



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 4

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

March 29, 2023

MOTION

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

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Police has requested, by letter dated January 13, 2023, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) name the bridges on U.S. Route 60, Midlothian Turnpike, over State Route 288, Chesterfield County, as the “Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge”, to honor the life, service to his country and community and ultimate sacrifice of Virginia State Police Special Agent Michael T. Walter; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that any naming for a state official killed during the performance of his official duties, which includes a law enforcement officer employed by the Department of State Police or a state highway transportation worker, shall require a letter or resolution from the head of the state agency by which the state official was employed requesting such naming; and

WHEREAS, in accord with § 33.2-213, Colonel Gary T. Settle, Superintendent of the Department of State Police, has provided a letter, dated January 13, 2023, requesting this naming to commemorate the life of Special Agent Michael T. Walter; 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

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that for any state highway, bridge, interchange or other transportation facility named after a state official killed during the performance of his official

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duties, the costs of producing, placing and maintaining those signs shall be paid from Commonwealth Transportation Funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridges on U.S. Route 60, Midlothian Turnpike, over State Route 288, Chesterfield County, as the "Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming using Commonwealth Transportation Funds to cover the costs thereof as required by law.

####

CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: "Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge"

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridges on U.S. Route 60, Midlothian Turnpike, over State Route 288, Chesterfield County as the "Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge".

Facts: Pursuant to §33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, no name shall be given to any state highway, bridge, interchange, or other transportation facility by the Board unless and until the Board receives (i) for a naming after a state official, a letter or resolution from the head of the state agency by which the state official was employed requesting such naming or (ii) for a naming other than after a state official, a resolution from the governing body of the locality within which a portion of the facility to be named is located requesting such naming. Further, pursuant to this section, for a highway, bridge, interchange, or other transportation facility named after a state official killed during the performance of his official duties, the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining these signs shall be paid from Commonwealth Transportation Funds. For purposes of this section, "state official" includes law-enforcement officers employed by the Department of State Police and state highway transportation workers.

In accord with §33.2-213, Colonel Gary T. Settle, Superintendent of the Department of State Police, on January 13, 2023 submitted a letter requesting the CTB to name the bridges on U.S. Route 60 over State Route 288 in Chesterfield County for Special Agent Walter.

According to that letter, on May 26, 2017, Special Agent Walter was shot during a traffic stop in Richmond. During a high visibility patrol, Special Agent Walter, along with other officers from the Richmond City Police Department, encountered a vehicle facing the wrong direction on Redd Street. After approaching the car and suspecting that the passenger was wanted in Lancaster County for a parole violation, Special Agent Walter attempted to take him into custody.

Unbeknownst to the officers, the suspect was in possession of a semi-automatic pistol and he shot Special Agent Walter who was transported to Virginia Commonwealth Medical Center. On May 27, 2017 Special Agent Michael T. Walter succumbed to his injuries.

Special Agent Walter was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and served for 18 years with the Virginia State Police before his untimely death. The Virginia State Police wish to honor Special Agent Walter's years of dedicated service to his country and the citizens of Virginia by requesting this naming.

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 bridges on U.S. Route 60, Midlothian Turnpike, over State Route 288, Chesterfield County will be known as the “Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with §33.2-213, for any state highway, bridge, interchange or other transportation facility named after a state official killed during the performance of his official duties, the costs of producing, placing and maintaining those signs shall be paid from Commonwealth Transportation Funds. Therefore VDOT will utilize Commonwealth Transportation Funds to pay for 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.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Colonel Gary T. Settle
Superintendent

(804) 674-2000

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

P.O. Box 27472, Richmond, VA 23261-7472

Lt. Colonel Kirk S. Marlowe
Deputy Superintendent

January 13, 2023

W. Sheppard Miller, III, Chairman
Commonwealth Transportation Board
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Chairman Miller,

In accordance with §33.2-213, of the *Code of Virginia*, I write to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on behalf of the family of Special Agent Michael T. Walter, who requests that the bridge on U.S. Route 288, at State Route 60, Midlothian Turnpike, in Chesterfield County, Virginia be named in honor of Virginia State Police Special Agent Michael T. Walter.

On May 26, 2017, at approximately 7:30pm, Special Agent Walter was shot during a traffic stop in the 1900 block of Redd Street in the Mosby Court public housing community in Richmond. Special Agent Walter, along with officers from the Richmond City Police Department, were conducting high visibility patrols due to recent violent crimes in the area when they encountered a vehicle facing the wrong direction on Redd Street. Officers approached and began to speak with the vehicle's occupants. Unknown to the officers, the passenger was in possession of a small caliber, semi-automatic pistol and believed that he was wanted in Lancaster County for a probation violation. As Special Agent Walter attempted to take the passenger into custody, he resisted and shot Special Agent Walter, who was transported to Virginia Commonwealth Medical Center, where he succumbed to his injuries on May 27, 2017. The suspect fled the scene but was captured several hours later in Northumberland County, Virginia.

Special Agent Walter was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and served for 18 years with the Virginia State Police before his untimely death. On behalf of the Virginia State Police, I fully support naming this bridge in honor of Special Agent Walter's years of dedicated service to the citizens of Virginia in such a memorable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary T. Settle".

Superintendent

GTS/ksm

Chesterfield County



Proposed Bridge Naming
"Special Agent Michael T. Walter
Memorial Bridge"



Midlothian Turnpike



Maintenance Division

CTB MEETING: March 29, 2023

Chesterfield County

Proposed Bridge Naming:

"Special Agent Michael T. Walter Memorial Bridge"