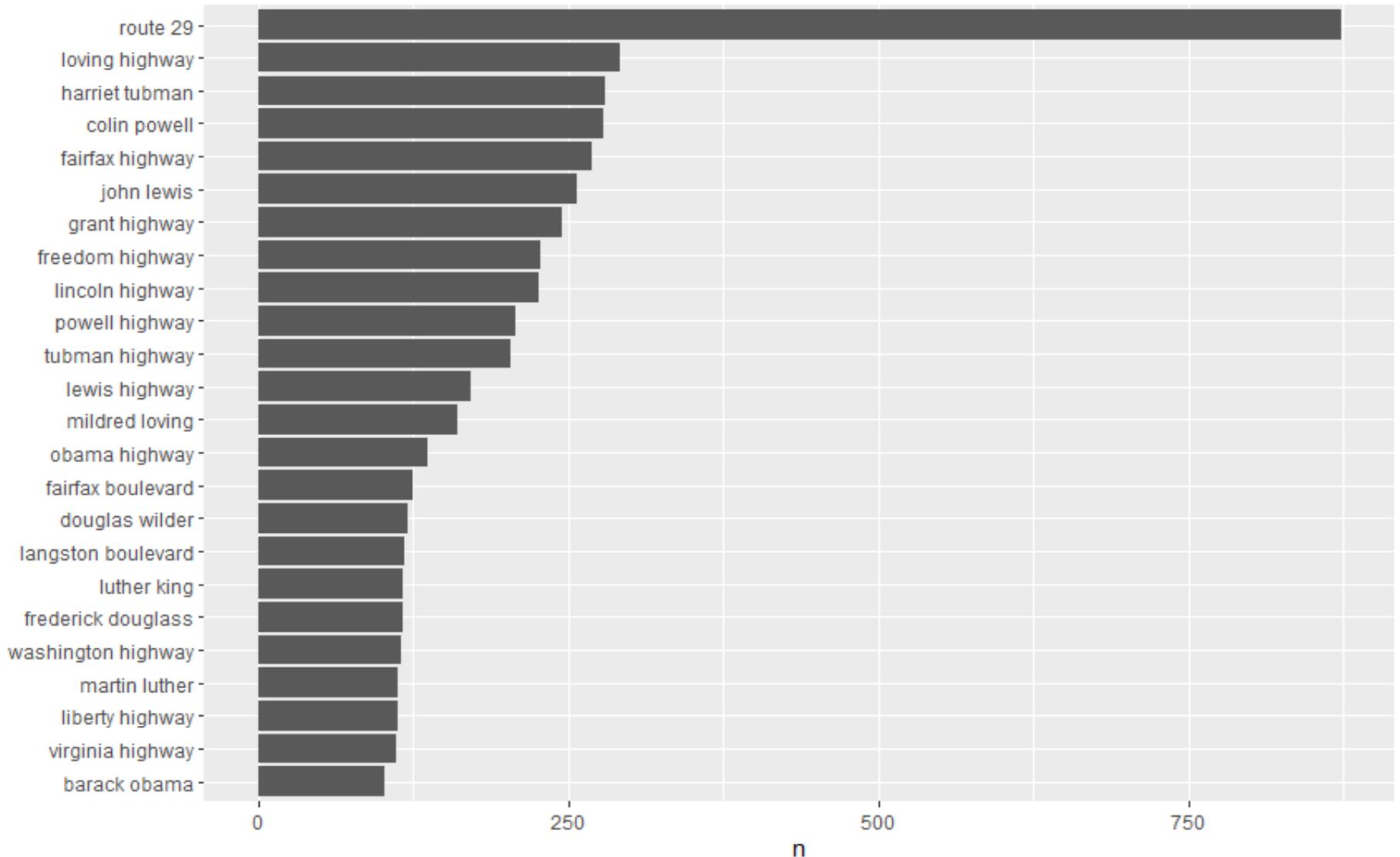
CNTF Community Input Summary – Alternative Names

- There were more than 30,000 survey responses for alternative highway names as respondents could enter up to five name suggestions for both highways.
- The following graphics provide an idea about some of the most frequently used word combinations in the responses to the questions asking for alternative names.
- The current highway names were removed from the list as the question was asking respondents to provide alternative names suggestions.



County of Fairfax, Virginia

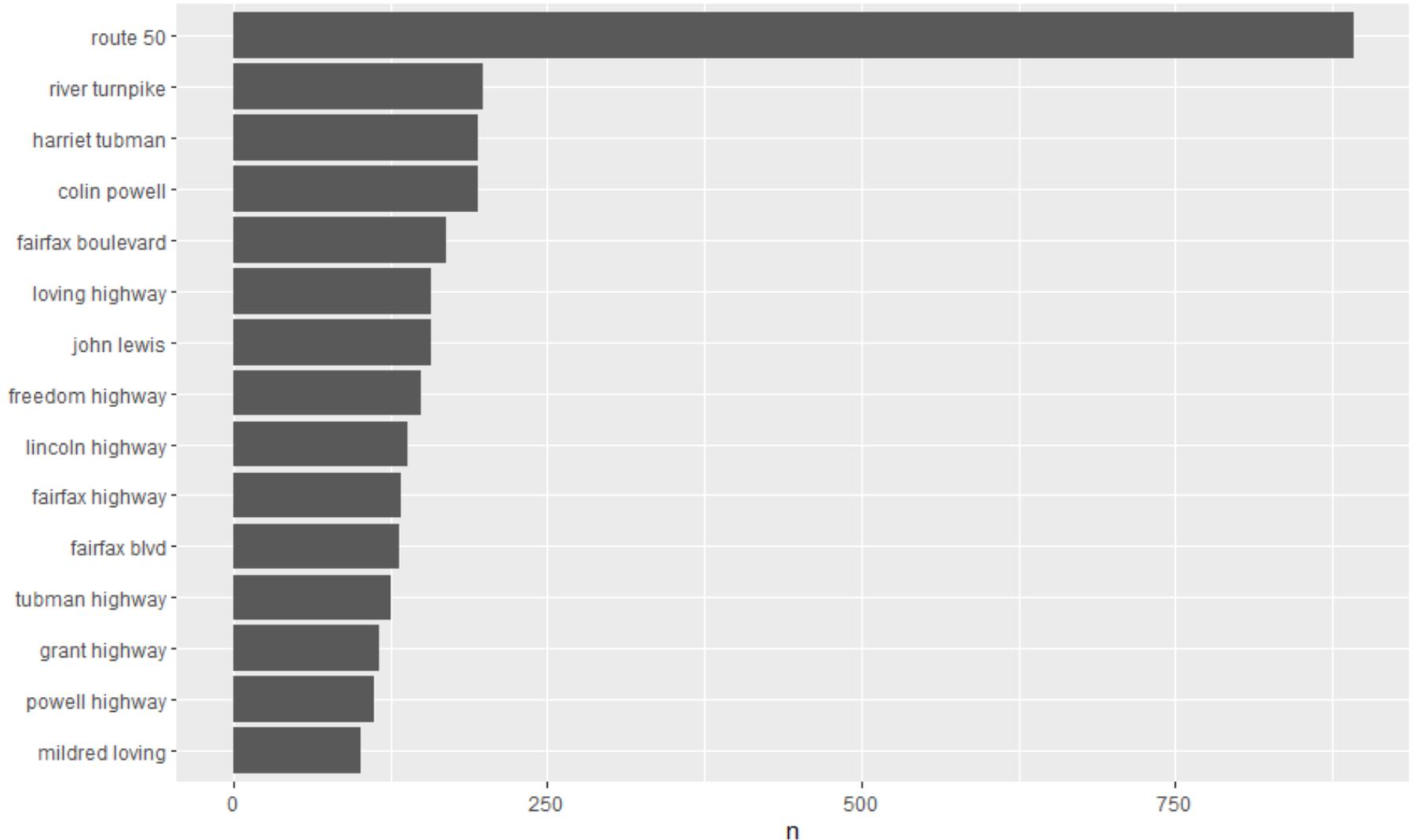
Lee Highway/Route 29 (n>100)





County of Fairfax, Virginia

Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway/Route 50 (n>100)





Questions?

Confederate Names Task Force Public Engagement Sub-group

Proposed Public Outreach and Communication Strategy

October 11, 2021

Public Engagement Sub-group Membership

- Evelyn Spain, Chair
- Shirley Ginwright
- Barbara Glakas
- Jenee Lindner
- Blake Myers
- Marvin Powell
- Sue Kovach Shuman
- Jevon Walton
- Ed Wentzel



Proposed Strategy

- Public Engagement Sub-group collaborated to develop a proposed outreach and communication strategy and accompanying materials, and approved the package at its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2021
- **Timing**
 - **Launch of strategy on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021**
 - Public comments accepted through Friday, Nov. 12, 2021
 - Initial feedback provided to the Task Force on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021
- **Five Ways for the Community to Provide Input**
 1. Take a Survey – online; paper copies available in libraries and District Offices
 2. Email Comments
 3. Mail comments
 4. Call Us
 5. Attend One of Four Listening Sessions

Proposed Strategy

- **Proposed Community Listening Sessions**

- Thursday, October 28, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.**

- Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax, VA 22031
 - Public Transit Access: Metrobus Route 2B; After 7 p.m. Fairfax Connector Routes 630, 640, 650

- Saturday, October 30, 2021, 10–11:30 a.m.**

- Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22030
 - Public Transit Access: Metrobus Routes 1C. Fairfax Connector Routes 605, 621, 623

- Monday, November 1, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.**

- Virtual Webex

- Thursday, November 4, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.**

- Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151
 - Public Transit Access: Fairfax Connector Routes 642, 640

Proposed Strategy

- **Communication Activities**

- Confederate Names Task Force Web page and link from the County's Confederate Names Topic Web page – will include an introduction to the Task Force and overview of the highways
- Direct Mail Post Card – sent to all Fairfax County residential addresses
- Media and Press Outreach – press release and proactive pitches with local media
- Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, Instagram, YouTube
- Community and Business Organizations Lists Distribution

- **Communication and Outreach Toolkit**

This toolkit will include the content that can be used for newsletters, and web and social media. It will be provided to:

- Members of the Confederate Names Task Force
- Members of the Board of Supervisors
- Fairfax County Government Community Outreach Committee Staff (all County agencies)
- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)
- Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA)
- Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI)

Questions? Comments?

Proposed Public Outreach and Communication Strategy

October 11, 2021

Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force

Community Outreach and Communication Strategy

Timing of Strategy Execution

- Launch on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021
- Input accepted through Friday, Nov. 12, 2021

5 Ways for the Community to Provide Input

1. **Take a Survey** Online at fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force
(in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu)
Hard copies will be available at Fairfax County libraries and District Offices
2. **Email Comments** DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov
3. **Mail Comments** Fairfax County Department of Transportation
4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033
4. **Call Us** Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 703-877-5600, TTY 711
5. **Attend a Listening Session**

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.

- Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax, VA 22031
- Public Transit Access: Metrobus Route 2B

Saturday, October 30, 2021, 10–11:30 a.m.

- Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium
12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Public Transit Access: Metrobus Route 1C; Fairfax Connector Route 605

Monday, November 1, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.

- Join Online:
<https://fairfax.webex.com/fairfax/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0c5594bc080cc6ce62b19b3f6f9cfc3a>
- Join by Phone: 1-844-621-3956 (toll free); Access Code: Access code: 2339 357 4472

Thursday, November 4, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.

- Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151
- Public Transit Access: Fairfax Connector Routes 640, 642

Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force

Community Outreach and Communication Strategy

Communication Activities

- **Confederate Names Task Force Web page** (and link from the County's Confederate Names Topic Web page):
 - Text introduction with an accompanying video clip
 - Links to surveys in multiple languages
 - Instructions for the other ways to provide input, including listening sessions information
- **Direct Mail Postcard**
 - Mailed to all residential households in Fairfax County (*English, Spanish and Korean*)
 - Directs people to the various ways to provide input
- **Media/Press Outreach**
 - Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs NewsCenter article
 - Fairfax County Department of Transportation media list distribution
 - Targeted pitches to local reporters
- **Social Media**
 - Facebook, Twitter, NexDoor, Instagram, YouTube
- **Community and Business Organization Lists**
 - One Fairfax Community Assets List (100+ organizations)
 - Fairfax County Commuter Services Outreach List (1,600+ employers)

Communications and Outreach Toolkit

A Communication and Outreach Toolkit will be made available on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021, for community and partner agencies to use to promote the various public input options. This toolkit will include the content described above that can be used for newsletters, web, and social media, and will be provided to:

- Members of the Confederate Names Task Force
- Members of the Board of Supervisors
- Fairfax County Government Community Outreach Committee Staff (all County agencies)
- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)
- Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA)
- Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI)

Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force Community Input Survey

Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force Overview

In July, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established the Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) to review the names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), and to make recommendations to the Board on, (a) whether to change the names of one or both roadways; and b) if such a recommendation is made, provide recommendations on proposed alternative names. Both highways were named or renamed for Confederate Generals between 1919-1922. Some community member concerns about the appropriateness of these names prompted the Board of Supervisors to establish the CNTF to review the issue. The work of the Task Force will be concluded by the end of 2021. Final decisions on the roadway names be made by the Board. Provided below are brief overviews of each highway and the basis for their names. You can learn more about the Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force>

Highway Overviews

Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) in Fairfax County

- The highway sections under consideration consists of 14.11 miles of US 29 in Fairfax County in two sections (split by the “Lee Highway-Fairfax Boulevard” combined section within the City of Fairfax)
- Lee Highway, named for Robert E. Lee in 1919, was one of more than 100 named “auto trails” and coast-to-coast routes that linked existing roadways and were established and named at the dawn of the automobile age.
- Lee Highway was designed to traverse southern states between Washington DC and San Diego and Lincoln Highway was established to traverse northern states between New York and San Francisco
- In Virginia Lee Highway includes sections of US 29, US 211 and US 11 to Chattanooga, TN where the highway continues west to San Diego
- Much of the original highway transiting southern states is still known by the name "Lee Highway", some other jurisdictions in Virginia have announced changes to the name.

Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50) in Fairfax County

- The highway section under consideration consists of 8.43 miles of US 50 from the City of Fairfax through western Fairfax County (US 50 is named Fairfax Boulevard within the City of Fairfax and is named Arlington Boulevard in eastern Fairfax County)
- From the City of Fairfax to Aldie (Loudoun County) US 50 follows the original roadbed of the Little River Turnpike, originally a private “macadamized” toll road built between 1801 and 1806 from Alexandria to Aldie - it became a public road in 1896, named Little River Turnpike.
- Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway was named for Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson in 1922.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services, and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 703-877-5600 phone and TTY 711.



- Many Civil War battles and skirmishes were fought at locations along or near the Little River Turnpike in Fairfax County – including Jackson’s flank march east down the Little River Turnpike after the 2nd Battle of Manassas and the ensuing Battle of Ox Hill. This battle, fought on September 1, 1862, near West Ox Road and the Little River Turnpike, pitted Lee’s and Jackson’s forces of the Army of Northern Virginia against elements of three divisions of the US IX and III Corps.



Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force Community Input Survey

October 13, 2021-November 12, 2021

1. What is your home or business zip code? (Answer required)
 - Fill In response _____
2. Is your current home or business located on Route 29 (Lee Highway) or Route 50 (Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway)? (Answer required)
 - Yes
 - No
3. What is the nearest intersection to your home or business location in Fairfax County? (Answer required)
 - Fill in response _____

Route 29 – Lee Highway

4. Currently the section of Route 29 in Fairfax County is named Lee Highway. Which statement describes your opinion on the future of the street name:
 - The name should remain Lee Highway
 - The name should be changed
 - No opinion
5. If you answered that the name should be changed, what alternative name would you suggest: (up to 5 answers)
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____
6. Please provide any other comments on the possible renaming of Route 29 for the Confederate Task Force recommendation:

7. How would keeping the current name of Route 29 affect you or your community (economically, socially, etc.)?
Positively Very positively Neutral Negatively Very negatively
8. In what way would keeping the current name impact you or your community?

9. How would changing the name of Route 29 affect you or your community (economically, socially, etc.)?
Positively Very positively Neutral Negatively Very negatively

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services, and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 703-877-5600 phone and TTY 711.



Route 29 – Lee Highway (Continued)

10. In what way would changing the name impact you or your community?

Route 50 – Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway

11. Currently the section of Route 50 in Fairfax County is named Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. Which statement describes your opinion on the future of the street name:

- The name should remain Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway
- The name should be changed
- No opinion

12. If you answered that the name should be changed, what alternative name would you suggest: (up to 5 answers)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

13. Please provide any other comments on the possible renaming of Route 50 for the Confederate Task Force recommendation:

14. How would keeping the current name of Route 50 affect you or your community (economically, socially, etc.)?

Positively Very positively Neutral Negatively Very negatively

15. In what way would keeping the current name impact you or your community?

16. How would changing the name of Route 50 affect you or your community (economically, socially, etc.)?

Positively Very positively Neutral Negatively Very negatively

17. In what way would changing the name impact you or your community?





Should Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) in Fairfax County be renamed?

¿Deben renombrarse Lee Highway (Ruta 29) y Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Ruta 50) en el Condado de Fairfax?



Fairfax 카운티의 Lee Highway (29번 국도)와 Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (50번 국도)의 이름을 변경해야 합니까?



We want to hear from you!
¡Queremos saber de usted!
우리는 당신의 의견을 듣고 싶습니다!

The Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force is seeking the public's feedback on whether Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50) in Fairfax County should be renamed:

- Fill out the online survey at fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force
- Email comments to DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Mail comments to Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033.
- Call us at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

Public input will be accepted until November 12, 2021

El Grupo de Trabajo de Nombres Confederados del Condado de Fairfax está buscando comentarios del público sobre si Lee Highway (Ruta 29) y Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Ruta 50) en el Condado de Fairfax deben ser renombradas.

- Complete la encuesta en línea en fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force
- Envíe comentarios por email a DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Envíe comentarios por correo a Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033
- Llámenos al 703-877-5600, TTY 711

El aporte público se aceptará hasta el 12 de noviembre de 2021

Fairfax 카운티 남북 연합 이름 태스크 포스는 Fairfax 카운티의 Lee Highway (29번 국도)와 Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (50번 국도)의 이름을 변경해야 하는지에 대한 대중의 의견을 구하고 있습니다.:

- 에서 온라인 설문 조사를 작성하십시오. fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/confederate-names-task-force
- 의견을 이메일로 보내기 DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov
- 의견 보내기 Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033.
- 전화 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

공개 의견은 2021년 11월 12일까지 허용됩니다.

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To request this information in an alternate format, contact FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

Fairfax County Department of Transportation
4050 Legato Road, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22033

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Visit the Task Force web page now.

Visite la página web del Grupo de Trabajo ahora.

지금 태스크포스 웹페이지를 방문하십시오.

Appendix C

TO: Evelyn Spain, Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) Chair

12 December 2021

SUBJECT: Dissenting Opinion – CNTF Recommendations

During its 30 November 2021 meeting, the CNTF voted 20-6 and 19-6 (with one abstention) to recommend to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) changing the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, respectively.

The authors, here undersigned, prepared this document for public record; the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), and Commonwealth Transportation Board. Our objective is to provide a clear explanation for dissenting to the Fairfax County Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) decision to recommend renaming Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.

We, the authors, served on the CNTF, and we agree completely with all other members of the CNTF on several important details. Unanimously, we execrate slavery and denounce any glorification of this abhorrent institution—especially the use of Confederate leaders as symbols to promote racial inequity or injustice. We acknowledge our communities are not perfect, but we do not believe the United States of America, Virginia, or Fairfax County are inherently racist—quite the opposite, we believe Fairfax is a welcoming place to live. We believe all members of the CNTF volunteered their time and energy in a sincere effort to improve their community, which is admirable. At times passionate opinions were shared during the CNTF, and we are very grateful to our colleagues who carefully respected the opinions of others and who were open to genuine debate and different opinions.

The following outlines the justifications for our decision to vote “no” to recommend renaming.

Very respectfully,

Robert H. Floyd
CNTF Member, primary author

CF: Kristi Dooley, Malcolm Watson, Dr. Juliette Shedd

Enclosure

Executive Summary

We, the authors here undersigned, voted “no” to the Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) recommendation to rename Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50). Public feedback was decisive: 57% of the public responses opposed renaming. We feel our duty is to represent the public’s interest, and the public’s interest is not in favor of changing these names. We believe the \$1M to \$4M required to rename these two roads would be more effectively spent pursuing a community engagement project (e.g. an African-American Heritage Trail, a museum, and/or new historic markers). We believe changing these road names will be divisive and ill received by a majority of those impacted while providing minimal substance to benefit the community. Several CNTF procedural issues also influenced our decision. Communications were never consistently disseminated, and community engagement was suppressed because postcards sent to Fairfax residents were frequently received after listening sessions concluded. Furthermore, the demographics of the CNTF did not accurately reflect the demographics of Fairfax County; specifically, Hispanic, Asian-American, and other non-African-American minorities were underrepresented. The online survey received low participation, 200 responses, from non-English speaking minority communities, but within this sample size respondents were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the names. There is public perception—as indicated in emails received and articles published in local media—the CNTF is intended to provide “political top-cover” for the Board of Supervisors (BOS). This issue would be better resolved as a ballot referendum. Public feedback opposed to renaming reveals three predominate themes: 1.) Respondents do not want Fairfax County to spend tax dollars to rename highways; 2.) Many feel inconvenienced by the impact changes will have on their homes and businesses; and 3.) The most frequent comment was this action “erases history.” The majority of the CNTF disregarded offhand the “erase history” concerns because schools will continue teaching Civil War history. We do not agree with this assessment because the “erase history” comment should be considered in context with the events Statewide as well as by Fairfax County since 2017. Furthermore, demonstrations in the last several months indicate a significant portion of citizens have meaningful concerns about school curriculum and how American history is taught. Finally, it is a fact many citizens still regard Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson as icons in American history for their military leadership and tactical successes. Fairfax County cannot be an “inclusive” society without acknowledging these opinions exists amongst its citizens, and respect the prevailing public opinion.

Public Opinion & Survey Results

Results were decisive: over 57% of the public responses were opposed to renaming. The CNTF received 41,260 survey result opinions, emails, tweet, and miscellaneous messages on social media—making this one of the largest public responses in Fairfax County history.

| Public Outreach Results¹ | Keep the Names | Change the Names | No Opinion/Unclear | Final Results not provided to the CNTF |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Survey Responses (Total) | 22,556 | 15,992 | 810 | 0 |
| <i>Route 29</i> | <i>11,652</i> | <i>8,032</i> | <i>354</i> | <i>0</i> |
| <i>Route 50</i> | <i>10,904</i> | <i>7,960</i> | <i>456</i> | <i>0</i> |
| Phone Calls | 333 | 47 | 0 | |
| Letters | 29 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Listening Sessions | 6 | 9 | 6 | 0 |
| Emails | 435 | 158 | 0 | 390 ² |
| Social Media | 141 | 54 | 289 | 0 |
| TOTAL = | 23,500 (57%) | 16,265 (39%) | 1,105 (3%) | 390 (1%) |

The results of these public information campaigns are clear. A member of one of the BOS staff reported in over a decade she could count on one hand the number of times citizens asked to rename roads named for Confederate leaders. We feel the CNTF was selected to represent the public’s interest, and the public’s interest is not in favor of changing these names.

Cost & Community Impact

During CNTF debate, a frequent discussion point was that African-American history—specifically enslaved Americans—was already erased. On this point, all members of the CNTF unanimously agree, and we urge without any reservation that Fairfax County—indeed all of America—should take action to remedy this tragedy. Prince William County, for example is developing an African-American history trail, and we encourage Fairfax County to pursue similar projects.

We believe the \$1M to \$4M required to rename these two roads would be much more effectively spent pursuing a project similar to the one in Prince William County. If not an African-American Trail, other ideas include a new network of historical markers or investment in museums.

Furthermore, renaming roads and removing one piece of history in favor another does not “tell the whole story;” it only serves to antagonize one group of citizens while marginally benefitting others. From the beginning, the CNTF stated unequivocally the desire to be “inclusive.” We all agree inclusivity requires us to make room for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, political leanings, and those who have a different historic or cultural background to our own. Fairfax County’s mantra should be to build new monuments and name new streets to represent everyone, and not to destroy or rename; these actions are divisive and marginalize citizens who feel their opinions are not valued. Add more, not less.

¹ Source: Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation report provided 30 November 2021 at the CNTF meeting.

² At the 30 November 2021 CNTF meeting, the results of 390 emails were still outstanding and not provided as data to the CNTF.

Considering the survey results, public feedback, and the imposition on business and residents located on both highways (e.g. updating addresses, social media, websites, etc.), *we believe changing these road names will be divisive and ill received by a majority of those impacted by this change* while providing minimal substance to benefit the community. Resources should be allocated elsewhere.

Task Force Mismanagement

Failure to Engage Businesses Residents Directly Impacted

Name changes will impact approximately 504 private residences and 665 businesses along Lee Highway and 50 private residences and 221 businesses along Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.³ The CNTF survey and postcards were issued to these residents, but the CNTF made no targeted effort to pole the opinions of the 687 businesses that will be impacted. A few respondents to the CNTF survey identified themselves as business owners who opposed the changing the names, one even claiming that “Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway” provided name recognition and others voiced potential impacts to payroll, shipping, and routine operations. It is wrong to impose this change upon businesses that are still recovering from the impacts of COVID19 and combating rapid inflation.

Communication Difficulties

From the onset, a prevailing CNTF objective was to ensure every member’s opinion was “heard.” We unanimously agreed communication as key to success. To prevent inadvertently creating an impromptu meeting subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, the CNTF facilitators instructed task force members to send all communications to a single Fairfax County employee point of contact (POC). From the beginning, communications were *never* consistently disseminated. This problem is on record, and was discussed repeatedly by frustrated members of the task force. We will not speculate on the reasons for the communication breakdown, but it is a fact we sent the POC multiple articles and letters which were either never disseminated to the rest of the CNTF or required subsequent emails before they were shared.

Despite having record level survey responses, in-person communication with the public was also problematic. The postcards sent to Fairfax residents were frequently received *after* listening sessions were concluded, which is reflected by the sparse participation. One of the authors of this dissenting opinion never received this postcard. Fairfax libraries inconsistently provided access to the survey in paper format. These concerns are a matter of public record, were acknowledged by the CNTF facilitators, and can be corroborated by testimony provided at the 8 November 2021 CNTF meeting.

Demographic Concerns

One of the great benefits of living in Fairfax County is the widespread diversity and integration of cultures from around the World and United States. We all benefit from learning from each other, sharing experiences, culture, food, and life experiences. Unfortunately, based on the information provided by Fairfax County⁴ the diversity of our community was not proportionally represented on the CNTF. Specifically, Hispanic, Asian-American, and other non-African-American minorities were underrepresented on the CNTF.

³ Fairfax County Times: “Confederate Names Task Force votes to change highway names” by Heather Zwicker (https://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/fairfax_county/confederate-names-task-force-votes-to-change-highway-names/article_5e09403c-592a-11ec-9c15-0bd91e3bd36c.html)

⁴ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demographics/fairfax-county-general-overview>

| Fairfax County | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Demographics | Population | Percent Population |
| White, Not Hispanic | 594,603 | 51% |
| Black, Not Hispanic | 111,150 | 9% |
| Asian/PI, Not Hispanic | 224,138 | 19% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 191,404 | 16% |
| Other, Not Hispanic | 50,552 | 4% |
| Total = | 1,171,847 | 100% |

Source: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demographics/fairfax-county-general-overview>

To encourage maximum public participation, online surveys were available in multiple languages. Two hundred (200) responses were received from non-English speaking minority communities, and respondents to the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the names.

Non-English Responses

| Language | Keep the Names | Change the Names | No Opinion |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Arabic | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chinese | 57 | 2 | 2 |
| Farsi | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Korean | 49 | 6 | 1 |
| Spanish | 55 | 9 | 1 |
| Urdu | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Vietnamese | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Total = | 176 (88%) | 20 (10%) | 4 (2%) |

If we are willing to accept 200 responses represent an accurate survey of the non-English speaking community, then the public consensus is even greater—*do not change the names*. However, if we conclude that 200 responses—a comparatively low sample size—does not accurately represent the non-English speaking community, we are left with three potential conclusions: 1.) either the CNTF failed in its obligation to engage this community, 2.) the non-English speaking community has no opinion, or 3.) a combination of both.

Ms. Susana Mariano, CNTF member, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce voted “no” to changing names.

Furthermore, at least four of the 26 task force members (15%), identified themselves as having professional ties to represent the NAACP—*we want to stress this is a GOOD thing!* We honor and respect the work the NAACP has accomplished since its conception. It is possible other members may have ties as well, and should be equally acknowledged for their good work. The NAACP also has a well-established position against the use of Confederate Names and Monuments, and only represents the 9% of the County’s African-American population—not 15% of the County.

So far as we are aware, no member of the CNTF identified themselves as representatives of Asian/PI, or other minority organizations. No CNTF members identified themselves as representatives of the non-English speaking communities, which were overwhelmingly opposed to changing the names. Furthermore, no member identified him or herself as representing a legitimate (i.e. not a hate group)

Southern heritage organization (e.g. a verified 501(c)(3) charity such as the The Sons of Confederate Veterans).

Pro Forma Political Top Cover

On 29 October 2021, The Fairfax County Times⁵ published an article with the tagline: “Chairman McKay hints name changes are a done deal.” This article fomented perception the CNTF is a pro forma pretense to provide “political top-cover” for the BOS. The survey results clearly indicate this will not be a universally supported decision to rename these roads. Emails received from the public periodically requested this added as a ballot referendum—a sentiment echoed during the CNTF proceeding on several occasions. In recent years, the BOS has been reticent to poll public opinion on the topic of Confederate history in Fairfax County.

It is a mistake not to acknowledge the public skepticism behind the legitimacy of the CNTF. Changing road names will have significant impact on the citizens of Fairfax County, and creating the CNTF provides a “buffer” between the BOS and the citizens negatively impacted by this change. We will not speculate on the BOS decision to create the CNTF rather than pursue a county referendum, but for State-wide context, in the past 12 months voters in nine different Virginia counties passed by super-majority votes to maintain the Confederate Monuments in their counties. Many more monuments have been re-erected at cemeteries and on private property. These are not the actions of racist extremists—these are grass-roots efforts by groups of citizens to save Virginia history. By comparison, rather than put the question to public referendum—the Fairfax County Park Authority voted to abort the 2017 Ox Hill Battlefield monument project and have not appointed the citizen committee they voted to establish to resolve the “wording on the monuments” they found objectionable. These two monuments remain in storage at an undisclosed location. In 2020 the BOS directed to remove the Marr Monument. Monuments are important for their historic and educational context, but they have marginal impact on the day-to-day lives and operations of residents and businesses. Road names do have a greater immediate impact, and there are citizens who believe the BOS resolve to rename these two roads is an effort to promote political solidarity rather than act in the public’s best interest.

Historic Significance

Erasing History

A review of the public feedback opposed to renaming reveals three predominate themes that oppose renaming these roads: 1.) Respondents do not want Fairfax County to spend tax dollars to rename highways; 2.) Many feel inconvenienced by the impact changes will have on their homes and businesses; and 3.) the most common comment was this action “erases history.”

We acknowledge the Fairfax County BOS has the discretion to obligate funds toward projects with negative impacts to residents and businesses. However, we feel obligated to elaborate on the third comment, that renaming “erases history.”

In isolation, if renaming two roads were the only instances of historic reshaping in the United States and Fairfax County, we would not give credence to the claim Fairfax County is “erasing history.” However, these claims carry greater weight when considered in context with other recent events in

⁵ Fairfax County Times: “Fairfax County says it wants to hear for public on the names of two major roadways” by Heather Zwicker (https://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/fairfax-county/fairfax-county-says-it-wants-to-hear-from-public-on-the-names-of-two-major/article_43fbbe3c-3822-11ec-9648-bbfa1af7703c.html)

Fairfax and across Virginia. In 2017 JEB Stuart High School was renamed and the Ox Hill monument project was cancelled. In 2020 the Marr Monument was removed, and residents have witnessed Civil War Monuments vandalized with anti-policy hate-speech, destroyed, cut in half, melted down, and otherwise removed. To date, no displaced monument in Commonwealth or Fairfax County possession has not been re-erected at a battlefield, cemetery, or placed in a museum.

The sum-total of these events explains why citizens believe Fairfax County is “erasing history.”

The majority of the CNTF offhandedly disregarded this position claiming schools will continue to teach the history of the Civil War and the deeds of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. We hope this is true; however, we are all aware of the controversy surrounding school curriculums in the lead up to the 2021 Virginia Gubernatorial election. It is not appropriate to rehash concerns over school curriculum here other than to acknowledge that public opinion does not universally share the CNTF’s faith in our schools continuing to teach the history of the Civil War and American history in general.

Southern Perspective of Confederate Leaders

We wish to conclude with some perspective explaining why Southerners often still admire Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. The institution of slavery was so evil, and in retrospect the thought of dividing the United States so heinous that postbellum 19th Century Southerners who suffered economic ruin and more than ¼ of the male population dead were desperate for something to be proud of, and this sentiment still exists today. Placing aside the politics around the war, Generals Lee and Jackson were tactically and strategically brilliant, and military academies around the world still study their campaigns.

Furthermore, Lee’s post-war example made him one of the most important figures in reunification of the Nation. Many Southerners wanted to continue to fight a gorilla war for years, but he refused, and many followed his example to return to the Union. After the war, Lee also used his influence to encourage peace between the races, expelling white students from Washington College for harassing African-American citizens in Lexington.

Consider also what the Virginia Museum of History & Culture⁶ says: “Those who argue that [Lee] chose to fight for slavery rather than against it, and that this is all one needs to know about Lee, lose sight of the extent of the sacrifice that he made. His decision was not about defending slavery; it was about doing what he thought was right.”

No one is required to agree with any of this interpretation of history, but Fairfax County cannot be an “Inclusive” society without acknowledging these opinions exists amongst its citizens. To be very clear, we believe the overwhelming majority of Fairfax County residents respect the rights of all mankind, and admiring flawed historical figures such as Lee and Jackson does not equate to racial insensitivity.

Very respectfully,

Robert H. Floyd, Jenee Lindner, Susana Marino, Blake Myers, Peyton Onks, & Edward Wenzel

signatures affixed

⁶ <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/historical-book/chapter/reconciliation>

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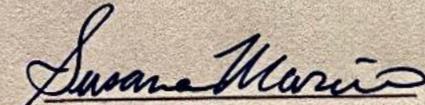
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ROBERT H. FLOYD
Primary Author
Braddock District

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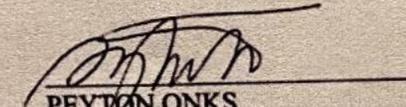
JENEE LINDNER
Springfield District



SUSANA MARINO
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BLAKE MYERS
Springfield District



PEYTON ONKS
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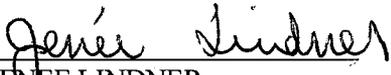
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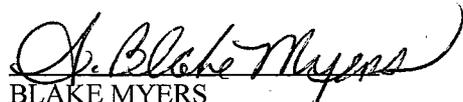
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ROBERT H. FLOYD
Primary Author
Braddock District


JENEE LINDNER
Springfield District


BLAKE MYERS
Springfield District


EDWARD WENZEL
Springfield District

Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) Chair

December 11, 2021

Subject: Dissenting Opinion – CNTF Recommendations

During its November 30, 2021 meeting the CNTF voted 20-6 and 19-6 (with one abstention) in favor of recommending to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors that the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, respectively, in Fairfax County be changed.

I respectfully submit my dissenting opinion (see Enclosure) for inclusion, in its entirety, in the CNTF Recommendations Report to be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



J. Blake Myers
CNTF Member

cc: Kristi Dooley, Dr. Juliette Shedd, Malcolm Watson

Enclosure - as

Dissenting Opinion, December 11, 2021

Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) Recommendations to Change the Names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway within Fairfax County

During its November 30, 2021 meeting the Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) voted 20-6 and 19-6 (with one abstention) in favor of recommending to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors that the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax County be changed.

I disagree with both CNTF recommendations, and voted accordingly, based on the flawed process and methodology used by the CNTF to reach the recommendation decisions. Key aspects of the flawed process and methodology include:

- a. When questioned on the basis for the motions, the CNTF force member who put forth the motion for each recommendation cited Fairfax County's *One Fairfax Policy* as the basis for each motion. The *One Fairfax Policy* is not a declarative policy that can functionally serve as the basis for any action or decision. The policy was designed to define "expectations for consideration of racial and social equity, and in particular, meaningful community involvement when planning, developing, and implementing policies, practices, and initiatives. It provides a framework to advance equity in alignment with our stated visions and priorities. This policy informs all other policies and applies to all publicly delivered services in Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Schools." Those who claim the *One Fairfax Policy* as the basis for the CNTF's recommendations either have never read the policy or do not understand it.

Beyond receiving a presentation on the *One Fairfax Policy* and its implementation practices during its initial meeting on August 16, 2021, the CNTF never discussed the policy or its application with respect to the CNTF's assigned tasks.

- The CNTF never addressed how the tasks it was charged with would be considered within the *One Fairfax Policy* framework, nor how the *One Fairfax* focus on Racial Equity through improving Outcomes and closing Racial Gaps was applicable or would be achieved.
- The CNTF did not discuss or apply the specified elements of applying *One Fairfax* in practice, including:
 - i. Desired Results – Outcomes to achieve? Community-level conditions intended to impact?
 - ii. Assumptions – Beliefs and ideas about the issue, situation, and people involved? How to counter implicit bias?
 - iii. Analysis of Data – What data do we have? What data do we need? What does it tell us?
 - iv. Community Engagement – How have people affected by the proposal been engaged? Opportunities to expand engagement?
 - v. Strategies for Equity – Who will benefit from or be burdened by this? Strategies to address vulnerability or build opportunity? Mitigate unintended consequences?

Despite CNTF member requests, the CNTF and the supporting County Department of Transportation (DoT) staff consistently failed to determine the number of directly

affected residents and businesses located along the affected sections of the two highways, much less engage them for their opinions and input on changing the names – in direct contravention to the stated *One Fairfax Policy* application framework. It was not until November 29th that the DoT staff provided the CNTF an inventory of the businesses and residences located along the affected sections of the two highways. *One Fairfax* was not a component of any discussion, deliberation, or consideration of potential recommendations by the CNTF. To infer or state otherwise is simply not true and is misleading.

- b. The majority of CNTF members gave little to no credence or value to one of the few relevant data sets available to the CNTF – the nearly 23,000 inputs to the CNTF provided by County residents via survey responses, phone calls, emails, letters, social media and in-person and virtual listening sessions. Resident comments received did not convey any sense of public support for changing the highway names. In fact, just the opposite resulted, the large majority (approximately 60-62%) of resident comments expressed opposition to changing the names of the two highways.
- c. Implementing the community engagement strategy that was developed and adopted by the CNTF in order to gain a sense of public sentiment and views on potentially changing the highways' names proved to be of little value - - the majority of CNTF members chose to disregard the comments and information received because the comments did not align with those members' views or opinions. Personally, I had expected to see significant public support for changing the names, as I had been led to believe there was a public outcry for changing the names. That turned out not to be the case and led me to conclude that the proposal to change the highways' names was/is a politically-motivated action, driven by activists on the Board of Supervisors, the CNTF and elsewhere who have an agenda and a point to make – there is no, and never has been any, public outcry or demand calling for or supporting changing the highways' names.
- d. Throughout all CNTF meetings, communications, and discussions no historically factual reason was ever presented or discussed that supported changing the name of either Lee Highway or Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. The lack of knowledge of U.S. and Virginia history among CNTF members was frankly alarming. Several CNTF members made statements claiming that R.E. Lee was a traitor and that he waged war against the United States and to overthrow the U.S. government – inferring that there should be no highway named after Lee. (Interestingly, Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s name never came up in CNTF discussions – the sole focus was on R. E. Lee.) These member statements were typically based on two claims, neither of which are historically accurate – that R.E. Lee was a traitor because he violated his oath to defend the United States, and that Lee was a traitor based on the Constitution’s definition of treason.

At the time of Lee’s commissioning as an officer in the United States Army, the commissioning oath was “I do solemnly swear that I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever, and observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States and the officers over me according to the rules and articles for the Armies of

the United States” (underlines and emphasis added). The wording of the oath suggests that the officer’s loyalty was to the United States in a collective sense. Indeed, for many in this era (late 1700s - mid 1800s) the United States as a unified entity was at best an abstract concept. Primary loyalty tended to be to one’s place – where one was born and where the family roots were – and for Lee, as for many, that place was their home state. R.E. Lee served successfully and effectively in the U.S. Army for 32 years (1829 – 1861). On April 15, 1861 and based on the secession of seven southern states, President Lincoln declared “an insurrection” and called for 75,000 volunteers for three months of military service. Within days, Lincoln offered Lee (through intermediary Francis Blair) command of the army being raised to put down “the insurrection.” Lee felt duty bound to his state by virtue of his Virginia family lineage and avowed that, though opposed to secession and deprecating of war, he could take no part in an invasion of southern states. On April 20, 1861 Lee resigned his U.S. Army Officer’s Commission.

The Constitution of the United States, Article III, Section 3 provides that “Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying War against them, or adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court” (underlines and emphasis added). In this Article and Section the United States is again expressed in a collective sense and not as a unified entity. This fact and a knowledgeable understanding of factual U.S. and civil war history leads to the perspective that R. E. Lee’s and the Confederacy’s military actions were undertaken to protect and defend seceded states’ territory against invasion and occupation by U.S. military forces, not to wage war against the United States nor to overthrow the U.S. government.

It is also interesting to consider how Article III applies, in a collective sense of the United States, in this case where U.S. military forces invaded seceded states and blockaded southern ports, actions long recognized under international law as acts of war. These controversial aspects reflect the reality that our history is messy, complex and multi-faceted. That said, the fact remains that no Confederate officer or official was ever tried for, or convicted of, treason. The primary reason for this was the fear that if charges were levied and trials conducted the courts would rule that secession was a legal act, thereby invalidating both Lincoln’s declaration of “an insurrection” and the U.S. basis for invading seceded states and forcing their readmittance into the United States.

From a historical perspective the names Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway provide a sense of “historical place” for these major highways. For Lee Highway, it is the historical significance of R.E. Lee and the Lee family lineage to Virginia and Fairfax County. For Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, it is the historical significance of Jackson’s flank march after the Battle of 2nd Manassas (Bull Run) on this road and the resulting September 1, 1862 Battle of Ox Hill - the largest civil war battle fought in Fairfax County – fought from and on land adjacent to this highway, then known as Little River Turnpike. The highway names Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway have been in place for some 100 years and even today retain their historical significance.

- e. No information or data was presented to or by the CNTF that supported changing the name of either highway, or that indicated any positive affect would result from changing

either of the highway names. Renaming the highways would be a divisive, not a constructive, action - - an action without discernable benefit to any county population segment and an action that is clearly, based on resident comments provided to the CNTF, against the wishes of a large number of County residents.

- f. There was no specific assessment or consideration of the financial or other impacts of changing the highways' names on directly affected properties. Directly affected properties include 504 private residences and 665 businesses located along the two segments (14 miles) of Lee Highway under consideration, and 50 private residences and 221 businesses located along the segment (8.4 miles) of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway under consideration. Several CNTF members stated they had no interest in knowing how many residences and businesses would be directly affected. This callous disregard for the impact on directly affected residences and businesses flies in the face of equity, racial or otherwise, and ignores the CNTF's designated responsibility "to secure the community's input on the implications of changing the names of the roadways."

Singly and collectively these flaws in the CNTF's process and methodology led me to conclude that the recommendations to change the highways' names were preordained and are politically motivated actions advocated by agenda-driven activists. The recommendations are not based on historical fact or the preferences and desires of county residents and have nothing to do with achieving equity or inclusion, racial or otherwise. The recommendations arise from the personal opinions of ill-informed activists, who demonstrate little regard for relevant facts and the views of county residents or the impacts thereon, or for views and opinions other than their own. The recommendations are the result of groupthink that is biased and not supported by historical fact or by any information or data that provides a relevant basis for or identifies benefit(s) to be gained from changing the highways' names.



J. Blake Myers
CNTF Member

Co-Signees:



Edward Wenzel
CNTF Member



Jenee Lindner
CNTF Member

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Robert H. Floyd
CNTF Member

TO: Evelyn Spain, Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) Chair 12 December 2021
SUBJECT: Dissenting Opinion – CNTF Recommendations

During its 30 November 2021 meeting, the CNTF voted 20-6 and 19-6 (with one abstention) to recommend to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) changing the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, respectively.

Jenee Lindner opinion, Confederate Name Task Force member, Fairfax County History Commissioner
Fairfax County Confederate Name Task Force 11/30/2021

Before the task force on this date I said, “I would like to read from an interview about African American Civil Rights Leader Lynda Lowery. She was just 14 years old when she was beaten by a racist sheriff’s deputy on the Edmund Pettus Bridge during the 1965 Bloody Sunday March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. She was the youngest marcher on the bridge that day, and it changed the course of her life. She became a civil rights activist and was jailed 11 times before her fifteenth birthday. Today, there is a movement underway to rename that bridge, now named after a Confederate general, for the late Congressman John Lewis.

She does not want it done and neither did John Lewis who also was attacked there and visited the bridge every year in commemoration. Why? Yet the name was never changed.

In [a recent interview](#) **Civil Rights Veteran On Why She Opposes Renaming The Edmund Pettus Bridge** NPR, published August 13, 2020 with NPR’s Robin Young, Lowery explained that, like Lewis himself, she doesn’t want to change the name of the Edmund Pettus Bridge—not even to honor Lewis. “I love and admire him, but I don’t want the name of my bridge changed...” “If we change the name to *anything*, it would be a whitewash of our history,” she said. “We, on March 7, 1965, we took the sting out of that name.”

This was also Lewis’s position on the matter. In [a 2015 op-ed](#) he wrote with Rep. Terri Sewell, Lewis explained the folly of trying to hide history by renaming things:

Renaming the Bridge will never erase its history. Instead of hiding our history behind a new name we must embrace it—the good and the bad. The historical context of the Edmund Pettus Bridge makes the events of 1965 even more profound. The irony is that a bridge named after a man who inflamed racial hatred is now known worldwide as a symbol of equality and justice. It is biblical—what was meant for evil, God uses for good.

Lowery echoed this idea in her NPR interview, saying, “Our blood and tears are embedded in the cement of that bridge,” and that, “If there had not been that Confederate history, there wouldn’t have been a need for a Civil Rights or Voting Rights history.”

I am with the late Congressman John Lewis and Lynda Lowery; it is wrong to erase history. I vote no.

I really wrestled with this. But, for me, because I know the history, it represents the loss of victory for the Confederacy with Jackson and Lee. If they had not been stopped, they would have moved onto DC, taken Lincoln hostage with other cabinet members and politicians on Capitol Hill.

Most importantly, President Lincoln had made Washington DC a free district for all people by this time, including African Americans. This was before the Emancipation Proclamation that extended to other states. The city had become a mecca for many black refugees who had been able to flee the south. With this new Confederate occupation, they would have been enslaved again. It makes me shudder to think about the stranglehold - struggles for them, AGAIN!

Lincoln started writing the Emancipation Proclamation after the Sept 1, 1862, Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) here in Fairfax County where 1,500 would die and the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), Sept. 17, 1862, where soldiers lost their lives – a combined tally of 22,717 dead, wounded, or missing. Lincoln tells us he formally started writing down the proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862. He presented it on Jan. 1, 1863, to Congress and the public. What a different world we could be in if the Confederacy had won these battles and invaded Washington DC.

That is what I think about when I see those two names - like the same pattern of Lynda Lowery and the late Congressman John Lewis. I remember with thanks every time I go down these roads that they lost so the Union could fight another day and eventually win.

I believe we need more education and nuanced research for the public to understand what it really meant when Lee and Jackson lost. But, alas, I fear our Civil War history is being more marginalized and erased.

Note: Because this was my own opinion, I did not share it with others on the Task Force. Robert Floyd heard about it and wanted his name added. I did. See below.

Respectfully yours,



Jeneé Lindner
Author of this opinion
Springfield District

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ROBERT H. FLOYD

Braddock District

December 13, 2021

Dissenting Opinion in Opposition to Changing the Names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway

To: Evelyn Spain, Chair, Confederate Names Task Force

Anna Nissinen, Noelle Dominguez, Juliette Shedd, Kristi Dooley, Malcolm Watson

From: Edward Wenzel, Trustee, Kearny & Stevens monuments, Ox Hill Battlefield Park.

Appointed to CNTF by Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District.

Fairfax County's race-obsessed School Board and Board of Supervisors have been on an ideological mission to purge all visible evidence of Confederate history and heritage from Fairfax County. Using the so-called "One Fairfax" policy and its "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" ideology, elected officials have mandated official policy that requires viewing all we do through a "lens" of "racial and social equity." This misguided political policy not only divides us by race and ethnicity, it works to erase all names and landmarks of past history that "offend" intolerant activist groups like the NAACP, BLM, and Antifa. The policy fully condones and encourages the cultural cleansing of all visible reminders of Confederate military forces in Fairfax County. This determination to remove the Confederate side from the defining historical event of our nation's history is repugnant to anyone who values Civil War heritage. Union and Confederate—both were Americans and they left an indelible mark on Fairfax. Removal of Confederate names is not INCLUSION; it is deliberate EXCLUSION and it violates the County's own equity policy. Removal smacks of Marxism, fascism and cultural cleansing. The stripping away of historic names and memorials is ideological pandering to intolerant individuals and groups for political gain at the expense of others who want a few reminders of our Civil War heritage to remain—what little is left of it, which certainly isn't much.

Fairfax County began efforts to purge its Confederate history and heritage in 2015 when the FCSB, administrators, and teachers initiated a campaign to demonize Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and remove his name from J.E.B. Stuart High School. Stuart's 1861 headquarters on Munson's Hill was directly across Rt. 7 from the high school which was constructed and named in 1959 during the Civil War Centennial. Over the course of two years, teachers, students, and NAACP activists backed by the school board, managed to distort history, slander Confederate soldiers, bully objecting students and divide them by ethnicity and color, encourage hate and enflame passions—all for political purposes.

Also in 2017, the Fairfax County Park Authority refused to install two obelisks for Union and Confederate soldiers in the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. The obelisks were approved by the Park Board in 2005 as interpretive elements to compliment the monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens but they were not produced until funding became available in 2015. However, with the installation date set, the FCPA Board (directed by the BOS) killed the project and put the obelisks in permanent storage. At subsequent meetings with the FCPA in 2018, several board members expressed open hostility to the obelisks, one member saying that she would take a sledgehammer to them. Another member, with ties to the Smithsonian, said that institution would put them indoors in a museum and place "contextual signage" next to them (whatever that's supposed to mean). As to what was objectionable about the two obelisks, the FCPA Board refused to tell us.

Continuing their vendetta against school names, the FCSB next attacked Robert E. Lee High School. With the support of "progressive" activists and the news media, the school board voted in June of 2020 to rename

the high school. One more trophy for the school board and their virtuous purge of iconic names that honor two of greatest military commanders in Virginia and American history, field generals who led Confederate forces against invading and occupying Federal armies.

Following the example of the school board's name changing, two supervisors weighed in on June 23, 2020 with a request for **an inventory of all Confederate names** appearing in public places in Fairfax County. The request stated:

"This powerful call for equity has brought attention to Confederate monuments and place names throughout the country and the County, and the painful history they symbolize. Confederate monuments and place names were affirmations of white supremacy under the siren of southern history and tradition, and they go against the goal of a more just, unified county. They do not reflect our community's values." So said two very misinformed, biased supervisors. But who gave them the right to decide for all county residents what values we as a community should recognize???. This is not "equity" at all. It's fascism.

Citing its "One Fairfax" policy of racial and social "diversity, equity and inclusion," the BOS immediately approved the request and directed the History Commission to provide *"a full inventory of these 'tributes' essential for Board review, to move forward in our journey towards a more just county"*—nice words that obfuscate the BOS' deliberate intention to erase historic names and 'tributes' that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax. Thus did nine virtue-signaling supervisors openly pander to solidify their political base at the expense of the County's most important historical event. In effect, the supervisors listened to the intolerant activists and gave the back of their hand to everyone else, especially to those who care about the iconic names of Lee and Jackson and the war-time history of Fairfax County. Equity and Inclusion this is NOT. This is really about Exclusion and Censorship and Pandering to the NAACP's 50-year-old victim-based agenda which demands the removal of every Confederate name and historic monument/marker from public view.

While the History Commission willingly scrambled to obey the inventory directive, the BOS took up another woke cause—**removing the landmark "Marr monument"** beside Main Street near the Old Courthouse where the opening clash of the war took place. Following a ginned-up protest at the monument and an online petition, the BOS quickly found bogus "racism" and "Lost Cause mythology" in the innocuous inscription which gave nothing more than a bearing and a distance to the spot where Marr's body was found. Why? Because Marr was a Confederate officer and the BOS said it "glorified" him. So, the BOS joined the forces of intolerance and cultural cleansing and ripped the Marr monument from the ground with no authority to do so by citizens or voters. Thus, Fairfax County and Fairfax City lost a 116-year-old historical monument which was the most visible reminder of Civil War heritage in our community. That's how fascism works in a county led by virtue-signaling ideologues who openly despise our history.

One indignant supervisor (James Walkinshaw) even went on a long rant about the UDC and the KKK, neither of which had a single thing to do with the Marr monument. Mr. Walkinshaw falsely claimed that the monument *"was not about history; that it was about a myth!"*—A myth!!! And that it was all about *"white supremacy!"* The BOS' animus for the Marr monument was the *ultimate slander* on Fairfax Confederate veterans and the citizens who erected the monument. Their preachy lectures about Reconstruction disparaged the motives and character of the Marr Camp veterans and scolded those of us who testified in opposition. It was a gratuitous display of hubris after a sham hearing conducted for the sole purpose of removing legitimate historic markers and cannon, simply because they reflected actual history that the BOS didn't like.

The Confederate Names Inventory report was presented to the BOS on December 8, 2020. It contained 536 pages listing every conceivable name in Fairfax that could be possibly attributed to a Confederate officer or soldier or anything with a Southern association. By its directive, the BOS arrogantly and disgracefully targeted all Confederate names in public places for change or removal. This unprecedented action by the board was no different than Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution. To our sanctimonious BOS, “Equity and Inclusion” is the mantra demanded of all citizens, but that policy can be safely ignored when needed to erase ideologically problematic cultural history.

Now comes the Confederate Names Task Force and its *unmistakable directive from the BOS to recommend changes* to the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. See the statements of BOS Chairman, Jeff McKay, and Task Force Chair, Evelyn Spain, as published by the County’s *News Center* and various local media: <https://www.restonnow.com/2021/07/14/fairfax-county-appoints-task-force-to-review-changing-two-confederate-highway-names/> To this Task Force, thirty members were appointed by the ten supervisors (26 members remain).

No ballot referendum. At the first meeting, we questioned how thirty individuals could change the names of primary highways in Fairfax County without any of our 1.2 million residents casting a single vote. We asked why this matter would not appear on the ballot in November. The question was blown off by several members who said we were only making a recommendation; that the BOS elected not to put it on the ballot (who were we to question them) and that they would make the final decision—as if that were a good reason for ignoring the will of hundreds of thousands of county voters. It’s quite obvious that the reason for omitting the question from the ballot is that voters would overwhelmingly *reject* changing the names for multiple valid reasons. We believe that the BOS instinctively knew that, and so to accomplish their goal, they kept the question off the ballot and set up this task force to provide political cover and make it appear that a fair process was being utilized. However, the process was anything but fair and was certainly not equitable to all.

Task Force expenditures, of course, represent a lot of money. For one, paid facilitators were contracted at a cost of \$50,000 and DOT employees were tasked with behind-the-scenes planning and other work-intensive endeavors. Indeed, all of the graphics, charts, and information packets that were pre-assembled involved a major expenditure, as has the agendas, minutes, TF communications, community outreach, tabulations and other necessary efforts. The involvement of volunteer Task Force members over the course of this endeavor also amounts to major amounts of time and effort. That’s to say nothing about the costs to affected businesses and residents and the actual removal and replacement of signage—estimated at \$1-4 million alone.

Here’s what is wrong with this “Task Force”:

From the very beginning it has been evident that the whole purpose of the paid facilitators and staff has been to steer the TF in the direction of name changes. The first meeting was devoted to DEI training—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The obvious purpose was to show that Confederate names were somehow at odds with “diversity” and not “inclusive” of certain individuals, groups, or immigrants—as if large numbers of people actually think like that. I commented that “diversity” means a multiplicity, a variety, more than one, etc. Yet, in this case, the BOS seeks to erase diversity just as they erased the Marr monument last year.

The second meeting was devoted to “white supremacy,” “Jim Crow,” and “Lost Cause” ideology. The facilitators and a guest speaker tried to link the two highways’ names solely to those ideologies with no understanding or care about the historical reasons behind the names. I was struck by the degree of

misinformation and erroneous statements made by TF staff, facilitators, and members concerning the war and Gen. Lee—such as declaring secession “treason” and Lee a “traitor,” and that Lee “fought for slavery and to overthrow the U.S. Government.” Those simplistic and misinformed opinions were repeated often. In response, I sent e-mails containing information and links that rebutted the false narratives. However, two of the e-mails were not distributed and I had to inquire multiple times before they were released to TF members. [See Memo to CNTF regarding false statements about Secession, Treason, and R.E. Lee, 11-1-21]

At the Sept. 28 subgroup meeting, there were two statements made by the facilitators that were very revealing. First, that the mission of this task force was “not to educate,” and secondly, that they wanted us to “move away from the past and toward the future. What do we want today?” as one asked. Those statements confirmed the obvious—that Task Force organizers and facilitators were there to lead us toward name changes, NOT to explain the historical basis for the names or to justify them as visible links to our Civil War heritage. The message was that we shouldn’t dwell on the historical reasons for the names. Instead, we must consider people’s “feelings;” that the names should be “welcoming” and “inoffensive,” etc. For example, the facilitators posed this question: “What principles are important to you in considering the names of roadways in Fairfax County? ... What’s the criteria/principles that are important to each one of us?” Here are some serious suggestions that were offered... for selecting road names!!!

- “Caring for citizens”
- “Empathy—names that reflect our best selves”
- “Names that prevent harming others”
- “Inclusivity—does the name offend or hurt others?”
- “Is it welcoming—does it help repair harms, lift up community?”
- “Does it provoke a sense of pain for others?”
- “Names should give a sense of hope—that we are in this together”

I really have to ask, just who are we anyway—a nation of strong people who love our country and take pride in the heritage that comes with it—or, are we a nation of super-sensitive victim groups who can’t live our lives knowing that a tragic war was fought here 16 decades ago and we don’t want to be reminded of it? Seemingly, according to the BOS, those feelings trump all others so that victimhood is the default that erases historic names and removes monuments that other “caring” citizens acknowledge as heritage and wish to see as touchstones of our Civil War past.

The NAACP is the single largest group represented on the CNTF, far exceeding the percentage of African Americans in the county’s population. For decades, their agenda has called for the removal of all Confederate names and monuments from public view. But how can that group decide what other people are allowed to see based on incorrect narratives about secession, treason, and R. E. Lee, as well as slanderous comparisons of Confederate soldiers to Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany? That belief alone is an outrage! Activist members of the NAACP (and other groups) are pushing a Marxist agenda to remove all visible traces of Confederate history and heritage from America. Is that why the BOS overrepresented this organization on the task force—to ensure the votes necessary to recommend name changing? That is NOT “equity.” That’s a devious inequity. That’s stacking the deck to guarantee the preferred recommendation.

Lee Highway was one of a hundred or more named “Auto Trails” that “good roads” organizations were advocating for in the early 20th century. The nation’s roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted tracks 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. In 1919 Lee Highway was named and designated to run between Washington D.C. and San Diego, California. A hundred other “auto trails” were also named during this period.

The name “Lee Highway” did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project “white supremacy.” That’s nonsense. 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 50th Anniversary period and Union and Confederate veterans 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. However, with the BOS’ fixation on racism and “equity,” Task Force planners had but one direction— DEI training, “One Fairfax,” and the guest speaker’s opinions on the Lost Cause and “white superiority” which is now the phobia of “oppressed victim groups” all across the country.

- Historical context for 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 (1920s) <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>
- Lee Highway, Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway

Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. Known as the Little River Turnpike during the Civil War, history records that **Stonewall Jackson’s Corps** of the **Army of Northern Virginia (ANV)** advanced down this turnpike on September 1, 1862 toward Fairfax in an attempt 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 (West Ox Road), Jackson encountered Federal divisions of Gens. Stevens, Reno, and Kearny and a severe battle was fought in 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 an unplanned clash that ended the Campaign of Second Manassas and opened Lee’s Maryland Campaign.

Gen. Robert E. Lee, who was observing the opening of the battle, came under Union artillery fire at 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 6,000 attacking Federals in the confused combat. Two hours later when darkness fell, there were 516 Confederate casualties and more than 1,000 Federal. Union Gens. Stevens and Kearny were 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 2nd and on the 3rd, the ANV marched toward the Potomac River fords and opened the Maryland Campaign that resulted in the bloodiest battle of the war at Antietam Creek.

In 1922 when the name “Lee-Jackson” was chosen to replace Little River Turnpike in Fairfax County, it was a perfect choice based on what had occurred there historically. The naming happened during the era of transcontinental road naming in which Lee Highway was also conceived. Stonewall Jackson’s flank movement down Rt. 50, the Battle of Ox Hill, and the arrival of Longstreet’s Corps on Rt. 50, when taken together, was **the most important historical event that had ever occurred along that stretch of highway in Fairfax County.** The timing of the name change was undoubtedly because of the recent 50th anniversary and because naming highways was a part of the “auto trail” movement across the country. If some today (including new arrivals) don’t like that, then how about being “tolerant” and “inclusive” as the “Diversity” people are always demanding. Tolerance and inclusiveness apply to all, not just to some.

Many “diverse” groups populate Fairfax County and we support them as does everyone. However, as a native of this area, I am conscious of the Confederate history in a county that voted overwhelmingly for secession. I am also well acquainted with the two monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens who were killed at Ox Hill. No one has suggested that those two monuments be removed or be hidden in a warehouse, or be “contextualized.” The fact that Union monuments exist at all in this county, is a tribute to John Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman (of Mosby’s command) who owned the farm where the battle was fought. It was Ballard and his wife, Mary, who gave the land to Union soldiers so they could erect monuments to their fallen generals. And it was Ballard who led the effort to put up the monument beside Main Street in Fairfax marking Capt. Marr’s death in the first action of the war (Fairfax C. H. Raid, June 1, 1861). Yet our virtuous supervisors ripped that monument from ground to pacify woke intolerant groups who were arrogantly demanding its removal. It was a total disgrace and a capitulation to woke ideology. While Fairfax County brags that we are the “Gateway to America’s Heritage,” the current BOS has proven that they only care about certain heritage, and have been quick to dismiss and condemn Confederate heritage which, except for slavery, they show absolutely zero understanding.

I am for everyone’s heritage. If names or reminders are needed to reflect other heritage in Fairfax, I think you will find many interested parties, including myself, who would support those endeavors. The heritage of Fairfax covers a broad spectrum. So, let’s do that; but don’t deliberately erase Fairfax’s Civil War heritage just because some don’t like the defending military forces based on false or incomplete narratives.

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, otherwise we are just one more homogenized suburb sprawling across the metro area. In Fairfax County, when you erase Confederate names, you destroy that visible history and sense of place—the place where those Confederates fought to defend Virginia from Federal invasion (the war was *far more* than just slavery). That’s why people who study the war come to Northern Virginia—because it’s so rich in Civil War history and reminders of it are part of our sense of time, place, and identity. Without a handful of Confederate names and monuments, Fairfax County is just one more overcrowded, suburban area with nothing to remind us (or heritage tourists or visitors) of the epic events that occurred here in the 1860s. The names of Lee, Jackson, Stuart, and Mosby are icons of Civil War history in Virginia. They tell people where they are. This is not New York or New Jersey or Michigan. This is Fairfax Virginia. We have a past and we have a heritage. To culturally cleanse that past is divisive, exclusionary, political, and patently un-American.

The Confederate Names Task Force is a charade. It’s a veneer to provide political cover for an ideological BOS that intends to change the highway names no matter what anyone thinks. Their contempt for the residents and voters of Fairfax County says all we need to know about the politics of this Board.

Very Respectfully,



EDWARD WENZEL
Springfield District
Author of this Dissent Opinion



JENEÉ LINDNER
Springfield District



BLAKE MYERS
Springfield District



SUSANA MARINO
At-large

November 1, 2021

To: Evelyn Spain, Chair, Confederate Names Task Force,
DOT staff, facilitators, and all TF members.

From: Ed Wenzel, Trustee of Kearny and Stevens Monuments, Ox Hill Battlefield Park

Dear Chair Spain and Task Force:

At our meeting on October 18, comments were made about Gen. Lee and “treason” that I take issue with. Of course, I’ve heard it all before and am well aware of historians, bloggers, and media spinning the narrative that Lee was a traitor and that secession was treason etc. However, those statements ignore facts, i.e.: the Constitution itself, Virginia’s conditional ratification, and Lee’s oath of allegiance. Please understand that there are many nuances that get swept aside when looking at Civil War history through an emotional lens. It’s complicated and there’s much more to it than just slavery and “treason.”

Did/does the Constitution prohibit secession? No. The Constitution does even not mention secession. First, The Constitution is a voluntary compact of individual, sovereign States which delegated specific and limited powers to the central government. In forming this government and ratifying its Constitution, the founding States never surrendered or renounced their sovereignty. There is no language in the Constitution that expresses any renunciation of sovereignty by any of the States. In the Treaty of Paris of 1783 which ended the American Revolution, Britain recognized the former colonies as “free sovereign and independent states” and identified each state individually.

When Virginia ratified the Constitution in June, 1788, she did so conditionally, and reserved the right to secede with these words: “...in the name and in behalf of the people of Virginia, declare and make known that the powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression and that every power not granted thereby remains with them and at their will...” New York and Rhode Island also reserved the right to secede. By accepting the right of three states to leave the union, the United States implicitly accepted the right of all states. Only by the Civil War itself (and the blood of 750,000 Americans) was the right of session made illegal. Today the question is settled, but in 1860, secession was still a State’s right even if denied by others when it suited their purpose.

If secession was “treason,” the Constitution would have declared it so, but it does not. Article III, Sec. 3 says “Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them (the States), or in adhering to their (the States) enemies, giving them (their enemies) aid and comfort...” Thus, the “treason clause” only applies to United States citizens. The seceded states (by ordinances of secession duly passed in convention) were no longer in the Union, nor were their citizens. The seceded States withdrew from a voluntary compact and they sought no war with the United States, nor did they seek to “destroy” or “overthrow” the United States government. All they wanted to do was leave. The South’s military actions that followed Lincoln’s invasion of Virginia were entirely justified by the right of self-defense. Virginia did not levy war on the national government. It was Lincoln who violated the “treason clause” by his military invasion of Virginia on May 24, 1861. The State of Virginia, in its Ordinance of Secession of April 17, 1861, cited the exact words of its Constitutional ratification document (reserving the right to secede). Thus, Virginia repealed and abrogated the union between Virginia and the other states of the United States. To compel Virginia to remain in the Union and take up arms against other states was a violation of the “treason clause” of the Constitution and an act of war by the Lincoln government.

What did notable persons in the North have to say about secession?

Here's what Horace Greeley (editor, NY Tribune) said: “If it (the Declaration of Independence) justified the secession from the British Empire of three millions of colonists in 1776, we do not see why it should not justify the

secession of five millions of Southerners from the Federal Union in 1861. If we are mistaken on this point, why does not someone attempt to show wherein and why?"

Here's what Lincoln said in 1848: "Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the power of the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable—a most sacred right, a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world. Nor is this right confined to cases in which the whole people of an existing government may choose to exercise it. Any portion of such people that can, may revolutionize and make their own of so much of the territory as they inhabit. More than this, a majority of any portion of such people may revolutionize, putting down a minority, intermingled with or near about them, who may oppose their movement. Such minority was precisely the case of the Tories of our own revolution." [Lincoln was concerned about the rights of people living in a disputed area claimed by both Texas (United States) and Mexico.]

Here's Wendell Phillips' position before Ft. Sumter: Phillips was a New England dis-unionist and abolitionist orator, and he defended the Confederate States' right to secede. For decades Phillips had defended the right of Massachusetts to secede and he now embraced disunion as the political foundation of his abolitionist credo. The South, he said, had "a right to decide that question without appealing to you and me. A large body of people, sufficient to make a nation, have come to the conclusion that they will have a government of a certain form. Who denies them the right? Standing with the principles of '76 behind us, who can deny them the right?" Peaceful disunion, Phillips believed, was the key to the eventual downfall of slavery, and with it, the power of the slaveholding oligarchs. [After Ft. Sumter, Phillips reversed himself and like all abolitionists, clamored for war.]

[Many abolitionists advocated disunion and the formation of the Confederacy in order to end the protections guaranteed to the slave states by the U.S. Constitution. By secession, the slave states would surrender their interest in the territories and forfeit all the benefits of the Fugitive Slave Law. By secession, the slave states would lose the protections of the National Government in defending against assaults, whether by the legislative enactments of other states, or by servile insurrections. Of these facts the abolitionists were well aware. Hence, they advocated secession in furtherance of their intended goal—the ultimate abolition of slavery.]

Suppose Lincoln had followed Phillips' advice and let the South go unmolested instead of pursuing a military solution? Without the protections of the Federal government, how long would the South's slave system remain profitable in an isolated and vulnerable country with little industry and with severed relations and trade with the Northern States? Independence would be difficult to maintain and could possibly collapse on its own without the death, destruction, and horrors of a catastrophic war. There was a growing consciousness in the many parts of the South that slavery was wrong and a curse, not only to black people who were forced to labor, but to the whites themselves who causing moral harm to their own race and offspring. Increasing numbers of bondsmen were being freed or manumitted in wills by people with changing opinions on the question. And lacking secession, couldn't the growing United States have compensated slave owners at least partially like in the District of Columbia? We will never know. War was the only option that Lincoln saw to thwart secession and satisfy Republicans. But Lincoln assured everyone that preserving the Union was his only motive, and that he had no wish to interfere with the Constitutional protections of slavery.

Did the U.S. Constitution protect slavery? Yes. It did so to make sure that Southern slaveholding States would ratify the Constitution and join in forming the new nation. The States had just won a revolution and were still on shaky ground and vulnerable. All of the States had to stick together if they were to survive. No chance could be taken that the new country might fail and England return to regain her colonial dominion. A way had to be found to accommodate the slave states' dependence on their "peculiar institution," then the custom for 170 years (1619 to 1789). Thus, the framers compromised with the devil and inserted the much ridiculed "Three Fifths Clause" that allowed slave states to partially count slaves as persons for representation in Congress. This extra representation (only whites were citizens) would give the slave states an advantage and an incentive to stay with the union. The founders could not, however, count slaves as full persons because that would give slave states too much representation and was unacceptable to the non-slaveholding States. Since slaves were property and had no rights, the three fifths compromise sealed the deal for the slave states by recognizing the institution. Also, adding "three fifths" to their representation would ensure that slave

states would pay a greater share of taxes than they would if only whites were counted. Does that explain how we got stuck with slavery when the Declaration of Independence clearly says that “all men are created equal?” Also, while not mentioning slaves or slavery by name (an embarrassment left unspoken in the presumed hope that it would eventually die), the Constitution did refer to the unmentioned slaves as “persons” and not as “property.”

Did Lee violate his oath? No, he did not. Once Lee resigned his commission (on the advice of Gen. Scott) he was no longer in the U. S. Army. Such was the situation for 286 other Southern officers who resigned their commissions and reported for service in their home State militias or Confederate regular forces. There was no “treason” by anyone. Union authorities clearly understood that Southern officers would likely go with their State of birth or citizenship, i.e.: whichever claimed their loyalty and allegiance. Some stayed in U.S. service, but many more left. No officers who resigned were arrested and none were ever charged with treason. Our 21st century understanding of treason against the United States is irrelevant when considering the reality of State loyalty and citizenship in 1861. Here’s what happened:

Following Gov. Letcher’s refusal to send Virginia militia to fight South Carolina, the Virginia Convention adopted a Secession Ordinance on April 17 subject to a voter referendum on May 23. On April 18, Colonel Lee was invited by Lincoln advisor, Francis P. Blair Sr., to take command of a large Union army to put down the insurrection. Lee declined, saying that while he opposed secession and deplored war, he could take no part in an invasion of the Southern States. Lee then visited General-in Chief Winfield Scott who advised him to resign at once. On April 20, Lee resigned his commission as Colonel of the 1st U.S. Cavalry, saying that except in defense of Virginia, he hoped never again to draw his sword. On the evening of April 21, a messenger arrived at Arlington with a letter inviting Lee to Richmond for a conference with the governor. On April 23, Lee was confirmed as Commander-in-Chief of the military and naval forces of the Commonwealth of Virginia with the rank of Major General. On May 23, Virginians voted overwhelmingly to secede, 128,884 to 32,134. Lee commanded Virginia’s forces until June 8 when the Virginia armed forces were transferred by executive order to the Confederate States. Lee was also transferred and became a Confederate brigadier general assigned as advisor to the President and the Secretary of War.

Here’s the oath that Robert E. Lee swore in 1829:

“I, Robert E. Lee, appointed a brevet second lieutenant in the Army of the United States, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve *them* honestly and faithfully against all *their* enemies or opposers whatsoever, and observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the rules and articles for the government of the Armies of the United States.” [emphasis added]

Note that “*them*” and “*their*” refers to the States. Yes, Lee swore allegiance to the United States (a single nation of sovereign states), but he also swore to serve the States, including his own, which was no longer in the Union. Therefore, Lee’s oath to the United States and to the President and the officers appointed over him was in conflict with the same oath he swore to serve the States (and Virginia). Once Virginia seceded, Lee’s duty was to Virginia, and the same applied to every other Southern officer who resigned his commission. That’s why in August, after the Federal defeat at Bull Run, Congress quickly passed legislation requiring a new commissioning oath that asserted the supremacy of the United States government over the individual States comprising the Union. And this was followed in 1862 by the “iron clad oath” that added even more restrictive language. Bottom line, by the words of the oath he swore in 1829, Lee was no traitor, and was honor bound by duty, loyalty, and allegiance, to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Additional comments:

Subdivision and street names:

During the Civil War Centennial, various home builders seemed to pick up on the anniversary enthusiasm and named some new streets and subdivisions after Confederate officers and soldiers who were famous in Alexandria and Fairfax. I know of two subdivisions that were so named— Mosby Woods in Fairfax and Stonewall Manor outside of Vienna (both built by the Yeonias Company). There were probably other developers too. Civil War names were also applied to new streets in the west end of Alexandria. But why Confederate and not Union names? I think it’s because northern

Virginia had historical connections to the Confederacy and the Centennial anniversary was very prominent in the news back then. Fairfax County had voted overwhelmingly to secede in 1861 and had sent many of its sons to fight in local Confederate infantry regiments and cavalry units. Mosby in particular was a local Confederate hero for his audacious exploits in northern Virginia. Stonewall Jackson was also a hero who commanded Confederate troops near Centreville, Fairfax, and at the battle of Chantilly or Ox Hill.

I think the current narrative that the street names were only meant to intimidate black people and push back against school desegregation or civil rights is totally mistaken. The Centennial was in full swing then. Developers, always looking for new names, were only too happy to exploit the local history which provided a plethora of Confederate and Civil War-themed names for their streets and communities. Yeonas himself was a Greek immigrant and a member of the Orthodox Church who was active in Hellenistic education and philanthropy. His street names, I am certain, had zero to do with fighting school integration or oppressing black people.

<https://mosbywoods.org/2020/10/23/how-mosby-woods-came-to-be/>

The names of U. S. Army posts:

The Civil War was a national calamity with 1 of every 41 Americans dead and the South's infrastructure and economy destroyed. There was no Marshall Plan and no Social Security. The South would not fully recover until after World War II. Look at the photos taken in the rural South by WPA employees during the depression. One instance of Federal aid was the creation of Army camps at the outset of WWI (the 50th anniversary of the WBTS). Most of the camps in the South were named for Confederate generals, partly as a gesture of post-war reconciliation, and partly to cushion the seizure of so much land. The government undoubtedly wanted to curry political favor with Southern whites whom they needed to support the U.S. war effort in France. The Army posts were not deliberately named to disparage or insult black people and I seriously doubt that blacks even thought twice about it. It's now a wedge issue in today's divisive political climate where all things named for Confederates are being demonized for political purposes. BTW, in the North, the camps were named for Union generals—Camps Meade, Dix, Devens and Custer for example... It was probably logical back then, but with today's divisive politics and people looking for offenses to settle or magnify, no Confederate name is safe anywhere.

I hope the above paragraphs provide more understanding about questions relative to the Task Force's inquiry. Remember, inclusion and tolerance. It goes both ways.

Thank you, and respectfully,

Edward Wenzel

The most effective way to destroy a people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.
Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.
The best books...are those that tell you what you already know. George Orwell, 1984