



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

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Agenda item #8

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

March 21, 2019

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Stinson, Seconded By: Mr. Williams
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors wishes to memorialize the life and contributions of Mr. Thomas Burns Childress. Mr. Childress worked in many roles to preserve and protect the Town of Pocahontas. He served on multiple committees and Boards including the Chairperson of Historic Pocahontas Incorporated, Chair of the Tazewell County Planning Commission, member of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors as well as many others. In addition, he was a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a medical clerk from 1969 through 1971; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Childress grew up on the hill above the bridge in this commemorative naming. In more recent years, he fell from the old bridge and broke his back. After the accident he brought attention to the condition of the bridge and became a driving force for replacing the bridge until his passing on December 17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors wishes to remember the work and service of Mr. Thomas Burns Childress to his hometown of Pocahontas; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated February 5, 2019, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), name the bridge on State Route 102, Boissevain Road, over Laurel Fork, Tazewell County as the “Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge”; and

Resolution of the Board

Bridge Naming: "Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge"

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WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located or by the private entity whose name is attached to the transportation facility so named; and

WHEREAS, by resolution, Tazewell County has agreed to pay VDOT for the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on State Route 102, Boissevain Road, over Laurel Fork, Tazewell County as the "Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming, and secure payment from Tazewell County for these costs as required by law.

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on State Route 102, Boissevain Road, over Laurel Fork, Tazewell County as the “Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: Tazewell County enacted a resolution on February 5, 2019 memorializing the life and contributions of Mr. Thomas Burns Childress and requesting that the Board name the bridge on State Route 102, Boissevain Road, over Laurel Fork, Tazewell County as the “Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge.” In accordance with §33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia* and by local resolution, Tazewell County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Mr. Childress loved the Town of Pocahontas and was dedicated to preserving and perfecting the Town and its history. He was the recipient of the William Myers Community Service Award presented by Radio Active, was a strong advocate for the Annual Coal Miner’s memorial and Labor Day celebrations, maintained the Pocahontas historical cemetery and served as the Grants and Properties Chairperson of Historic Pocahontas Incorporated.

In addition, he was active on many committees and Boards, including the Virginia Tourist Train Authority and was Chair of the Tazewell County Planning Commission, a member of the Tazewell County Tourism Development Committee, a probation officer for the Tazewell County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and previously served on the Tazewell Board of Supervisors. He was also a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a medical clerk from 1969 through 1971.

Mr. Childress grew up on the hill that is above the bridge in this commemorative naming. In more recent years, he fell from the old bridge that was there and broke his back. After the accident he brought attention to the condition of the bridge and became a driving force for replacing the bridge until his passing on Dec 17, 2016.

Recommendations: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends this request be approved.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority of the CTB members to approve a resolution naming a highway or bridge, as appropriate. A resolution will be provided for the Board’s consideration.

Result if Approved: The bridge on State Route 102, Boissevain Road, over Laurel Fork, Tazewell County will be named as the “Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge”.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: VDOT is not aware of any opposition to this proposal.

**THOMAS BURNS CHILDRESS MEMORIAL BRIDGE
RESOLUTION**

Bridge Naming on Route 102 "Boissevain Road", over "Laurel Fork" in "Tazewell County" as the "Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, Mr. Childress loved Pocahontas and was dedicated to preserving and perfecting Pocahontas and its history. He was the recipient of the William Myers Community Spirit Award presented by Radio Active. Mr. Childress was a strong advocate for the Annual Coal Miner's memorial and Labor Day celebrations in Pocahontas; he maintained the Pocahontas historical cemetery and served as the Grants and Properties Chairperson of Historic Pocahontas Incorporated;

WHEREAS, Mr. Childress was active on many committee's and Boards, including the Virginia Tourist Train Authority, was Chair of the Tazewell County Planning Commission, was a member of the Tazewell County Tourism Development Committee, was a probation officer for the Tazewell County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and previously served on the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors;

WHEREAS; Mr. Childress was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving as a medical clerk from 1969 through 1971;

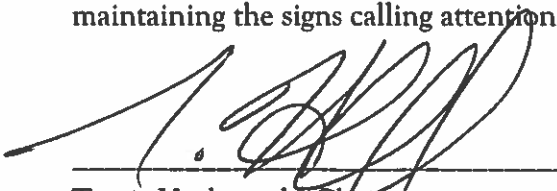
WHEREAS, Mr. Childress grew up on the hill above the bridge. In more recent years, Mr. Childress fell from the old bridge, breaking his back, and after this accident he brought attention to the condition of the bridge and became a driving force for replacing the bridge until his passing on December 17, 2016

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to give suitable names to state highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities and change the names of any highways, bridges, interchanges, or other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located.

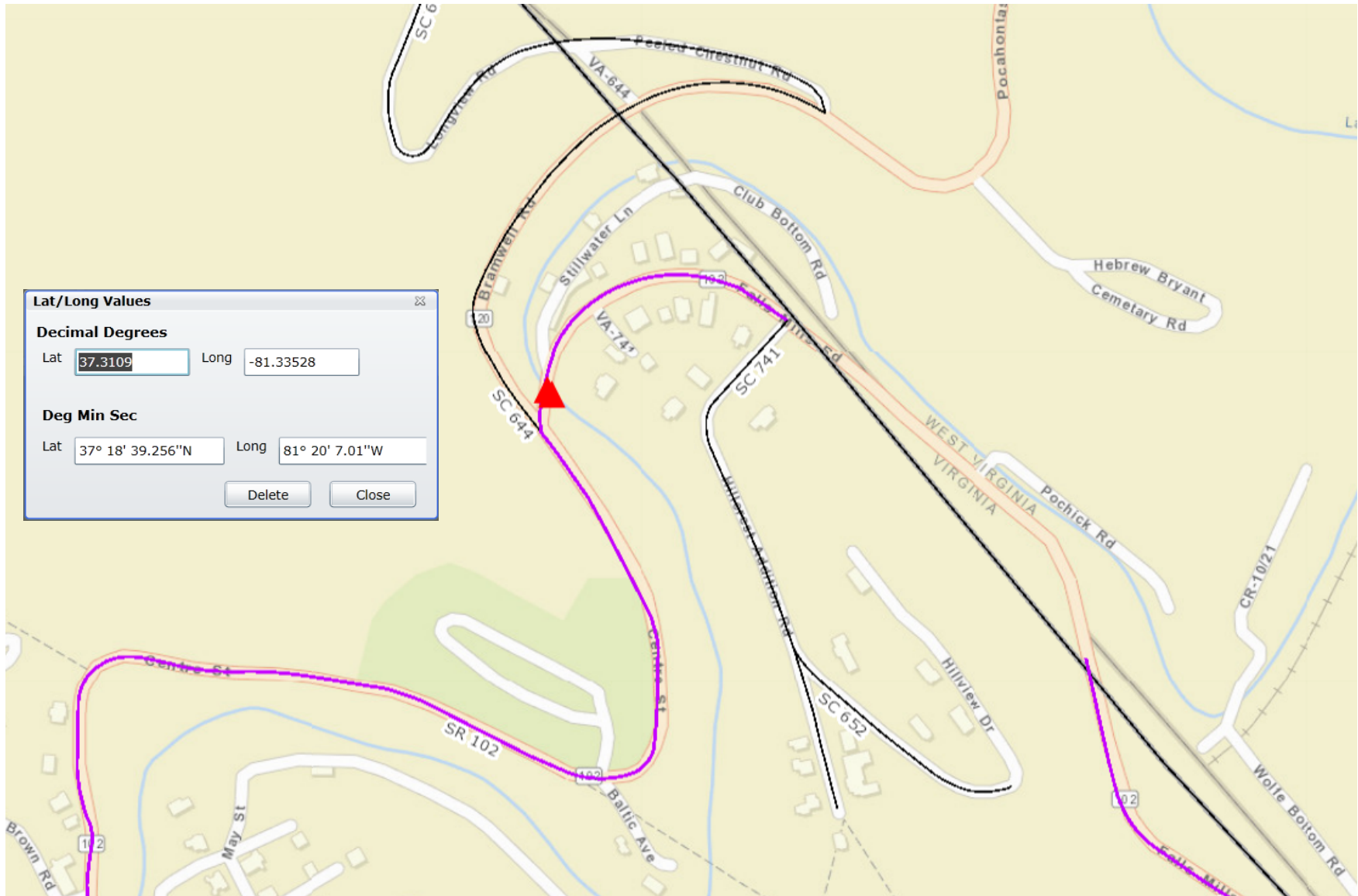
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Tazewell County, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the bridge on Route 102, "Boissevain Road", over Laurel Fork in Tazewell County as the "Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge";

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tazewell County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

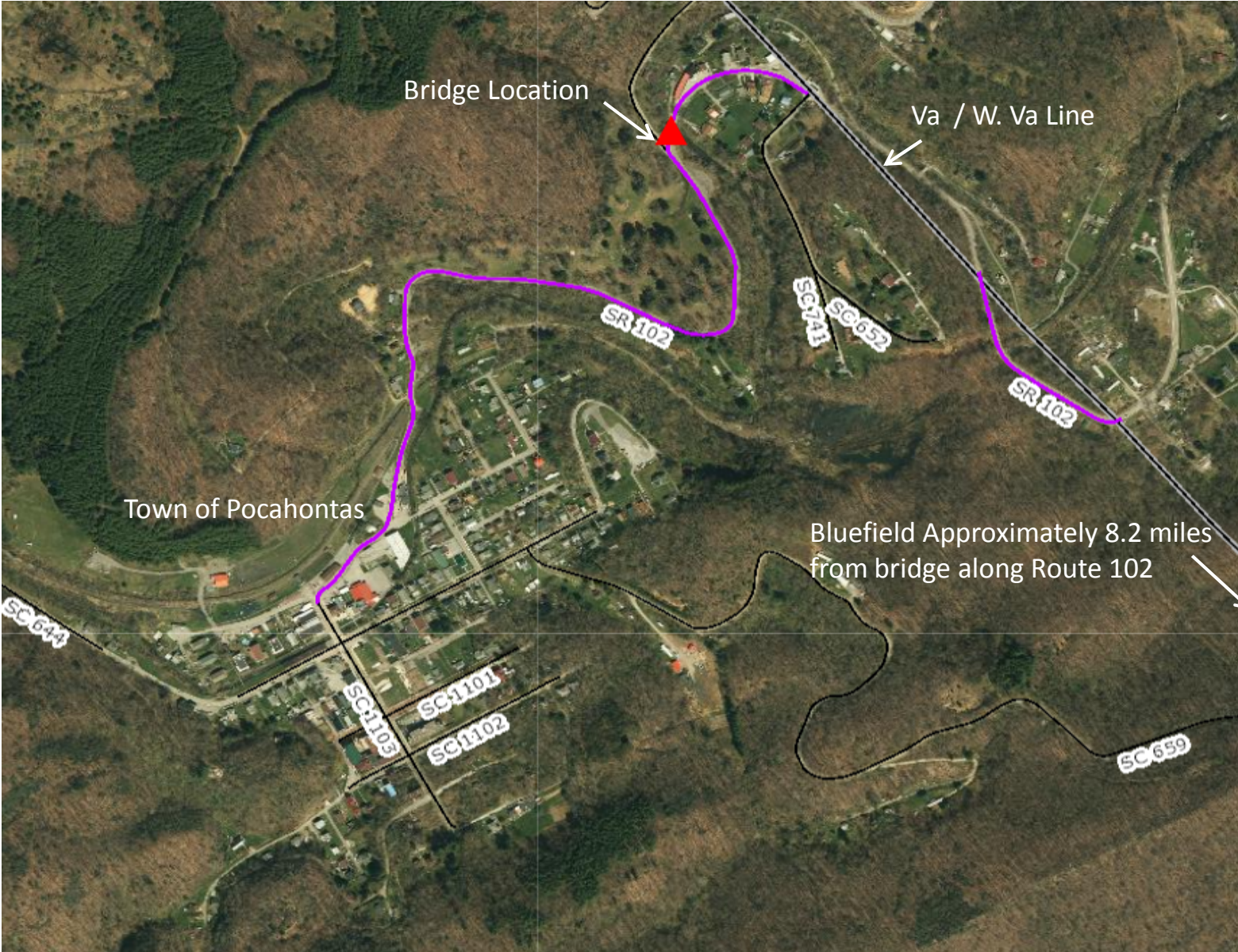


Travis Hackworth, Chairman
Tazewell County Board of Supervisors

2/5/2019
Date



Route 102 – Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge Location



Route 102 – Thomas Burns Childress Memorial Bridge Location

Tazewell County

Proposed Bridge Naming
"Thomas Burns Childress
Memorial Bridge"

644

741

West Virginia
Virginia Line

652

102



Town of Pocahontas



Maintenance Division
CTB MEETING: March 20, 2019

Tazewell County
Proposed Bridge Naming:
**"Thomas Burns Childress
Memorial Bridge"**