

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUSINESS MEETING  
ACTION ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Final Name Recommendations for Renaming Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby Highway (Route 50)

**ELECTION DISTRICT:** Countywide

**CRITICAL ACTION DATE:** At the pleasure of the Board

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Kelly Griffin, Transportation and Capital Infrastructure  
Joe Kroboth, III, Transportation and Capital Infrastructure

**PURPOSE:** To present the final name choices for renaming Route 7 and Route 50 to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Board approve the renaming of Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) to Leesburg Pike and John Mosby Highway (Route 50) to Little River Turnpike and endorse the corresponding resolutions to approve these road name changes. Additionally, staff recommends that the Board direct staff to develop a grant program to reimburse business owners for expenses related to the renaming of these roads.

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**BACKGROUND:** On September 15, 2020, the Board approved a Board Member initiative (BMI)<sup>1</sup> (7-2: Buffington and Kershner opposed)<sup>2</sup> which directed staff to prepare an informational inventory detailing Confederate and segregationist symbols and their locations, i.e., road or street names, buildings, signs, logos, organizations, markers, monuments, battlefields, and others in public spaces honoring Confederate and segregationist figures or symbols in Loudoun County, in consultation with experts in Loudoun history where deemed necessary, and to report back to the Board in June 2021.

On December 15, 2020, in response to the BMI<sup>3</sup>, the Board approved (7-0-2: Buffington and Kershner absent)<sup>4</sup>, a scope of work for the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County. As part of that item, the Board also approved a subsequent motion (7-0-2: Buffington and Kershner absent), which directed staff to initiate the process of renaming the primary roads Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby

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<sup>1</sup> [September 15, 2020 Item 17 BMI-Confederate and Segregationist Symbols](#)

<sup>2</sup> [September 15, 2020 Item 17 Copy Teste](#)

<sup>3</sup> [December 15, 2020 Item 5 Response to BMI Confederate and Segregationist Symbols](#)

<sup>4</sup> [December 15, 2020 Item 5 Copy Teste](#)

Highway/Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50), in potential coordination with Fairfax County, and report back to the Board with a proposed process and cost estimate no later than May 2021.

At the May 18, 2021, Board Business Meeting, staff presented a proposed process and cost estimate for renaming Route 7 and Route 50<sup>5</sup>. Table 1 contains the tasks that were included in the proposed process.

**Table 1:** Tasks for Renaming Harry Byrd Highway and John Mosby Highway

<b>Task #</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Interjurisdictional Coordination
2	Conduct Sign Inventory
3	Create Task Force
4	Prepare Alternate Road Name List
5	Public Outreach
6	Board Selection and Approval of Alternate Road Names
7	VDOT/CTB Approval of New Road Names
8	Implement New Road Names

At the Board Business Meeting on May 18, 2021, the Board approved (8-0-1: Kershner absent)<sup>6</sup> a series of motions that are listed below.

1. Approved the proposed process to rename Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby Highway (Route 50) as outlined in Table 1, as amended, and directed staff to move forward with initiating as much of the process as possible with the amount of funding authorized at this time.

Task 1 Estimated Schedule: January 2021 – end of process  
 Task 2 Estimated Schedule: June 2021 – September 2021  
 Task 3 Estimated Schedule: July 2021 – November 2021  
 Task 4 Estimated Schedule: July 2021 – November 2021  
 Task 5 Estimated Schedule: July 2021 – November 2021  
 Task 6 Estimated Schedule: January 2022 – February 2022  
 Task 7 Estimated Schedule: February 2022 – TBD  
 Task 8 Estimated Schedule: February 2022 – TBD

2. Established a capital project account in the Capital Projects Fund for Renaming Harry Byrd Highway and John Mosby Highway and approved the amendment of the FY 2021 CIP by authorizing the execution of a budget adjustment to transfer \$87,000 from the Capital

<sup>5</sup> [May 18, 2021 Item 06 Response to BMI – Proposed Process and Cost to Rename Route 7 and Route 50](#)

<sup>6</sup> [May 18, 2021 Item 06 Copy Teste – Proposed Process and Cost to Rename Route 7 and Route 50](#)

Project Management project to the newly established capital account to fund the sign inventory.

3. Forwarded the remaining estimated costs for sign replacement in the range of \$621,000 to \$3,204,000 to the Capital Improvement Program FY 2021 fund balance discussion for consideration and prioritization.
4. Directed staff to look into a stipend program for those affected by the name change.
5. Established a 16-member Task Force comprised of seven members of the Heritage Commission, plus one appointee by each Board Member.

At the Board Business Meeting on September 21, 2021, staff presented the short list of alternate roadway name recommendations<sup>7</sup>, which were presented in Table 4 of that item; those names are presented in Table 3 of this item. At that meeting, the Board approved (9-0)<sup>8</sup> the short list of name recommendations provided by the Task Force as presented in Table 4 and directed staff to move forward with the remainder of the renaming process. Additionally, the Board directed staff to contact residents on Little River Lane to discuss renaming Little River Lane to comply with the road name duplication criteria of the Ordinance and avoid adverse impacts on public safety if Route 50 is renamed Little River Turnpike; those letters were mailed on October 9, 2021. It is noted that during the meeting, Supervisor Saines said that his office was going to deliver letters to the residents of Leesburg Court in Sterling to inform them of the desire to rename their road in order to allow Route 7 to be renamed Leesburg Pike.

**Public Outreach:** Pursuant to the Route 7 and Route 50 renaming process, two public input meetings were held on September 29, 2021, to provide the status of the project, review the short list of names approved by the Board, review opportunities for public input, provide an opportunity for questions and comments, and review the next steps. At the conclusion of the public input meetings, a public survey was conducted between September 30, 2021, and October 14, 2021, to obtain the public’s ranked preference for the Board’s short list of names. The survey results, which were calculated using a weighted score, are provided in Tables 2 and 3. Attachment 1 provides detailed survey results for each roadway.

**Table 2:** Results from the Public Input Ranking Survey

Category	Number of Responses
Total number of respondents for Route 7	325
Number of respondents who live/work on Route 7	23 (7%)
Total number of respondents for Route 50	318
Number of respondents who live/work on Route 50	52 (16%)

<sup>7</sup> [September 21, 2021 Item 09 Renaming Route 7 and 50 – Task Force Short List of Name Recommendations](#)

<sup>8</sup> [September 21, 2021 Item 09 Copy Teste Renaming Route 7 and 50 Task Force Short List of Name Recommendations](#)

**Table 3:** List of New Names Ranked by the Public in Priority Order

Road	Rank	Recommended Name
Route 7	1	Leesburg Pike
	2	Loudoun Trail
	3	Loudoun Heritage
	4	Potomac Gap
	5	Catoclin Valley
	6	Piedmont Gateway
	7	Potomac Heritage
	8	Virginia Piedmont
Route 50	1	Little River Turnpike
	2	Loudoun Heritage
	3	Piedmont Gateway
	4	Virginia Piedmont
	5	Middleburg
	6	Piedmont Heritage

The work of the Task Force culminated with the third and final meeting, which was held on October 20, 2021, to review the action that the Board directed at its September 21, 2021 Business Meeting, discuss the project status, seek comments from each Task Force member, and conduct vote on the Task Force recommended name. The Task Force voted to endorse the results of the public survey and rename Route 7 to its historic name of Leesburg Pike and rename Route 50 to its historic name of Little River Turnpike.

**Next Steps:** If the Board approves the final name recommendations, the next step in the renaming process is to submit a Resolution to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) requesting that VDOT prepare an item for a future Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting to obtain CTB approval for the new road names. Staff prepared the corresponding Resolutions (Attachments 2 and 3) for the Board’s approval.

Upon the CTB’s approval of the new road names, DTCI will procure a consultant to prepare the required engineering plans for replacement of highway signs and traffic signal mast arms signs and those plans will be submitted to VDOT review and approval.

**Potential Grant Program:** Staff continued to investigate establishing a grant program for those who may be impacted economically by the roadway name change for Route 7 and Route 50. An initial meeting was held with County staff from the Office of Mapping and Geographic Information (OMAGI), the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI), the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), and the Department of Finance and Budget (DFB), and the Department of Public Affairs and Communications (PAC) to discuss the possibility of creating a grant program. Several topics were discussed at this meeting, including the purpose of

the grant program, eligibility for the program, review of other jurisdictions' grant programs, and the financial impact to the County; the following options were identified.

1. No grant program.
2. Create a grant program for commercial businesses only.
3. Create a grant program for both residential and commercial uses.

In the past, the County has not provided funding to property owners who have been impacted by a road name change because the changes were implemented to address a public safety concern. If created, this grant program would be the first economic assistance given to property owners who are impacted by a road name change.

Approximately 350 addresses are addressed Harry Byrd Highway; approximately 27% (or 95) of those addresses are commercial uses and approximately 73% (or 262) are residential uses. Approximately 300 addresses are addressed John Mosby Highway, with approximately 50% commercial uses and 50% residential uses.

To learn what another local jurisdiction has done to provide financial assistance to businesses who are impacted by a road name change, staff met with representatives from Prince William County (PWC) to discuss their Route 1 Refresh Grant Program (the Route 1 grant). As described on [PWC's web page](#), the Route 1 Refresh Grant program offers three levels of possible grants; all grants over Level 1 (\$500) require receipts. To be eligible for the Route 1 grant, a business must have a business address on U.S. Route 1 (Jefferson Davis Highway, be physically located in PWC, have a PWC business license (or applied for one), and be current on their business taxes.

- Level 1: \$500 grant for all eligible businesses.
- Level 2: Up to \$4,500 additional funds as a reimbursement for all eligible businesses.
- Level 3: Reimbursement of up to 75% percent of the modification cost, not to exceed \$30,000 to update freestanding shopping center signs that contain Jefferson Davis Highway as part of the sign face or design.

Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to develop a grant program to reimburse business owners for expenses related to the renaming of Harry Byrd Highway and John Mosby Highway and return to the Board at a future meeting date with program alternatives.

**ISSUES:** Staff identified four issues.

**Leesburg Pike as the new name for Route 7:** Pursuant to [Chapter 1020, Naming of Streets](#), of the county's Codified Ordinance, renaming of Harry Byrd Highway to Leesburg Pike would not be allowed without renaming other secondary roads that would be in a conflict with that road name because the Ordinance does not allow duplicate road names to be used. The road name Leesburg exists elsewhere in the County; it is Leesburg Court which is a VDOT-maintained road in Sterling that provides access to three residential addresses. Leesburg Bypass is a road in the Town of

Leesburg, which is outside the county's road naming authority. If the Board approves Leesburg Pike as the new name, and the CTB approves that name, OMAGI will initiate the process to rename Leesburg Court.

It is staff's understanding that the residents of Leesburg Court were notified of this potential road name change via a letter that was hand delivered by Supervisor Saines' office. Additionally, OMAGI sent a follow up letter notifying residents of the potential road name change on October 22, 2021.

**Little River Turnpike as the new name for Route 50:** Renaming of John Mosby Highway to Little River Turnpike is also in conflict with Chapter 1020 because the road name Little River exists elsewhere in the County; Little River Lane is a privately maintained road located near Aldie. If the Board approves Little River Turnpike as the new name, and the CTB approves that name, OMAGI will initiate the process to rename Little River Lane. This change will impact approximately twelve residential addresses. The residents of Little River Lane were notified of this potential road name change via a letter sent by OMAGI on October 9, 2021.

**Incorporated Towns:** A portion of Route 7 is named Harry Byrd Highway within the corporate limits of the Towns of Leesburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill; those areas are depicted on a map titled Route 7 and Route 50 in Loudoun County and Incorporated Towns (Attachment 4). Pursuant to [VDOT guidelines and the Code of Virginia on the naming of primary highways](#), staff in VDOT's central office confirmed that if a town wishes to rename its portion of Route 7, the respective Town Council must approve the road renaming and they must approved their own resolution. The Board cannot make this request on behalf of a town. Staff will contact the Towns to inform them of this scenario.

There are currently no structures addressed from Harry Byrd Highway within the incorporated towns, nor are there any street signs with that name within the incorporated towns, so there would be no fiscal impact to the Towns should they choose to provide name change resolutions.

**Time Frame to Implement the Road Name Changes:** At the present time, staff cannot predict when the new road names will be implemented because the time frame is dependent on several tasks that will be performed by various state and county agencies. After the Board approves the new road names, staff will notify VDOT who will seek approval from the CTB. Design plans need to be prepared and submitted to VDOT before the new signs can be manufactured and installed. Staff will continue to coordinate the process; once an implementation date is identified, PAC will issue a press release, OMAGI will notify the property owners, VDOT, public safety officials and other agencies, and County address records will be updated.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** At the May 18, 2021, Business Meeting, staff presented a cost estimate to replace the signs; the cost ranged from approximately \$621,000 - \$3,204,000. The range includes estimated costs if the new name requires a larger sign and a cost if a larger sign is not required. It is estimated that approximately 16 characters would be able to fit on a same size sign as each

existing sign, including the street type designation. Table 4 provides the character count for the ranked name choices for both Route 7 and Route 50 and if the name potentially requires a larger sign.

**Table 4:** Character Count for Route 7 and Route 50 Ranked Name Choices

Road	Recommended Name	Character Count	May Require Larger Sign
Route 7	Leesburg Pike	12	No
	Loudoun Trail	16	No
	Loudoun Heritage	19	Yes
	Potomac Gap	14	No
	Catoctin Valley	18	Yes
	Piedmont Gateway	19	Yes
	Potomac Heritage	19	Yes
Route 50	Virginia Piedmont	20	Yes
	Little River Turnpike	16	No
	Loudoun Heritage	19	Yes
	Piedmont Gateway	19	Yes
	Virginia Piedmont	20	Yes
	Middleburg	13	No
Piedmont Heritage	20	Yes	

The potential grant program is another fiscal impact. As described above, if the Board chooses to move forward with a grant program, staff will return to the Board at a future meeting date with program alternatives, including financial impacts.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Board may approve the final name selection of Leesburg Pike for Route 7.
2. The Board may approve the final name selection of Little River Turnpike for Route 50.
3. The Board may select a different name for Route 7.
4. The Board may select a different name for Route 50.
5. The Board may decide to retain Harry Byrd Highway as the name for Route 7.
6. The Board may decide to retain John Mosby Highway as the name for Route 50.

**DRAFT MOTIONS:**

1. I move that the Board of Supervisors approve renaming Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) within Loudoun County to Leesburg Pike and endorse the Resolution to Rename Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) within Loudoun County to Leesburg Pike provided as Attachment 2 to the December 7, 2021, Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Action Item.

I further move that the Board of Supervisors approve renaming John Mosby Highway (Route 50) within the County to Little River Turnpike and endorse the Resolution to Rename John Mosby Highway within Loudoun County to Little River Turnpike provided as Attachment 3 to the December 7, 2021, Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Action Item.

I further move that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to develop a grant program to reimburse business owners for expenses related to the renaming of Harry Byrd Highway and John Mosby Highway and return to the Board at a future business meeting with program alternatives.

OR

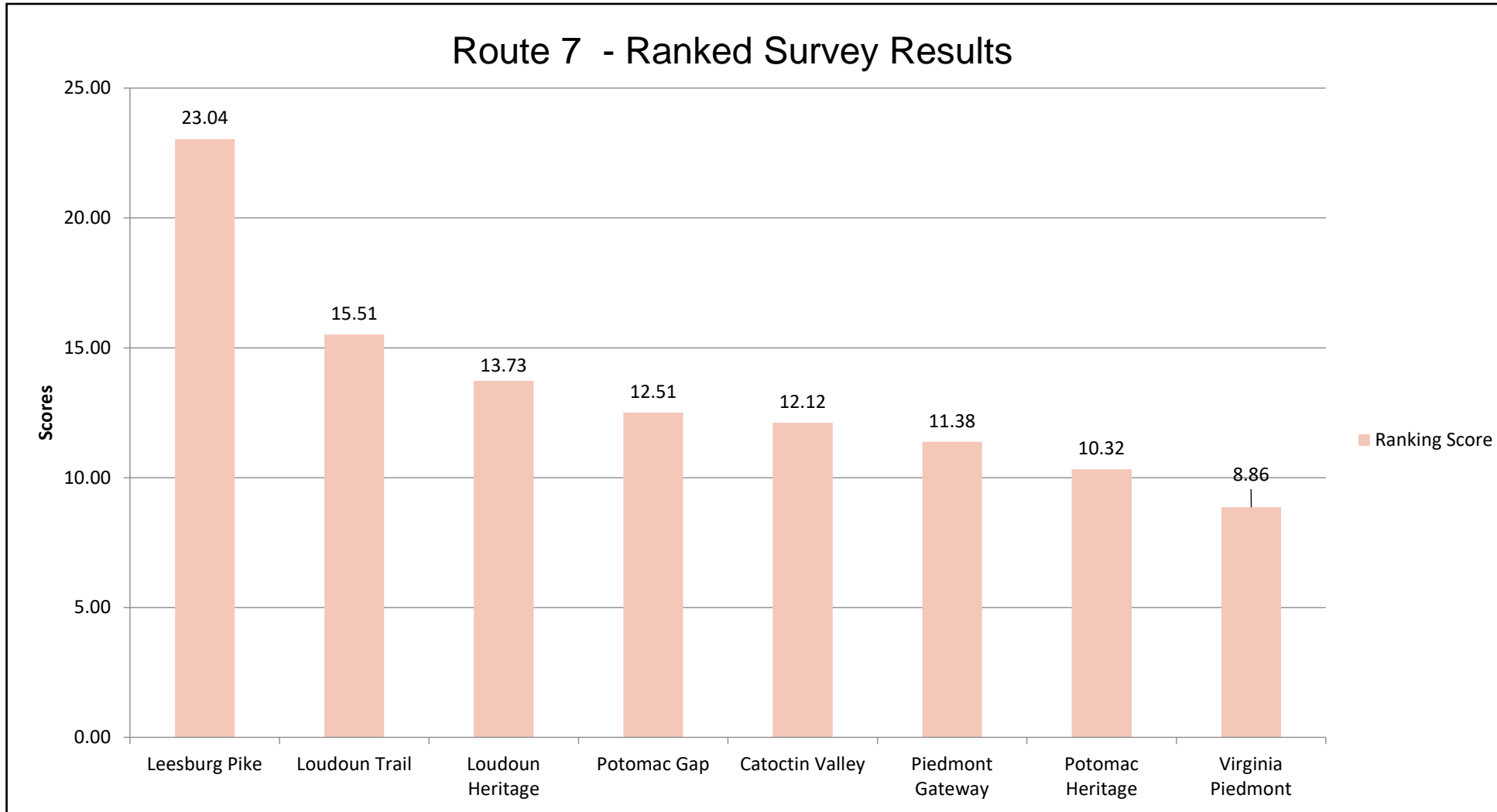
2. I move an alternate motion.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Public Survey Results
2. Resolution to Rename Route 7
3. Resolution to Rename Route 50
4. Map of Route 7 and Route 50 in Loudoun County and Incorporated Towns

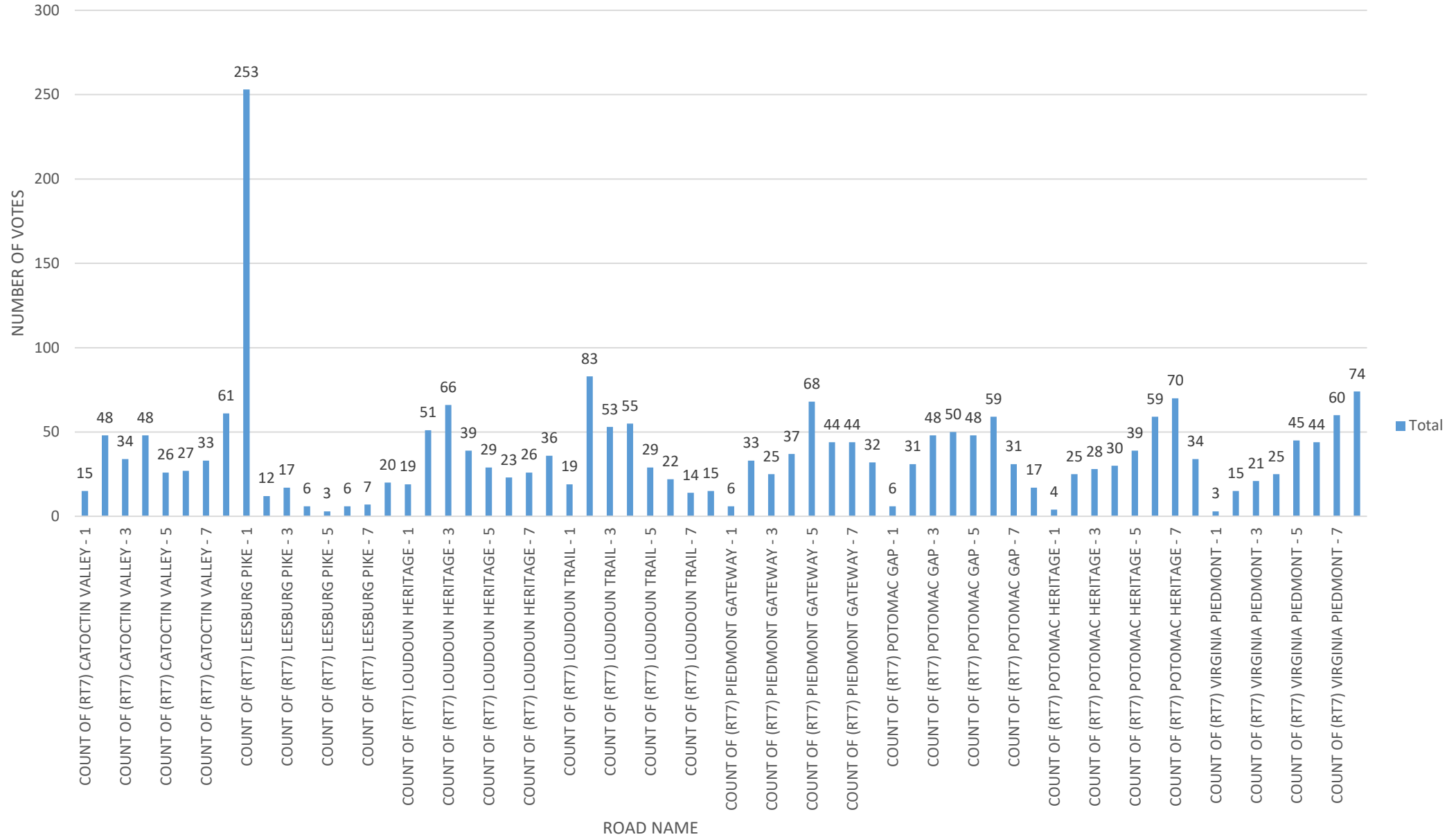


# Public Survey Results – Route 7

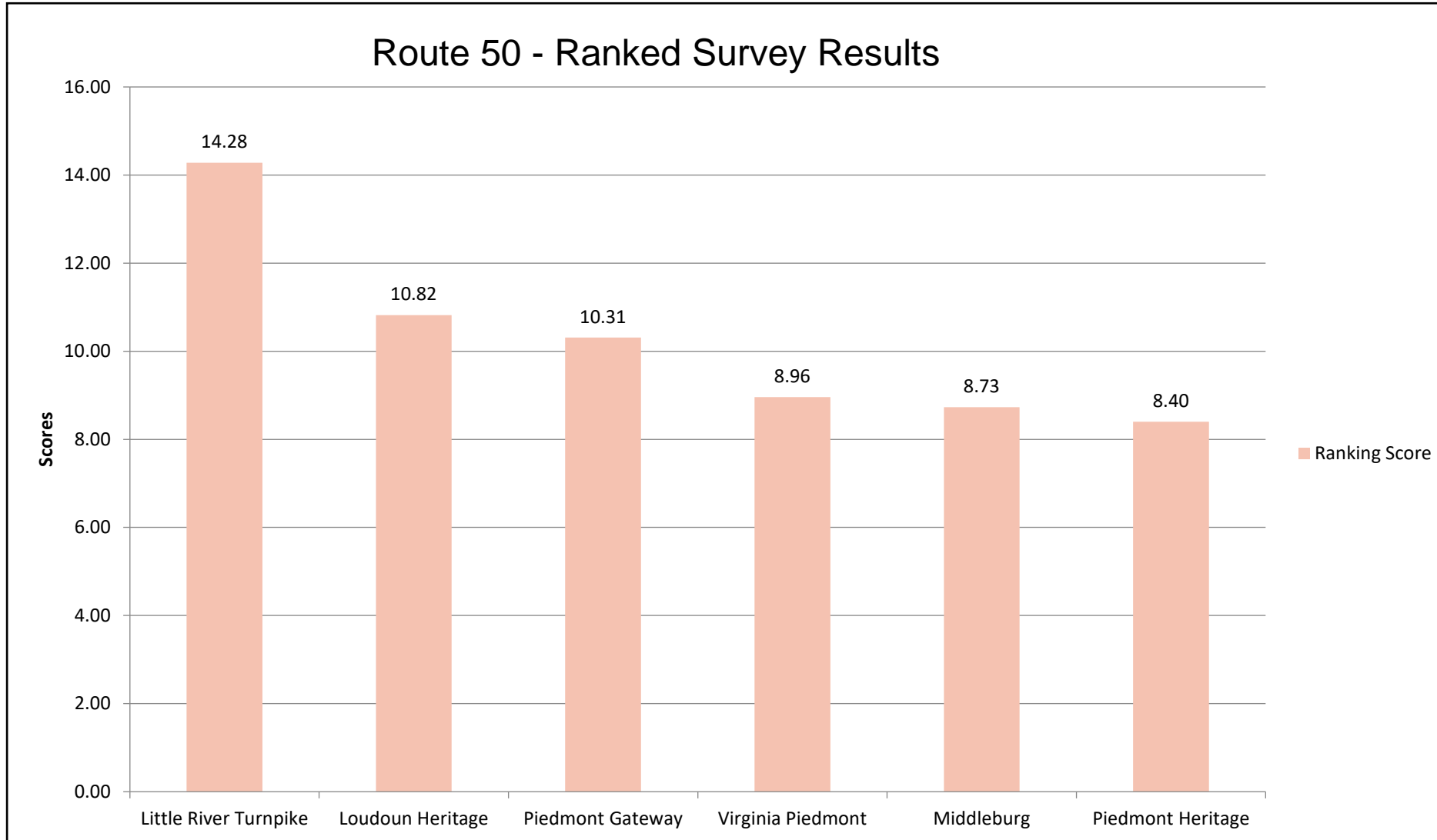


Ranking Score Key	
Scale	Score
1	0.08
2	0.07
3	0.06
4	0.05
5	0.04
6	0.03
7	0.02
8	0.01

## ROUTE 7 RATING COUNTS 1-8



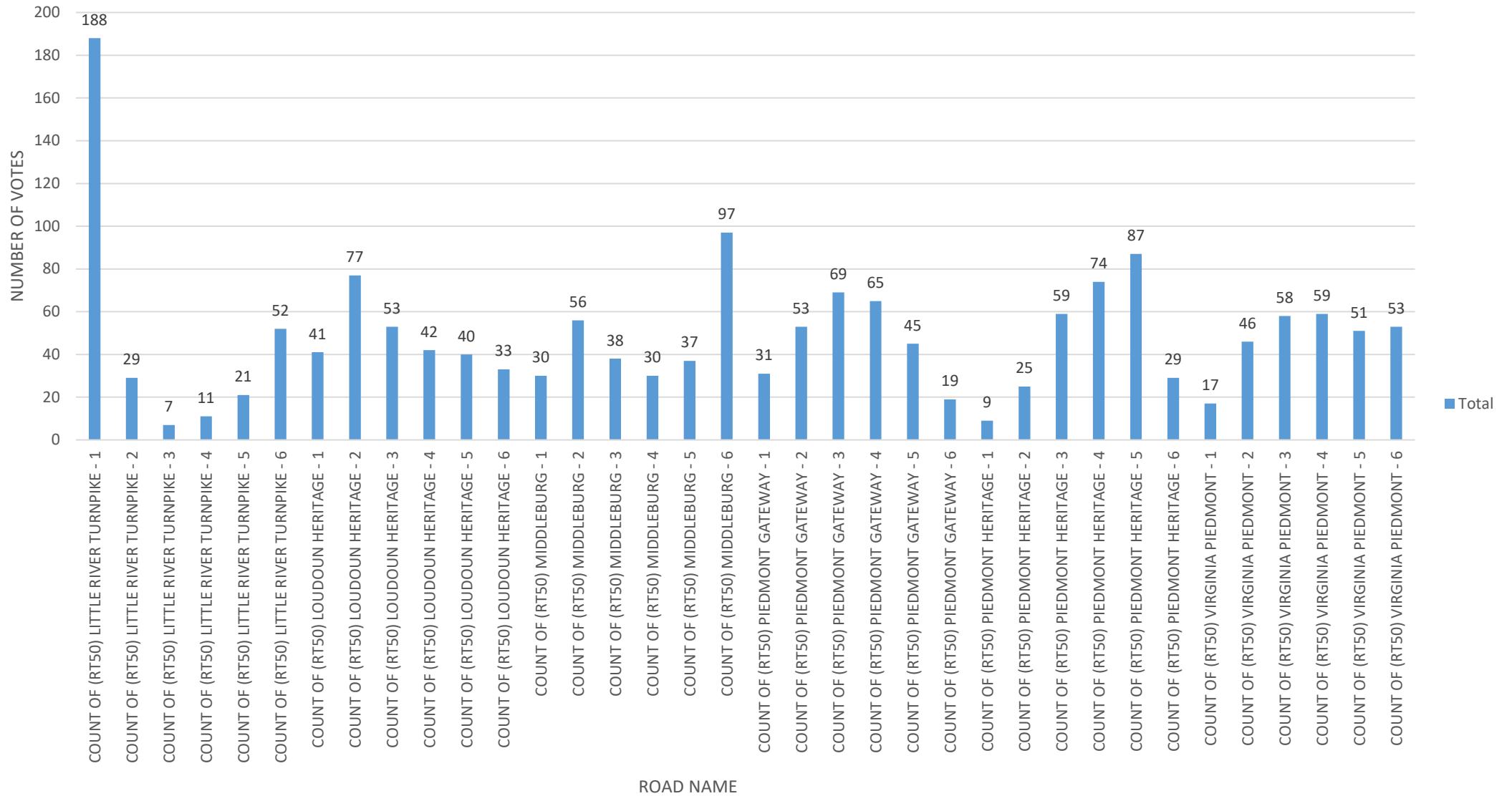
# Survey Results – Route 50



### Ranking Score Key

Scale	Score
1	0.06
2	0.05
3	0.04
4	0.03
5	0.02
6	0.01

# ROUTE 50 RATING COUNTS 1-6



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**COUNTY OF LOUDOUN**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**RESOLUTION TO RENAME HARRY BYRD HIGHWAY (ROUTE 7)  
WITHIN LOUDOUN COUNTY TO LEESBURG PIKE**

**WHEREAS**, Loudoun County requests that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) rename the portion of U.S. Route 7 located within Loudoun County from Harry Byrd Highway to Leesburg Pike; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Route 7 is currently named Harry Byrd Highway in Virginia from the Clarke County boundary to the western boundary of Fairfax County, as it runs through Loudoun County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors seeks to rename the portion of U.S. Route 7 located within Loudoun County to Leesburg Pike and

**WHEREAS**, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors expressed its intent to rename U.S. Route 7 within Loudoun County with the issuance of directives in December 2020 and May of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the directives, County staff have identified the necessary policies and procedures to successfully implement the renaming of Route 7 within Loudoun County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Loudoun County Board conducted two public outreach campaigns, held two public information meetings, and offered the opportunity for public input at two Board of Supervisors Business Meetings.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, Loudoun County has requested, by resolution dated December 7, 2021, that the CTB rename the portion of U.S. Route 7, Harry Byrd Highway, located within the boundaries of Loudoun County, to “Leesburg Pike”; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia 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**, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, in its resolution dated December 7, 2021, confirmed that Loudoun County agrees to pay VDOT for the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming and that the change be implemented on a schedule and in a manner agreed upon by VDOT and Loudoun County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, Loudoun County does hereby request that the CTB rename U.S. Route 7, Harry Byrd Highway, that is within the boundaries of Loudoun County from the Clarke County boundary to the western boundary of Fairfax County, to “Leesburg Pike”.

**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 secure payment from Loudoun County for these costs as required by law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that VDOT is directed to implement the naming in coordination with Loudoun County on a schedule and in a manner agreed upon by VDOT and Loudoun County.

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis J. Randall, Chair, At-Large

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
*COUNTY OF LOUDOUN*  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**RESOLUTION TO RENAME JOHN MOSBY HIGHWAY (ROUTE 50)  
WITHIN LOUDOUN COUNTY TO LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE**

**WHEREAS**, Loudoun County requests that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) rename the portion of U.S. Route 50 located within Loudoun County from John Mosby Highway to Little River Turnpike; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Route 50 is currently named John Mosby Highway in Virginia from the Fauquier County boundary to the western boundary of Fairfax County, as it runs through Loudoun County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors seeks to rename the portion of U.S. Route 50 located within Loudoun County to Little River Turnpike and

**WHEREAS**, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors expressed its intent to rename U.S. Route 50 within Loudoun County with the issuance of directives in December 2020 and May of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the directives, County staff have identified the necessary policies and procedures to successfully implement the renaming of Route 50 within Loudoun County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Loudoun County Board conducted two public outreach campaigns, held two public information meetings, and offered the opportunity for public input at two Board of Supervisors Business Meetings.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, Loudoun County has requested, by resolution dated December 7, 2021, that the CTB rename the portion of U.S. Route 50, John Mosby Highway, located within the boundaries of Loudoun County, to “Little River Turnpike”; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia 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**, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, in its resolution dated December 7, 2021, confirmed that Loudoun County agrees to pay VDOT for the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming and that the change be implemented on a schedule and in a manner agreed upon by VDOT and Loudoun County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, Loudoun County does hereby request that the CTB rename U.S. Route 50, John Mosby Highway, that is within the boundaries of Loudoun County from the Fauquier County boundary to the western boundary of Fairfax County, to “Little River Turnpike”.

**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 secure payment from Loudoun County for these costs as required by law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that VDOT is directed to implement the naming in coordination with Loudoun County on a schedule and in a manner agreed upon by VDOT and Loudoun County.

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis J. Randall, Chair, At-Large

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator



# Route 7 and Route 50 in Loudoun County and Incorporated Towns

