



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Agenda item # 2

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

May 24, 2023

MOTION

Made By: Ms. Hynes, **Seconded By:** Mr. Kasprowicz

Action: Motion Carried

Title: Highway Naming: Renaming Portion of U.S. Route 50 (Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway) to "Route 50" in Fairfax County

WHEREAS, Fairfax County seeks to and has requested that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) rename the portion of U.S. Route 50, Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, located within Fairfax County from "Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway" to "Route 50"; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, by resolution dated September 13, 2022 and by letter dated March 8, 2023, Fairfax County, through its Board of Supervisors, has expressed its intent and requested that the CTB rename the portion of U.S. Route 50, Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, located within the boundaries of Fairfax County, to "Route 50"; 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, Fairfax County, in their resolution of September 13, 2022, has agreed, pursuant to § 33.2-213, to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Resolution of the Board

Highway Naming: Renaming Portion of U.S. Route 50 to “Route 50” in Fairfax County

May 24, 2023

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby renames the portion of U.S. Route 50, that is within the boundaries of Fairfax County, from “Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway” to “Route 50”.

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

####

CTB Decision Brief

Highway Naming: Renaming Portion of U.S. Route 50, Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, to “Route 50” in Fairfax County

Issue: Approval of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is sought for the renaming of a portion of U.S. Route 50, located within the boundaries of Fairfax County, from “Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway” to “Route 50”, as requested by Fairfax County, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Facts: The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on September 13, 2022 requesting that the CTB rename the portion of U.S. Route 50 located within Fairfax County to “Route 50”, which is attached hereto in Attachment A.

According to that resolution, in July 2020, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors asked its History Commission to create an inventory of Confederate street names, monuments and public places, and research impacts, which was done and submitted in December 2020.

In July 2021, the Board of Supervisors created the Confederate Names Task Force to review the names of U.S. Route 29, Lee Highway, and U.S. Route 50, Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, and make recommendations to the Board on whether to change the names of one or both highways, and if so, what those names should be changed to.

From August through December 2021, the Task Force met, sought public input, prepared recommendations and submitted a final report to the Board of Supervisors in December 2021 recommending changing the names of both highways. Fairfax County conducted additional outreach to those specifically located in the corridor in the spring of 2022.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors provided input on the road names submitted by the Task Force, recognizing that many people in the region already use the route numbers to refer to the routes, and that changing the names of the roadways to those numbers would reduce confusion among those living in, working in or travelling through the area.

Pursuant to § 33.2-213, the CTB has the power and duty 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, provided that, in a case such as this, the governing body within which the portion of the facility is located has passed a resolution requesting such naming. Pursuant to the statute, 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, while the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining these signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia*, § 33.2-213, 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 CTB’s consideration.

Result if Approved: The portion of U.S. Route 50, Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, within the boundaries of Fairfax County, will be renamed to “Route 50”, as requested by Fairfax County. Fairfax County, in their September 13, 2022 resolution (attached hereto in Attachment A), has agreed to bear the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.



JEFFREY C. MCKAY
CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

March 8, 2023

Mr. John D. Lynch, P.E.
District Administrator, Northern Virginia District
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Reference: Roadway Name Change Request

Dear Mr. Lynch: *John*

I am writing regarding a request for the renaming of two roadways within the boundaries of Fairfax County. In September 2022, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt two resolutions requesting that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) rename Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Attached). Both resolutions reflect the results of efforts taken by the Board of Supervisors over several years. As such, in accordance with Virginia Code 33.2-213, Fairfax County is requesting that the CTB rename U.S. Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) to "Route 50," and U.S. Route 29 (Lee Highway) to "Route 29."

The County's effort to rename both roadways began in June 2020. The Board requested that the Fairfax County History Commission create an inventory of Confederate street names, monuments, and named public places. Following the report's release, the Board established the Confederate Names Task Force. The Task Force met in Fall/Winter 2021, undertook a public outreach effort, process, and submitted its report in December 2021, wherein they recommended changing the names of both roadways. The Board then discussed the action at subsequent Board meetings. When discussing the proposed names, Board Members noted that many people in the region already use the route numbers when identifying both roadways and that changing the names to Route 29 and Route 50 would reduce confusion amongst those living, working, or traveling through the area. On September 13, 2022, the Board voted to formally request the renaming of both roadways.

If approved, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to implement the renaming of these roadways, with the goal of having as many signs changed by May 1, 2023, as possible. As part of this effort, the County is also developing a grant program to provide financial assistance for those directly impacted by the name changes of both roadways. Virginia Code 33.3-213 specifies that if a locality requests that a road name be changed, the costs of producing, replacing, and maintaining the signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located. As provided in the attached Resolutions, Fairfax County is committed to funding these costs.

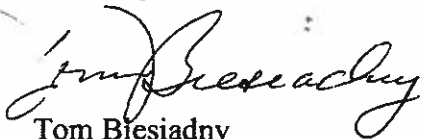
Mr. John D. Lynch, PE

March 8, 2023

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I appreciate your consideration. If you need any clarification or further information, please contact Noelle Dominguez at (703) 877-5665 or me at (703) 877-5663.

Sincerely,



Tom Biesiadny
Director

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Members; Commonwealth Transportation Board
Stephen Brich, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation
Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive

Attachments:

- RESOLUTION TO RENAME LEE HIGHWAY (U.S. ROUTE 29) AS "ROUTE 29"
- RESOLUTION TO RENAME LEE-JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY (U.S. ROUTE 50) AS "ROUTE 50"

**RESOLUTION TO RENAME LEE-JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
(U.S. ROUTE 50) AS "ROUTE 50"**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, held in the Board Auditorium of the Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia, on September 13, 2022, at which a quorum was present and voting, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors asked its History Commission to create inventory of Confederate street names, monuments, and public places; and research impacts, which was submitted in December 2020; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the Board of Supervisors created the Confederate Names Task Force to review the names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50) and make recommendations to the Board on whether to change the names of one or both roadways; and if so, what the names should be changed to; and

WHEREAS, from August through December 2021, the Task Force met, sought public input, prepared recommendations, and submitted a Final Report to the Board of Supervisors in December 2021 recommending changing the names of both roadways and submitted alternate names for each; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County conducted additional outreach to those specifically located in the corridor in Spring 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors provided input on the road names submitted by the Task Force and recognizing that many people in the region already use the route numbers and that changing the names of the roadways to those numbers would reduce confusion amongst those living, working, or traveling through the area; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code §33.2-213 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, the Virginia Code requires localities requesting changes to roadway names to fund the costs of these changes; and

WHEREAS, §33.2-213 specifies that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of these facilities named by the CTB or by the General Assembly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Fairfax County, in accordance with §33.2-213, requests that the CTB rename U.S. Route 50, "Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway," that is within the boundaries of Fairfax County to "Route 50."

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, confirms that Fairfax County agrees to pay for the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining these signs, in accordance with §33.2-213.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that Fairfax County request that the Virginia Department of Transportation implement the naming of the roadway in coordination with Fairfax County on a schedule and manner agreed upon by VDOT and the County, if approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

ADOPTED this 13th day of September, 2022.

A Copy – Teste:



Jill G. Cooper
Clerk for the Board of Supervisors

CTB Road Naming – Wednesday, May 24th in Culpeper

'POINTS OF CONSIDERATION' - details requested include:

- Locality, Route, Length:
 - *Lee Highway - 14.11 miles of US 29 in Fairfax County in two sections (two sections are split by the "Lee Highway-Fairfax Boulevard" combined section within the City of Fairfax)*
 - *Lee Jackson Memorial Highway - 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)*

- Date of Locality resolution. Breakdown of vote.
 - *The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (the Board) voted to adopt a resolution requesting the change of names for both roadways on September 13, 2022. The Board approved the action by a vote of 9-1.*

- Is there a Previous Naming? When?
 - By whom? By CTB? By General Assembly?
 - Does limits of new Name align with Previous Name?
 - Is new Name to replace Previous Name or just supplement it?
 - *Route 29 - In February 1919, the General Assembly of Virginia established Lee Highway across the Commonwealth as the state's contribution to a national memorial for General Robert E. Lee. It is designated as U.S. Route 29 in the United States Numbered Highway System. As such, the new name ("Route 29") aligns with the existing facility and is already used by many that utilize the roadway. The proposal is to simply replace the road name.*
 - *Route 50 – Route 50 was named Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in 1922 by the House and Senate Roads Committee of Virginia. It is designated as U.S. Route 50 in the United States Numbered Highway System. As such, the new name ("Route 50") aligns with the existing facility and is already used by many that utilize the roadway. The proposal is to simply replace the road name.*

- Reason for name change
 - *Both roadways were named or renamed for Confederate Generals between 1919-1922. Some community members voiced concerns about the appropriateness of these names, which prompted the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (the Board) to establish the Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) in July 2021.*

 - *The Board requested the 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 them on:*
 - *whether to change the names of one or both roadways; and*
 - *if such a recommendation is made, proposed alternative names.*

- Process used to determine recommended Name
 - *The CNTF held 11 meetings, both remote and in person, from August through December 2021. Information on the CNTF, including meeting materials, can be found here: [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#).*
 - *On November 30, 2021, the CNTF voted to recommend that the Board change the name of both roadways. The CNTF voted 20-6 to rename Lee Highway and 19-6-1 to rename Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.*
 - *On December 13, 2021, the CNTF discussed alternative names and voted on the top five names for each roadway.*
 - *The CNTF submitted its Final Report to the Board in December 2021 and the Chair of the CNTF presented the Final Report on February 8, 2022.*
 - *On September 13, 2022, the Board approved resolutions to request the renaming of both roadways.*

- Is Name consistent with neighboring jurisdictions?
 - *No. The name is not currently consistent with neighboring jurisdictions for either roadway. This proposed name change would not alter the situation. However, the name change would match the U.S. Highway Designation, which is consistent across neighboring jurisdictions.*

- Number of affected businesses and/or residences. (Parcel count)
 - *Approximately 1,000 parcels would be impacted.*

 - Provide a copy of the survey conducted & the results of the survey
 - *The public outreach process occurred between October 13 and November 12, 2021.*
 - *All information on the survey and other feedback (including emails, letters, transcripts of calls, etc.) can be found on the CNTF website: [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)*
 - *Please note the following: The survey was neither scientific nor statistically significant (as will be discussed further below, and as was noted within the presentation to the CNTF, as well as within the Task Force Final Report). The purpose of the survey and other feedback was to provide a data point for the consideration of the CNTF.*
 - *Please also note the following: The survey was open to the public, not just those living in the corridor.*
 - *A postcard with information on the survey was mailed to every address in the County. The County's total population is approximately 1.2 million.*
 - *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*

Survey Results

- The survey consisted of 17 questions - full survey results can be found on the CNTF website. However, a subset of the results can be found below:

Data Breakdown: 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

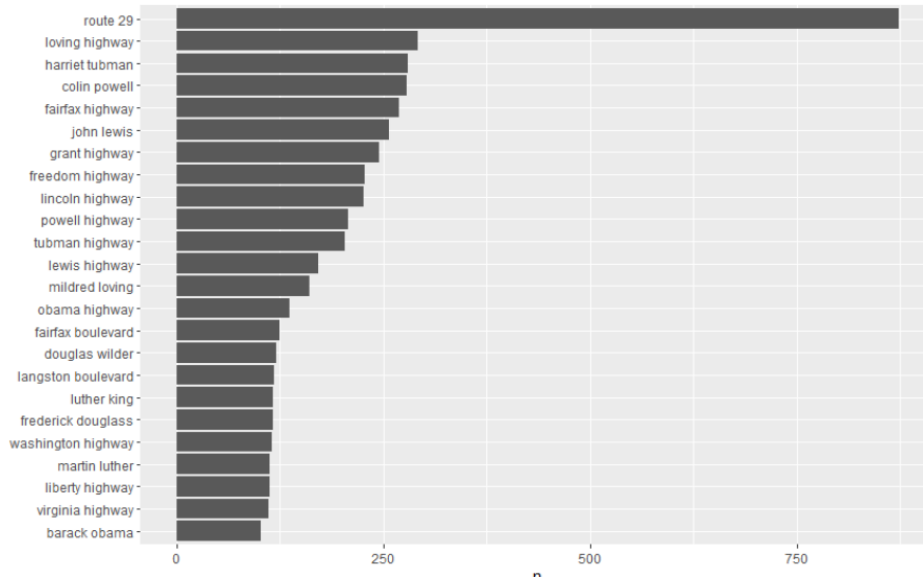
CNTF Community Input Summary – Keeping/Changing Names			
Platform	Keep the Names	Change the Names	No opinion/unclear*
Survey			
Route 29	11,652	8,032	354
Route 50	10,904	7,960	456
Phone Calls	333	47	0
Letters	29	5	0
Listening Sessions	6	9	6
Emails	435	158	0
Social Media	141	54	289
TOTAL	23,500	16,265	1,105

* Survey provided “No opinion” as a possible response. Unclear is utilized to classify when responses were unclear through other commenting platforms.

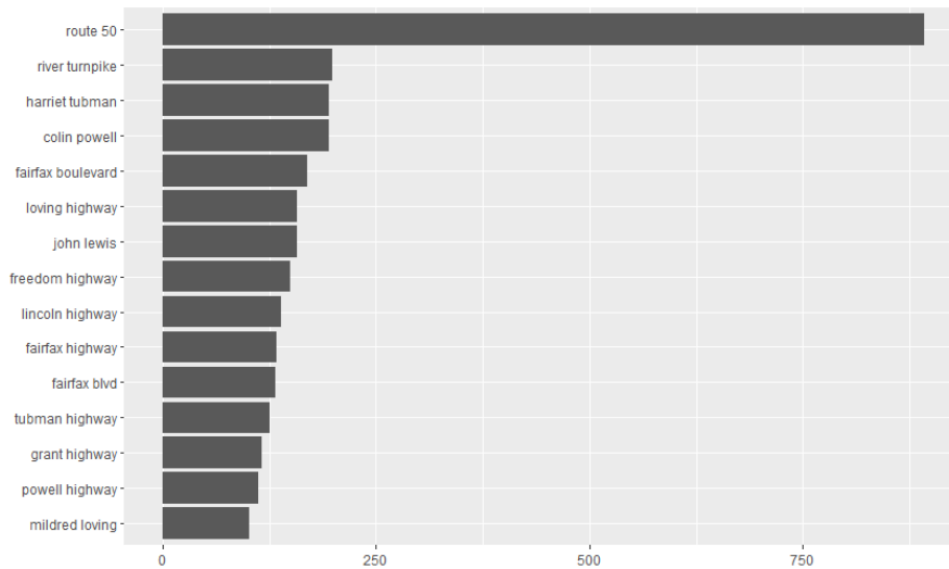
Survey Question 2: Is your current home or business located on Route 29 (Lee Highway) or Route 50 (Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway)	
Answered	21,513
Yes	2,000
No	19,513

Survey Question 5 (Route 29/Lee Highway) and Survey Question 12 (Route 50/Lee Jackson Memorial Highway): Respondents were asked for alternative highway names if the road were to be renamed. Respondents could enter 5 name suggestions, and more than 30,000 responses were provided.

Lee Highway/Route 29 (n>100)



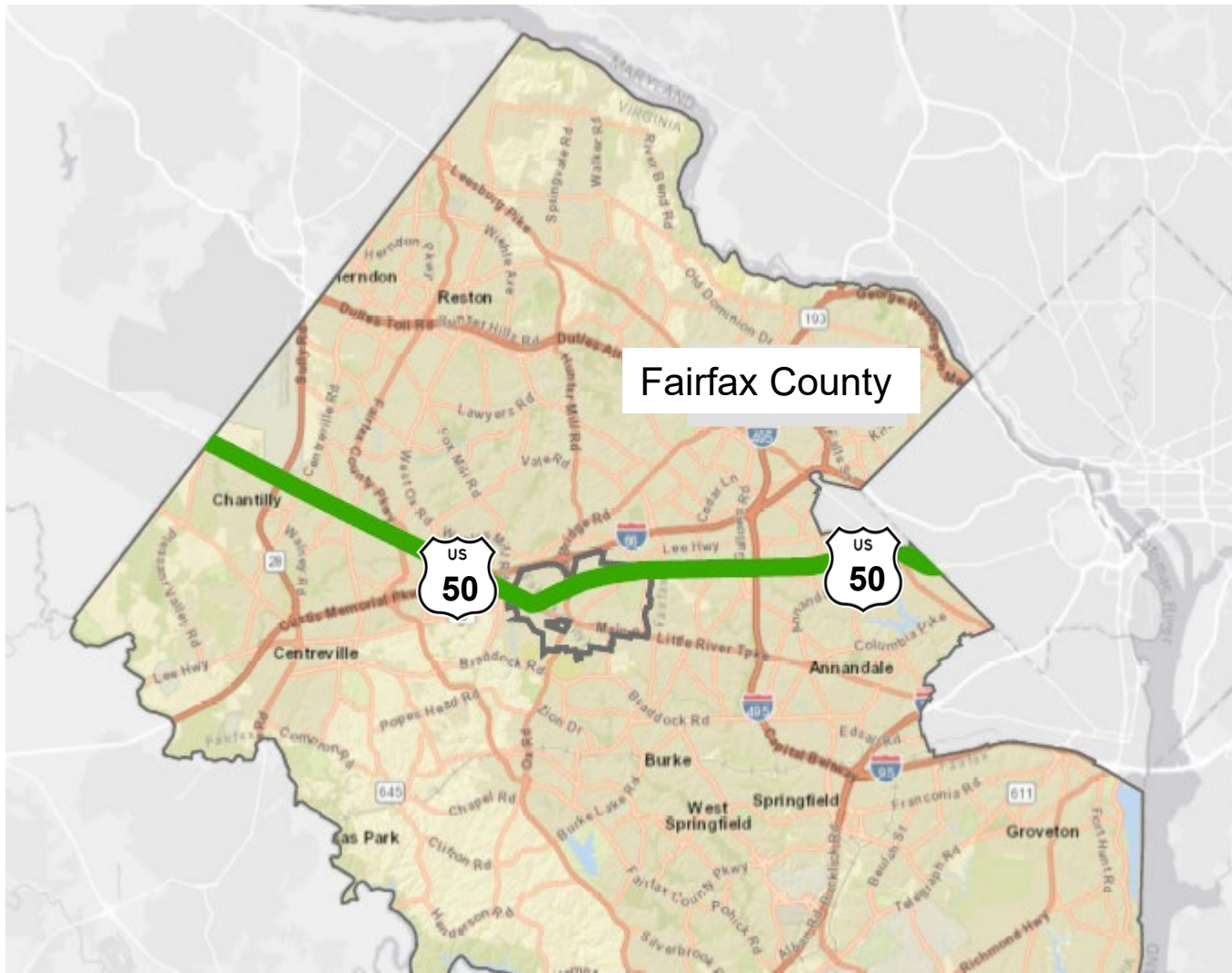
Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway/Route 50 (n>100)



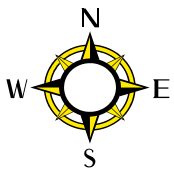
- Opposition details
 - *CNTF dissenting opinions can be found in Appendix C of the Task Force Final Report, found here: [Final Report.pdf \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)*

- Is there a plan to offset private expense incurred resulting from the Naming?
 - Is it funded? How much?
 - *When the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors considered the issue, and when they approved the resolutions to request the name change, they directed staff to work on a financial assistance program to aid those directly impacted by the name changes. It was noted that the cost for the program would be approximately \$1.5 million.*
 - *The County is working to implement such a program.*

- Implementation schedule
 - Signage
 - *The County approved funding for the updated signage on May 2, 2023. The County is working with a contractor on the process to replace signage at intersections, as well as working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on a schedule for updating larger signage (such as at interchanges).*
 - Private expense offset process
 - *Staff is working towards a potential program implementation later this year.*




Fairfax County



Maintenance Division
CTB Meeting: May 24, 2023

Fairfax County
Proposed Highway Segment Naming:
“Route 50”

 Proposed Highway Naming