



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
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Agenda item # 7

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

January 15, 2020

MOTION

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

Title: Bridge Naming: “Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, the Wise County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor and memorialize the life and ultimate sacrifice of Rodney Douglas Pickett. Mr. Pickett was a past citizen of Coeburn, Virginia. As a soldier in the United States Army he served during the Vietnam War and on May 24, 1967 gave his life when he was killed during a training exercise on his last patrol in country; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Wise County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated November 14, 2019, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life and ultimate sacrifice of Rodney Douglas Pickett, name the bridge on State Route 72, Laurel Avenue, over Tom’s Creek, Wise County, as the “Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge”; and

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, Wise County has agreed to pay VDOT for the costs of producing and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming. The Wise County Administrator then sent an email dated December 19, 2019, indicating that Wise County will also pay for the placement of the signs.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on State Route 72, Laurel Avenue, over Tom's Creek, Wise County as the "Rodney Douglas Pickett 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 Wise County for these costs as required by law.

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on State Route 72, Laurel Avenue, over Tom’s Creek, Wise County as the “Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: Wise County enacted a resolution on November 14, 2019 to honor the life and ultimate sacrifice of Rodney Douglas Pickett who served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and lost his life on May 24, 1967 during a training exercise. He is listed as the second Wise County resident to be killed in Vietnam.

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 72, Laurel Avenue, over Tom’s Creek, Wise County will be named as the “Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law and by local resolution, Wise County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming. Wise County’s resolution indicates that Wise County will pay for producing and maintaining the signs. The Wise County Administrator then sent an email dated December 19, 2019, indicating that Wise County will also pay for the placement of the signs.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

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

Memo

To: Brack Dunn
From: Jeff Sams
CC: File
Date: November 22, 2019
Re: Bridge Naming Request

Attached please find a resolution from the Wise County Board of Supervisors requesting the naming of structure #1039 on Route 72 in Wise County Virginia. The structure crosses Toms Creek. I am attaching a section of our county road map denoting the location as well as a Google Earth shot of the structure.

The Board of Supervisors is asking that the bridge be named for Rodney Douglas Pickett who was from the Coeburn area and was killed in action in Vietnam on May 24, 1967.

A field review as well as a search of our files revealed no evidence that this structure has been previously named. We believe there was a previous attempt to name it for Mr. Leland Branham, a former VDOT Resident Engineer and former Board of Supervisors member, but that was not approved by the CTB.

The Board commits in the resolution 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

cc: File

Wise County Board of Supervisors



Office of County Administrator

COURTHOUSE

WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

TELEPHONE 276-328-2321
FAX 276-328-9780

P.O. BOX 570
206 E. MAIN STREET

RESOLUTION

RODNEY DOUGLAS PICKETT MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Wise County Board of Supervisors is extremely proud of their citizens, both past and present; and

WHEREAS, one of the past citizens of Coeburn, Virginia, Rodney Douglas Pickett, gave his all to his country, his county and his family; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Douglas Pickett served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and was listed as the second Wise County native to be killed in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Douglas Pickett died May 24, 1967 during a training exercise on his last patrol in country and just four days before his birthday; and

WHEREAS, the Wise County Board of Supervisors wishes to show its appreciation and respect for the ultimate sacrifice of Rodney Douglas Pickett; and further recognize John Pickett, brother of Rodney Douglas Pickett, and Kenneth Pickett, cousin of Rodney Douglas Pickett, who both served in Vietnam with John Pickett receiving a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in Vietnam.

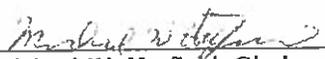
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wise County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation to formally designate and formally name the bridge on Route 72/Laurel Ave. just north of the intersection with Route 646/Wise Mountain Rd NW further identified as bridge structure number 1039, as the "Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge" to commemorate and honor Rodney Douglas Pickett and the Pickett family, and allow a permanent sign to be erected to recognize this honor.

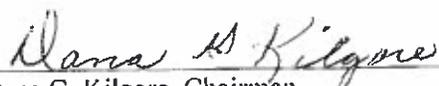
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Wise shall pay all associated expenses in fabricating and future maintenance of the sign.

ADOPTED this the 14th day of November 2019.

ATTEST:

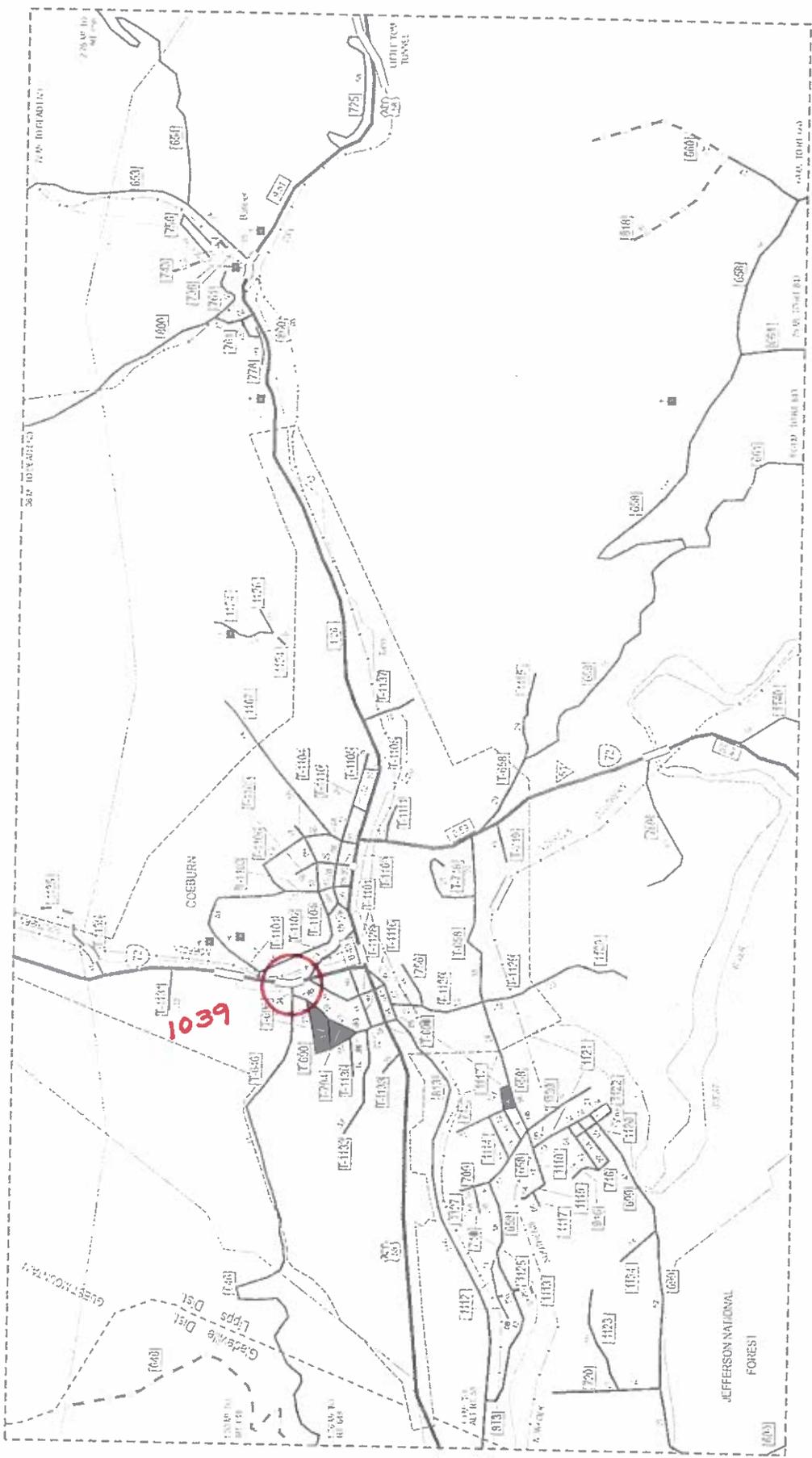
WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk


Dana G. Kilgore, Chairman

TOWN OF COEBURN AND BANNER AREA

four times map scale
see notations on map cover for distance information



see notations on map cover for distance information



Google Earth

© 2018 Google



Dunn, Brack <brack.dunn@vdot.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Rodney Picket Bridge Dedication

1 message

Sams, Jeffrey <jeff.sams@vdot.virginia.gov>
To: Brack Dunn <brack.dunn@vdot.virginia.gov>

Thu, Dec 19, 2019 at 2:32 PM

Herre is the email you requested from Wise COunty.

Merry Christmas!

BTW...I'm retiring March 1st but will only be working a few days into the new year. Thanks for all your help on these in the past.

Jeff

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Hatfield** <hatfield_m@wisecounty.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 19, 2019 at 1:17 PM
Subject: Rodney Picket Bridge Dedication
To: Jeff Sams <jeff.sams@vdot.virginia.gov>
Cc: Annette Underwood <underwood_a@wisecounty.org>

Wise County will be responsible for the fabrication, installation and future maintenance of the signs.

Mike

Michael W. Hatfield, P.E.

County Administrator

hatfield_m@wisecounty.org

www.wisecounty.org

(276) 328-2321



County of Wise, VA

Office of the County Administrator

206 E. Main Street, Suite 223

12/23/2019

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Fwd: Rodney Picket Bridge Dedication

P. O. Box 570

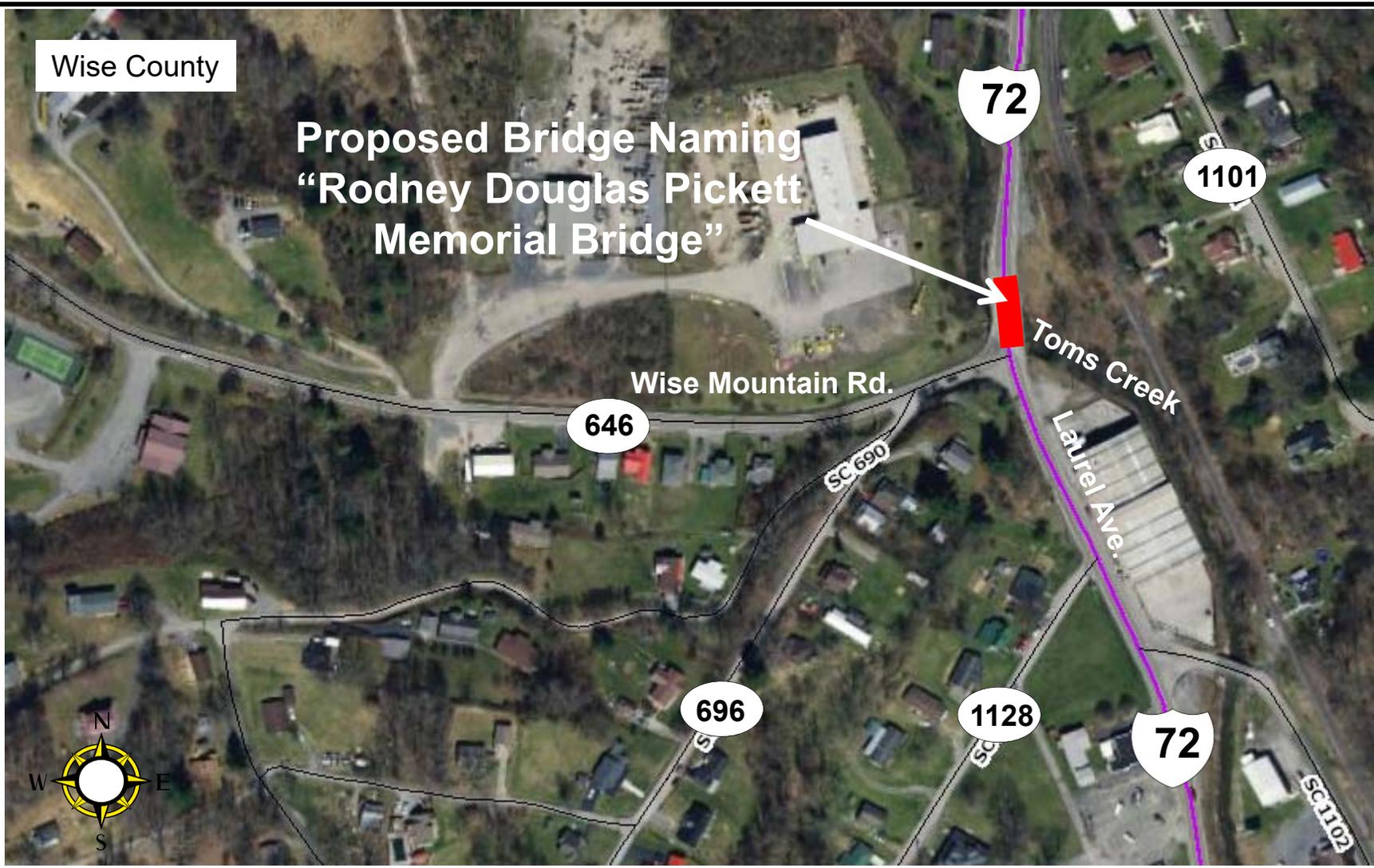
Wise, Virginia 24293

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Jeff Sams
Eng. Tech., Sr. - Permits
(276) 321-6456 office
(276) 973-7503 mobile

Wise County

Proposed Bridge Naming "Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge"



Maintenance Division
CTB MEETING: January 15, 2020

Wise County

Proposed Bridge Naming:
"Rodney Douglas Pickett Memorial Bridge"