



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda item #4

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

September 18, 2019

MOTION

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

Title: Bridge Naming: "J. R. "Swanson" Riddle Memorial Bridge"

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Sergeant John Robert "Swanson" Riddle. Sgt. Riddle was born on September 26, 1942 near Dryden in Lee County. At a young age, he enlisted in the United States Army serving with the 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, Headquarters Company, obtaining the rank of Sergeant with a specialty of light weapons infantry; and

WHEREAS, On Memorial Day, May 30, 1966 while people in the United States were paying tribute to all those who died in service to their country, Sgt. Riddle was killed in action by hostile small arms fire in Binh Dinh Province in South Vietnam. He was just 23 years old and the second Lee Countian to fall in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Riddle is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and likewise, the people of Lee County, and the family and friends who knew and loved him, wish to honor and remember his life, service and sacrifice to his county and country by naming a bridge in his honor near where he grew up; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Lee County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated July 16, 2019, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor the life, service and sacrifice of Sgt. J. R. "Swanson" Riddle, name the bridge on Route 621, Cave Spring Road, over the Powell River, Lee County as the "J. R. "Swanson" Riddle Memorial Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation

Resolution of the Board

Bridge Naming: "J. R. "Swanson" Riddle Memorial Bridge"

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(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, Lee 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 Route 621, Cave Spring Road, over the Powell River, Lee County as the "J. R. "Swanson" Riddle 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 Lee County for these costs as required by law.

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “J. R. “Swanson” Riddle Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on Route 621, Cave Spring Road, over the Powell River, Lee County as the “J. R. “Swanson” Riddle Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: Lee County enacted a resolution on July 16, 2019 to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Sergeant John Robert “Swanson” Riddle. Sgt. Riddle was born on September 26, 1942 near Dryden in Lee County. At a young age, he enlisted in the United States Army serving with the 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, Headquarters Company, obtaining the rank of Sergeant with a specialty of light weapons infantry.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1966 while people in the United States were paying tribute to all those who died in service to their country, Sgt. Riddle was killed in action by hostile small arms fire in Binh Dinh Province in South Vietnam. He was just 23 years old and the second Lee Countian to fall in Vietnam.

Sgt. Riddle is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and likewise, the people of Lee County, and the family and friends who knew and loved him, wish to honor and remember his life, service and sacrifice to his county and country by naming a bridge in his honor near where he grew up.

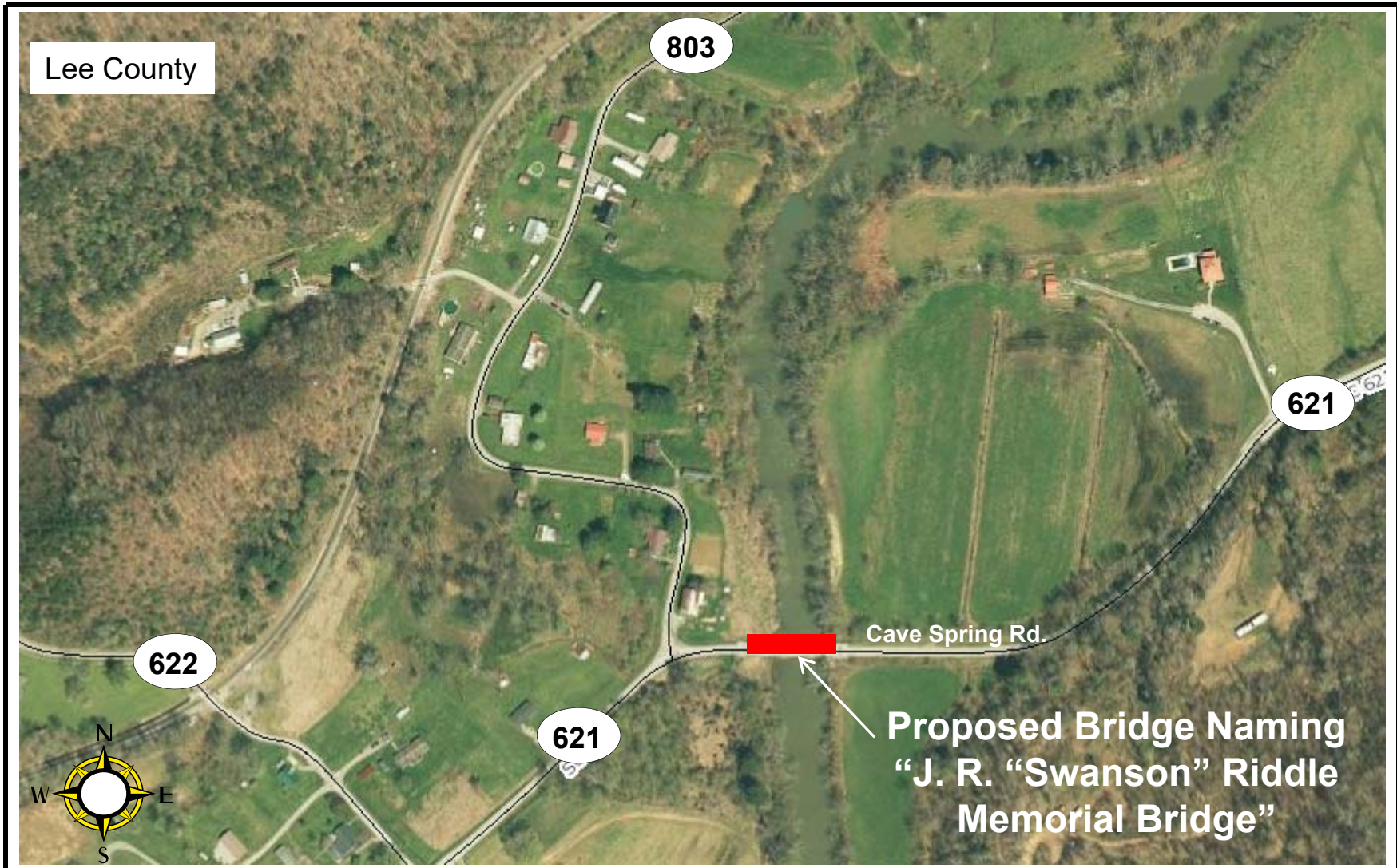
Recommendations: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends this request be approved.

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 Route 621, Cave Spring Road, over the Powell River, Lee County will be named as the “J. R. “Swanson” Riddle Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law and by local resolution, Lee County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

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



CTB MEETING: September 18, 2019

Lee County
Proposed Bridge Naming:
"J. R. "Swanson" Riddle Memorial Bridge"

Memo

To: Brack Dunn
From: Jeff Sams
CC: File
Date: July 23, 2019
Re: Bridge Naming Request

Attached please find a resolution from the Lee County Board of Supervisors requesting the naming of structure #6020 on Route 621 in Lee County, Virginia. The structure crosses the Powell River. I am attaching sections of our county road map denoting the location as well as a Google Earth shot of the structure.

The Board of Supervisors are asking that the bridge be named for John Robert "Swanson" Riddle who was from the area and was killed in action in Vietnam on May 30, 1966.

A field review as well as a review of our files shows no evidence that this structure has been previously named.

The Board commits in the enclosed letter to be held responsible for the fabrication and future maintenance of the signs.

If any additional information is needed please contact me.

Thank you very much.

Jeff Sams

RESOLUTION
19-009

WHEREAS, John Robert “Swanson” Riddle was born September 26, 1942 near Dryden in Lee County, Virginia to John and Rebecca Kelly Riddle; and

WHEREAS, at a young age, Riddle enlisted in the United States Army serving with the 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, Headquarters Company, holding the rank of Sergeant with a specialty of light weapons Infantry; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, May 30, 1966, while people in the United States were paying tribute to all those who died in the service of their country, Sgt. Riddle was killed in action by hostile small arms fire in Binh Dinh Province in South Vietnam. Sgt. Riddle was just 23 years of age at the time of his death and a news story in the local Powell Valley News listed Sgt. Riddle as the second Lee Countian to fall in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Riddle is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. at panel 07e, Line 126; and likewise, the people of Lee County and the family and friends who knew and loved him wish to honor and remember him with a bridge named in his honor near where he grew up; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to commemorate the brave service and sacrifice of Sgt. Riddle to country and countrymen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Board of Supervisors, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, does hereby request the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation formally designate and name the bridge over the Powell River on Route 621 (Cave Spring Road) as the “J. R. “Swanson” Riddle Memorial Bridge”.

Adopted this the 16th day of July, 2019.





CLERK OF THE BOARD



Lee County Board of Supervisors

LEE COUNTY
P.O. Box 367
Jonesville, Virginia 24263-0367

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Telephones 276-346-7714
Fax 276-346-7712
www.leecova.org

July 17, 2019

Jackie Christian, Assistant Residency Administrator
VDOT Wise Residency
703 Hurricane Rd., N.E.
Wise, VA 24293

Dear Mr. Christian:

Enclosed please find copies of Resolution 18-027 regarding "J.R. "Swanson" Riddle Memorial Bridge" adopted by the Lee County Board of Supervisors on July 16, 2019.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors agrees to provide the cost of fabrication, installation and maintenance of the signage.

If you should need anything further at this time, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Jany Hughes
Administrative Assistant

Enclosures

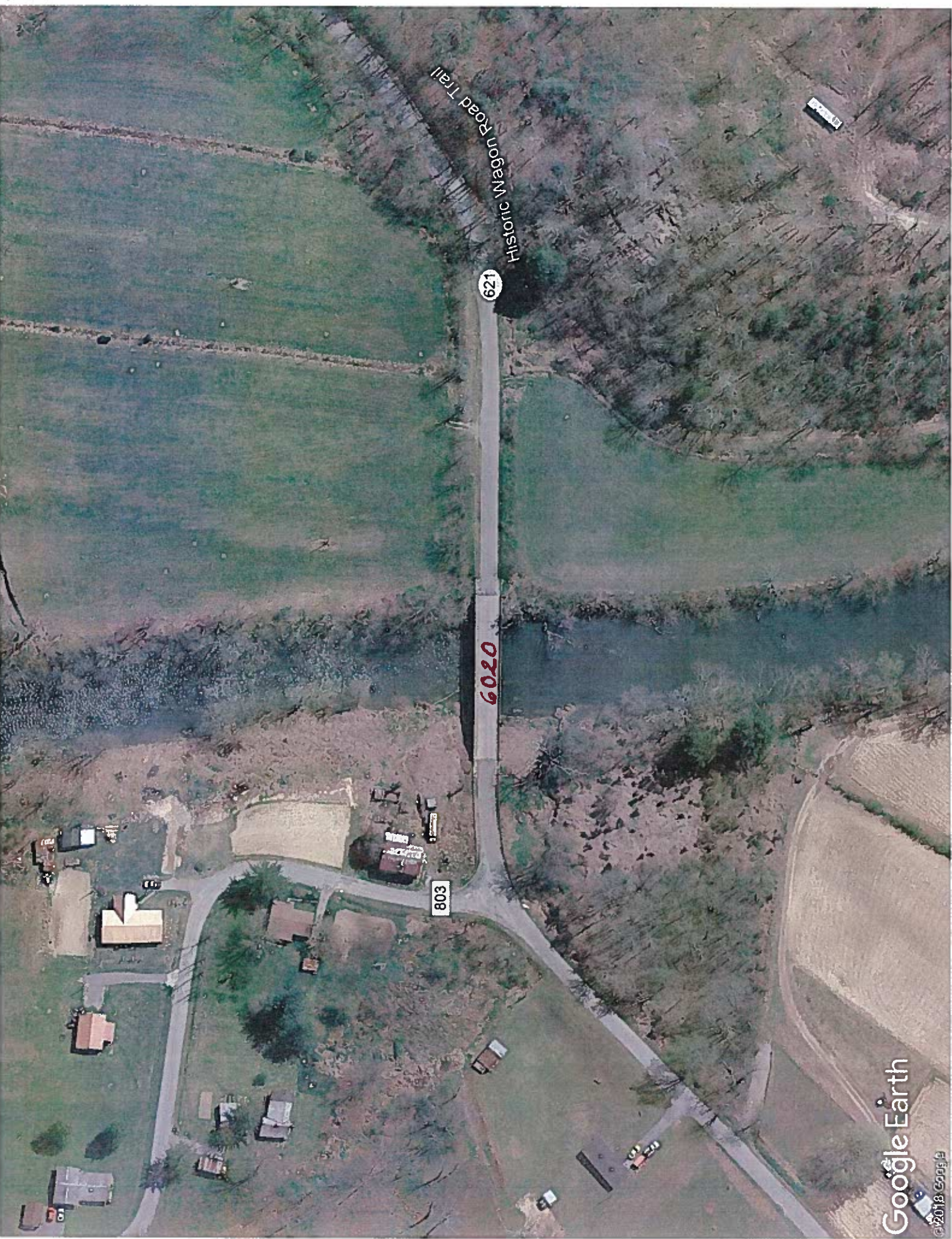
83°0'W

82°45'W

WISE COUNTY

36°45'N





Historic Moggan Road Trail

621

6020

803

Google Earth

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