



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 5

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

March 29, 2023

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Dodson, **Seconded By:** Ms. Sellers,

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Highway Naming: “Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway”

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated February 7, 2023, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, dedication and faithful service to the citizens of Campbell County of Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr., name the section of U.S. Route 501, Campbell Highway, from the South Lynchburg City Limits to the east intersection of State Route 24, Campbell County, as the “Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway”; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County, by resolution dated February 7, 2023, has agreed to be responsible for payment of all sign costs billed by the Virginia Department of Transportation calling attention to this naming, which will include the costs to produce, place, and maintain the signs; 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.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the section of U.S. Route 501, Campbell Highway, from the South Lynchburg City Limits to the east intersection of State Route 24, Campbell County, as the "Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway".

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

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CTB Decision Brief

Highway Naming: “Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the section of U.S. Route 501, Campbell Highway, from the South Lynchburg City Limits to the east intersection of State Route 24, Campbell County, as the “Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway”.

Facts: The Campbell County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on February 7, 2023 to honor the life, faithfulness and dedication to the citizens of Campbell County of Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr.

According to that resolution, Judge Johnston served Campbell County with great distinction as a Campbell County District and Circuit Court Judge from 1977 until his retirement in 2008. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Alabama and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

After practicing law for five years, he was appointed a judge of the Campbell County General District Court at the age of 30, making him the youngest judge in the State. In 1981, he was named Judge of the Campbell County Circuit Court as the youngest Circuit Court Judge in Virginia, where he presided over hundreds of trials that impacted thousands of lives. He was known for his thoughtfulness, fairness and commitment to justice.

During his tenure as the Circuit Court Judge, he advocated for a new courthouse to not only protect victims and witnesses in criminal cases but to have the proper facilities to conduct fair and audible hearings and trials. A new courthouse was dedicated on June 20, 1991.

Following retirement, Judge Johnston remained active in the legal community as a substitute judge for the 24th Judicial Circuit, participated in a statewide mediation group, performed numerous speaking engagements where he served as inspiration to other judges and attorneys and authored a book entitled “Why Judges Wear Robes”, a humorous account of life in the courtroom.

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 section of U.S. Route 501, Campbell Highway, from the South Lynchburg City Limits to the east intersection of State Route 24, Campbell County, will be known as the “Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway”. In accordance with law, and by resolution dated February 7, 2023, Campbell County 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.

At the regular meeting of the Campbell County Board of Supervisors held on the 7th day of February 2023 in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room of the Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia, on motion of Supervisor Watts, the following resolution was adopted:

JUDGE J. SAMUEL JOHNSTON, JR. MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, Retired Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. served Campbell County with great distinction as a Campbell County District and Circuit Court Judge from 1977 until his retirement on June 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Judge Johnston received his bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law; and

WHEREAS, after practicing law for five years was appointed a judge of the Campbell County General District Court at the age of 30, making him the youngest Judge in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Judge Johnston was named Judge of the Campbell County Circuit Court as the youngest Circuit Court Judge in Virginia, where he presided over hundreds of trials that impacted thousands of lives and was known for his thoughtfulness, fairness and commitment to justice; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the Circuit Court Judge advocated for a new courthouse to not only protect victims and witnesses in criminal cases, but to have the proper facilities to conduct fair and audible hearings and trials, and a new Courthouse was dedicated on June 20, 1991; and

WHEREAS, following retirement Judge Johnston remained active in the legal community as a substitute Judge for the 24th Judicial Circuit, participating in a statewide mediation group, performing numerous speaking engagements where he served as inspiration to other Judges and attorneys and authoring a book entitled "Why Judges Wear Robes," a humorous account of life in the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Campbell County Board of Supervisors authorized staff to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation and local Virginia delegation to have a portion of Route 501 in Campbell County dedicated to Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr., but at that time Virginia Code did not allow naming a road for a living person; and

WHEREAS, Judge Johnston passed away on December 10, 2022, at the age of 76.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors in accordance with Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation formally name a section of Route 501 from South Lynchburg City Limits to the east Route 24 intersection for a total of 7.96 miles the **Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial Highway** in recognition of Judge Johnston's faithfulness and dedication to the citizens of Campbell County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors acknowledges that the Campbell County Board of Supervisors would be responsible to the Virginia Department of Transportation for the costs associated with producing, placing and maintaining the signage associated with the request.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Hardie, Moore, Shockley, Watts

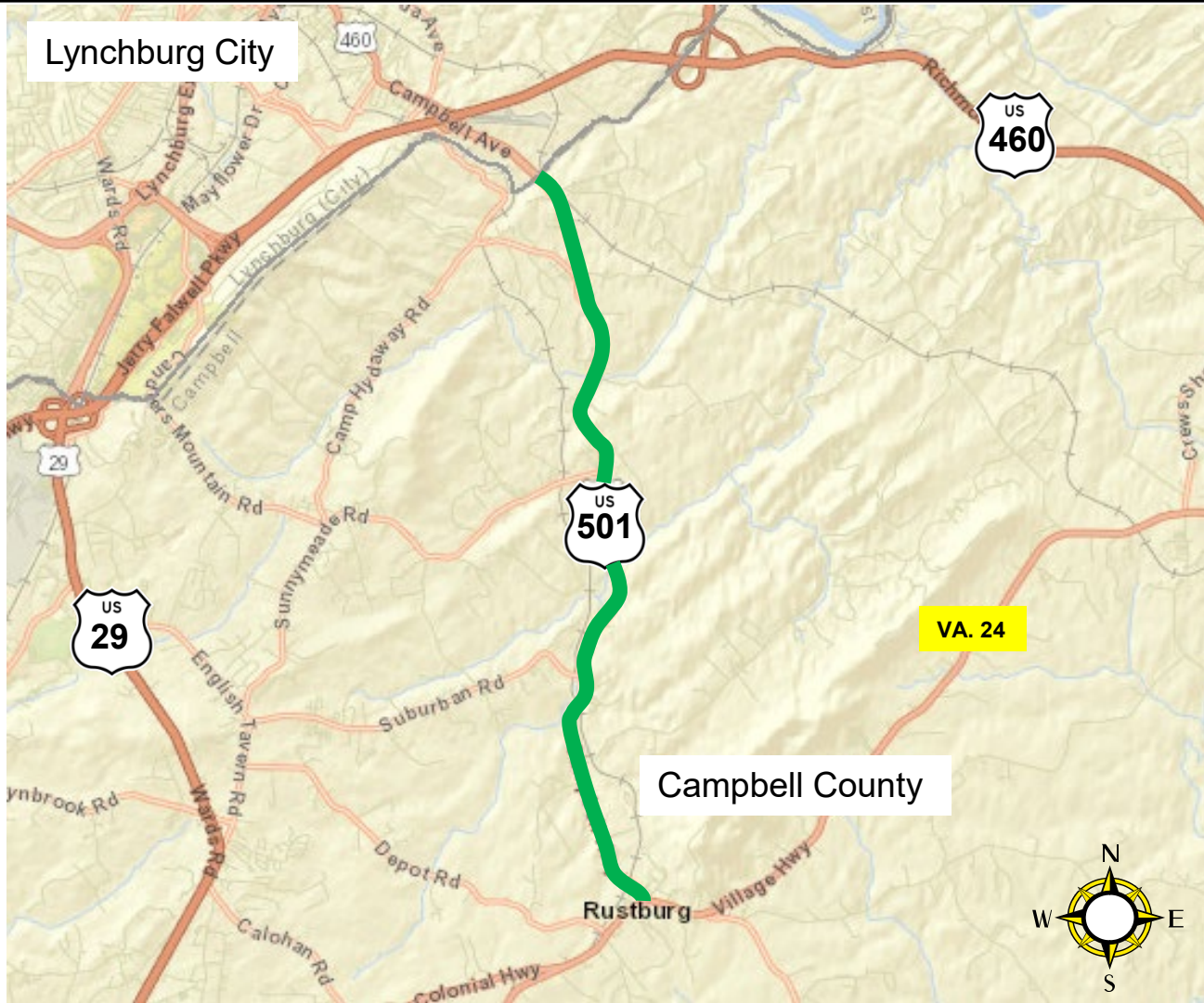
Nay: None

Absent: None



Catherine H. Moore, Clerk

Campbell County Board of Supervisors



Maintenance Division

CTB Meeting: March 29, 2023

Campbell County
Proposed Highway Segment Naming:
**“Judge J. Samuel Johnston, Jr. Memorial
Highway”**

 Proposed Highway Naming