COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 1

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 24, 2025

MOTION

Made By: Ms. Green, **Seconded By:** Ms. Sellers
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge"

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated April 15, 2025, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life and service to his community of Haile Shelton, name the bridge on State Route 40, East Gretna Road, over George's Creek, Pittsylvania County, as the "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, Pittsylvania County, by resolution dated April 15, 2025, 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 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 State Route 40, East Gretna Road, over George's Creek, Pittsylvania County, as the "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge".

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

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge"

Issue: Commemorative naming, at the request of Pittsylvania County, of the bridge on State Route 40, East Gretna Road, over George's Creek, Pittsylvania County, as the "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge".

Facts: The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on April 15, 2025, to honor the life and service to his community of Haile Shelton.

According to that resolution, Mr. Shelton was born on February 28, 1924, in Pittsylvania County to Ewell and Mary Elizabeth Shelton, and spent his entire life in the Ray community, a small rural area that shaped his values and legacy.

Mr. Shelton married Vaughnie Wood in 1954, and together they raised their daughter Cynthia, who later married David Bowler, continuing the Shelton family's presence and contributions to the area. He was a lifelong farmer who lived and worked along the banks of George's Creek, tending to his tobacco fields, caring for his livestock, and building a life for his family in close connection with the land and community.

Mr. Shelton crossed the Route 40 bridge over George's Creek countless times throughout his life—first as a boy with his siblings heading to school in Greenfield, and later as a husband, father and farmer caring for his land with his family at his side. The bridge over George's Creek stands near the very place where he was born and where he spent his life, making it a meaningful and fitting location to honor his memory and legacy.

The stories of Haile Shelton's life—of swimming in George's Creek, working the family farm, enduring hard times, and celebrating joyful ones—are treasured memories for his family, neighbors, and the broader community who continue to cross that same bridge every day. Mr. Haile Shelton passed away on October 11, 1988. Naming this bridge in Mr. Shelton's honor would serve as a lasting tribute to a man whose life was deeply rooted in the land, people and values of Ray, Virginia.

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 State Route 40, East Gretna Road, over George's Creek, Pittsylvania County, will be known as the "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge". In accordance with law, and by resolution dated April 15, 2025, Pittsylvania 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 has not received any public comments on this proposal.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION # 2025-04-01

SUPPORTING NAMING THE ROUTE 40 BRIDGE OVER GEORGE'S CREEK IN THE CALLANDS-GRETNA DISTRICT AS THE "HAILE SHELTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE"

VIRGINIA: At the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors' ("Board") Business Meeting on April 15, 2025, the following Resolution was presented and adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to recognizing and celebrating Pittsylvania County, Virginia's ("County") historical heritage and contributions made thereto by its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Haile Shelton ("Shelton") was born on February 28, 1924, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, to Ewell and Mary Elizabeth Shelton, and spent his entire life in the Ray community, a small rural area that shaped his values and legacy; and

WHEREAS, Shelton married Vaughnie Wood in 1954, and together they raised their daughter Cynthia, who later married David Bowler, continuing the Shelton family's presence and contributions to the area; and

WHEREAS, Shelton was a lifelong farmer who lived and worked along the banks of George's Creek, tending to his tobacco fields, caring for his livestock, and building a life for his family in close connection with the land and community; and

WHEREAS, Shelton crossed the Route 40 bridge over George's Creek countless times throughout his life—first as a boy with his siblings heading to school in Greenfield, and later as a husband, father, and farmer caring for his land with his family at his side; and

WHEREAS, the bridge over George's Creek stands near the very place where Mr. Shelton was born and where he spent his life, making it a meaningful and fitting location to honor his memory and legacy; and

WHEREAS, the stories of Haile Shelton's life—of swimming in George's Creek, working the family farm, enduring hard times, and celebrating joyful ones—are treasured memories for his family, neighbors, and the broader community who continue to cross that same bridge every day; and

WHEREAS, Shelton was a beloved figure in the Callands-Gretna community, and naming the bridge in his honor would serve as a lasting tribute to a man whose life was deeply rooted in the land, people, and values of Ray, Virginia; 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 and bridges, interchanges, or other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

WHEREAS, the same Virginia Code Section further 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board supports the naming of the Route 40 Bridge over George's Creek in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Callands-Gretna District, the location of said bridge depicted in more detail on the map attached hereto and made a part fully hereof, as the "Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge"; and

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

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Shelton family, appropriate local VDOT officials, and the CTB for consideration.

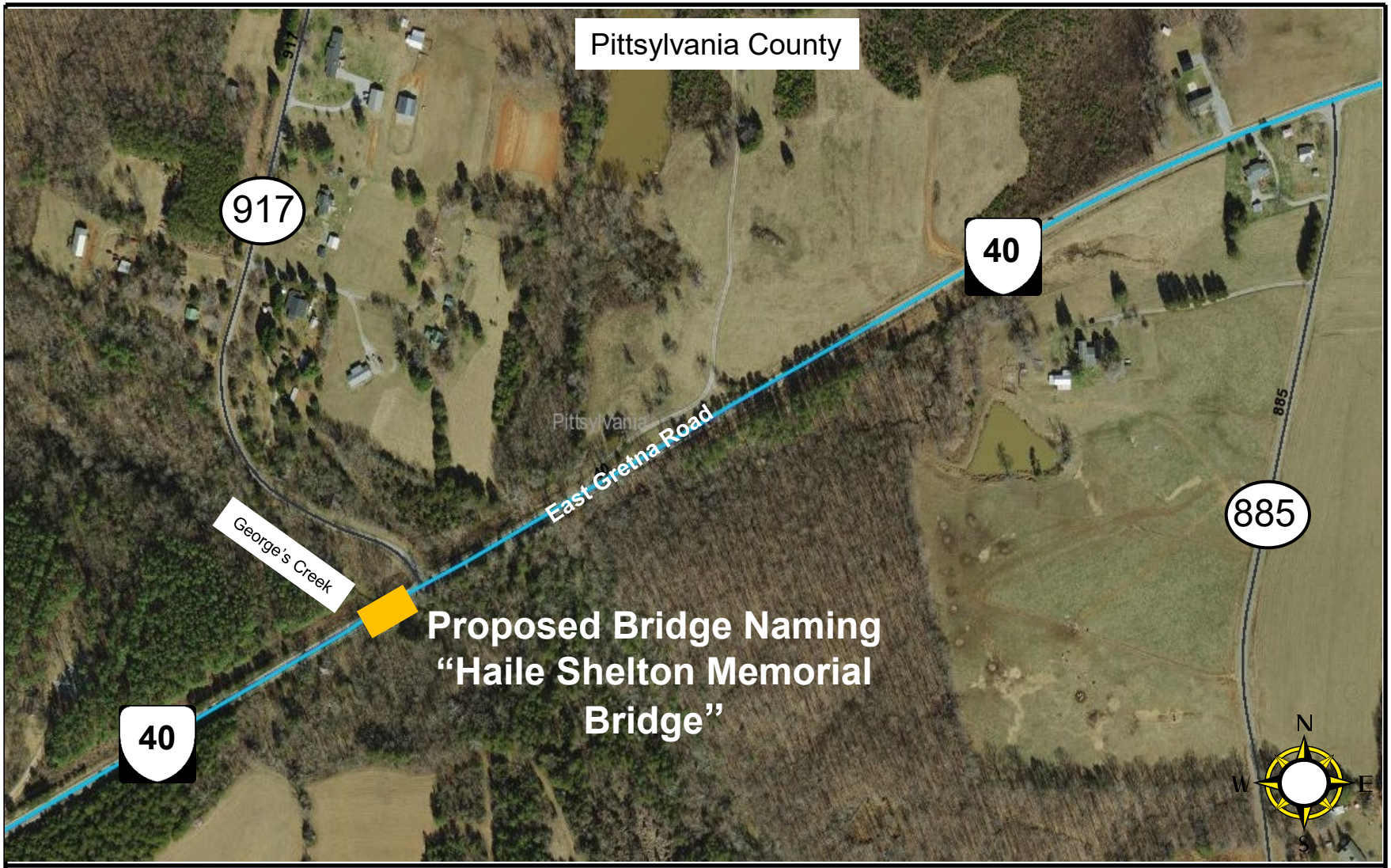
Given under my hand this 15th day of April, 2025.

Robert M. Tucker, Jr. *(Chairman)*
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors

Darrell W. Dalton *(Callands-Gretna District)*
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors

Kaylyn M. McCluster *(Clerk)*
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors


Ray Mill Rd
E Gretna Rd
Crown Rd
Georges Creek
Ray Mill Rd
E Gretna Rd
E Gretna Rd
Crown Rd
E Gretna Rd
Georges Creek
Crown Rd



VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation
Maintenance Division
CTB MEETING: June 25, 2025

Pittsylvania County

Proposed Bridge Naming:
"Haile Shelton Memorial Bridge"