



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Agenda item # 3

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 21, 2022

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes **Seconded By:** Mr. Rucker
Action: Motion carried, unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Governing Body of the Town of Pennington Gap has requested, by resolution passed March 21, 2022, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Petty Officer Lonnie Bernard Evans, name the bridge on Route 706, Fairground Road, over the North Fork of the Powell River, Town of Pennington Gap, as the “Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pennington Gap, by resolution passed March 21, 2022, has agreed to pay the cost of producing, placing and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming; 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on Route 706, Fairground Road, over the North Fork of the Powell River, Town of Pennington Gap, as the “Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge”.

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

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on Route 706, Fairground Road, over the North Fork of the Powell River, Town of Pennington Gap, as the “Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: The Town of Pennington Gap enacted a resolution on March 21, 2022 to honor the life, contributions, and ultimate sacrifice of Petty Officer Lonnie Bernard Evans.

According to that resolution, Lonnie Evans was born in Pennington Gap on February 21, 1946. At the age of 19 he enlisted in the United States Navy and was serving with the River Division 52, River Squadron 5, TF116 USNAVFORV, holding the rank of Petty Officer Third Class E4 as Gunner’s Mate Third Class.

Just after Thanksgiving Day, early on Friday, November 24, 1967, Petty Officer Lonnie Bernard Evans was killed in action by an explosive to the hull of YRBM 16 in the river at Ben Tre, Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam. He was 21 years old.

Petty Officer Evans is honored on the Vietnam Memorial Wall at Panel 30E, Line 76. The people of Lee County, Pennington Gap and family and friends who knew and loved him wish to honor and remember him with a bridge naming 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 706, Fairground Road, over the North Fork of the Powell River, Town of Pennington Gap, will be known as the “Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law and by resolution, the Town of Pennington Gap 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.

RESOLUTION 22-01

Title: Bridge Naming on Virginia Route T706 /Fairground Road, over the North Fork of Powell River in the Town of Pennington Gap, County of Lee as the "*Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge*".

WHEREAS, Lonnie Bernard Evans of Pennington Gap was born February 21, 1946

WHEREAS, at age 19, Evans enlisted in the United States Navy and was serving with the River Division 52, River Squadron 5, TF116 USNAVFORV, holding the rank of Petty Officer Third Class E4 as Gunner's Mate Third Class at his death. His service number was 7949394; and

WHEREAS, just after Thanksgiving Day, early Friday, November 24, 1967, Petty Officer Evans was killed by an explosive to the hull of YRBM 16 in the river at Ben Tre, Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Evans was just 21 years of age at the time of his death, and is honored on the Vietnam Memorial Wall at Panel 30E, Line 76, the people of Lee County, Pennington Gap, family and friends who knew and loved him wish to honor and remember him with a bridge named in his memory near where he grew up; and

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 Pennington Gap, 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 T706, Fairground Road over the North Fork of Powell River in Pennington Gap as the "*Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge*";

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

Town of Pennington Gap



Larry Holbrook, Mayor

Attest: 
Karen Maggard, Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Governing Body of the Town of Pennington Gap in a duly assembled meeting on the 21 day of MARCH, 2022.

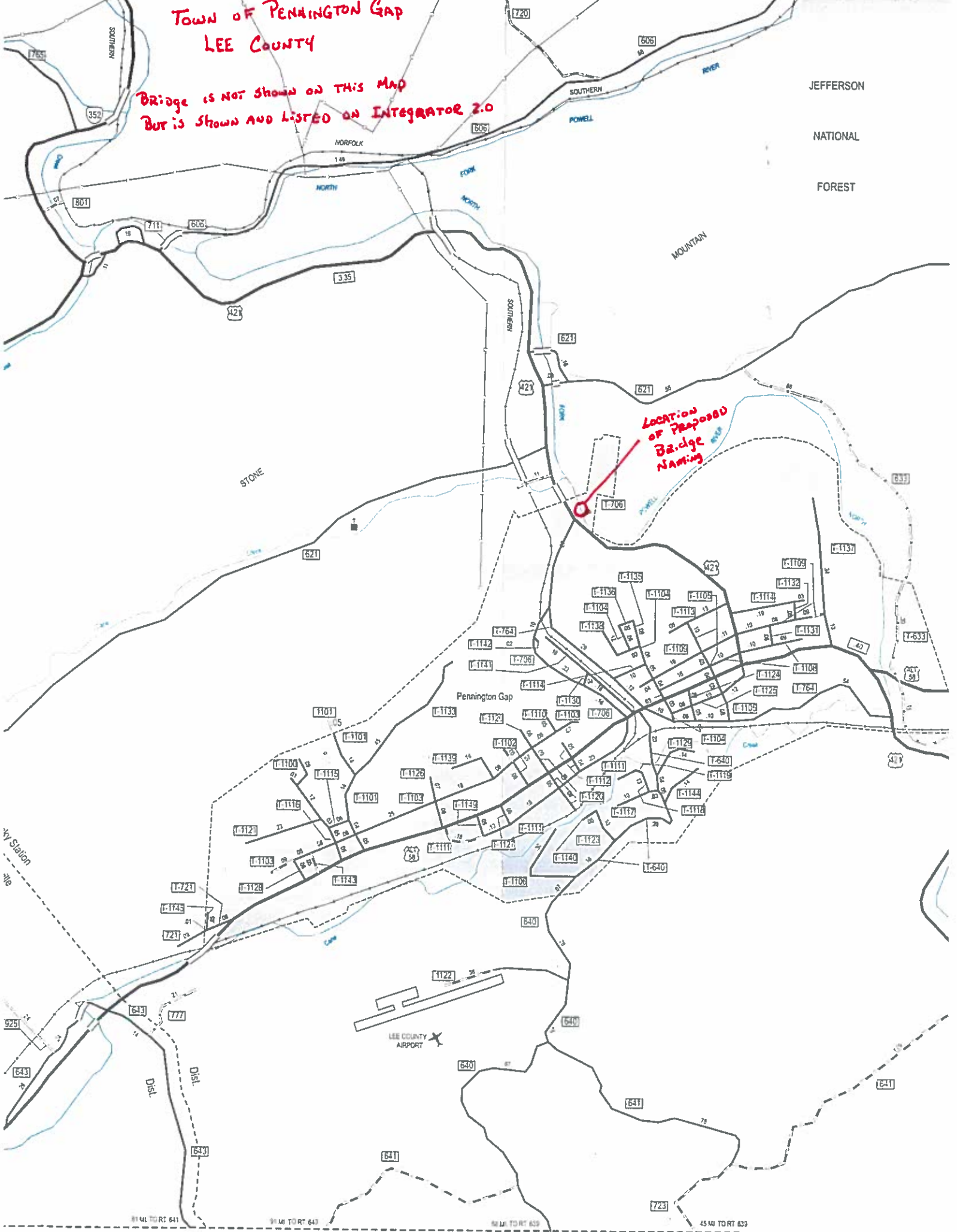

Karen Maggard, Clerk

TOWN OF PENNINGTON GAP
LEE COUNTY

BRIDGE IS NOT SHOWN ON THIS MAP
BUT IS SHOWN AND LISTED ON INTEGRATOR 2.0

LOCATION OF PROPOSED
BRIDGE
NAMING

JEFFERSON
NATIONAL
FOREST



Proposed Bridge Naming

Proposed: Lonnie Evan Memorial Bridge

GPS: 36.460117, -83.014893

Route T706 - Fairground Road

Town of Pennington Gap, Lee County

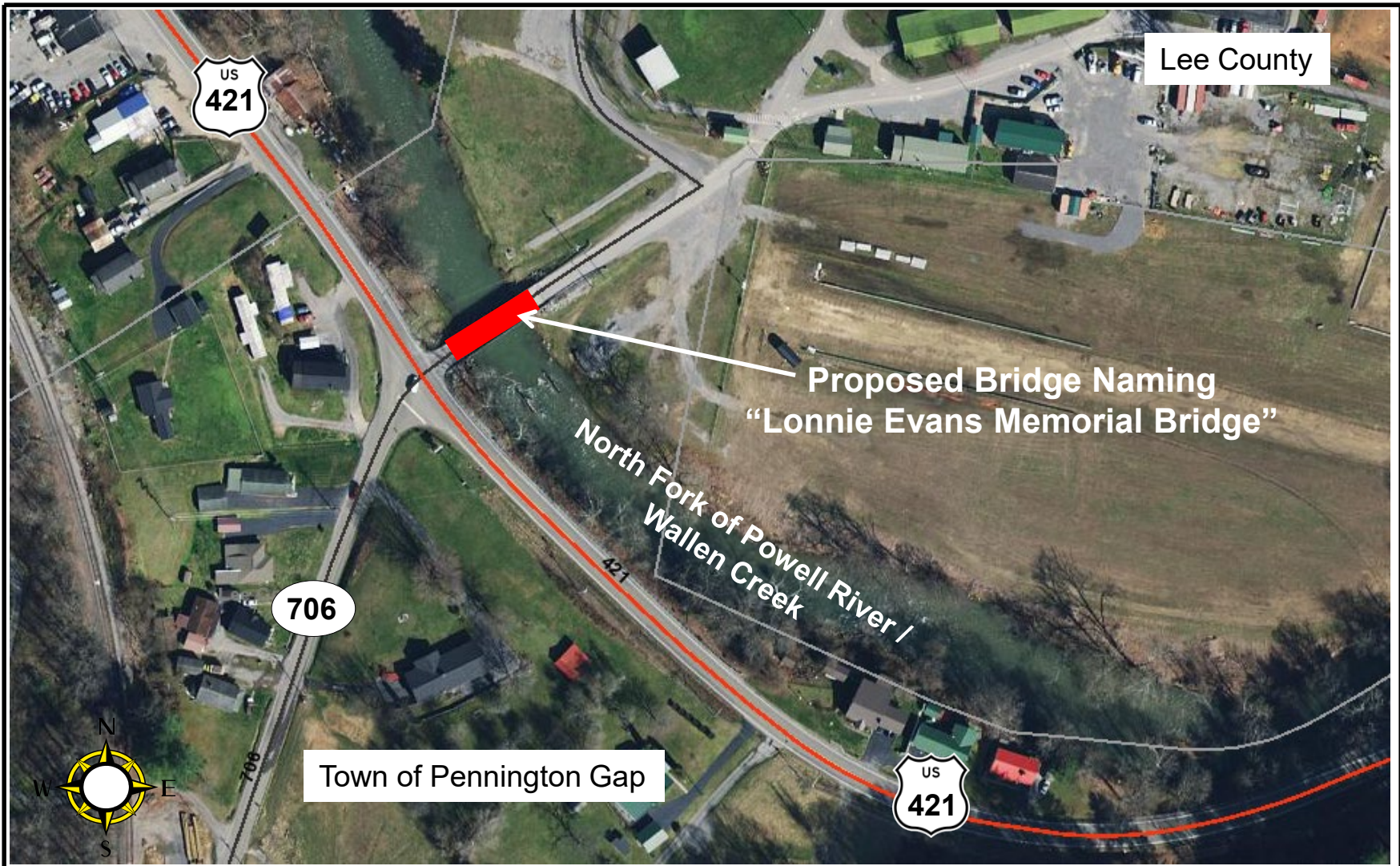
Structure No.: 6065

Over: North Fork of Powell River

Legend

-  Leeman Field Pool
-  Proposed Bridge Naming





Lee County



Proposed Bridge Naming
"Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge"

North Fork of Powell River /
Wallen Creek

706

Town of Pennington Gap



VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation
Maintenance Division CTB
MEETING: June 21, 2022

Town of Pennington Gap
Proposed Bridge Naming:
"Lonnie Evans Memorial Bridge"