

Road Name Change Procedure for Municipality or County

When a Municipality or County want to name or rename a road, the Staff within the respective jurisdiction would first need to determine if the road is a state-maintained road. If the road is not a state-maintained road, the Municipality/County would follow their process for naming the road. If it is a state-maintained road, they need to contact the appropriate District Engineer's office. The District office will need to know the desired name, determine if it conflicts with any existing street name and what signing, if any, needs to be revised.

The District and Division office will determine if the road was named by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Board of Transportation (BOT) by contacting Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming Committee Staff, Shelly Heath. If the BOT has not named the road, the proposed name is not controversial and will not conflict with an existing street name, the Division should determine the cost to the Department to change the name of the road. Cost includes guide signs and supports (if required).

The District/Division notifies Municipality/County staff of their decision of the naming or renaming and the cost to do so to the Department. The Municipality/County can name/rename the road through a resolution and pay the cost to the Department.

The Municipality/County is responsible for notifying all law enforcement, emergency responders, post office and for handling all public engagement. NCDOT will refer all questions pertaining to the naming and renaming of roads to the respective Municipality/County.

Examples:

1. Municipality/County wants to name a road Martin Luther King Boulevard. Another street in the vicinity is called Martin Luther King Road. This would be an example of a conflict. The reason this is a conflict is from an emergency call response perspective. We would not want emergency response showing up to the wrong place. Many citizens that do not live on the road or in the area may not know the difference between the Martin Luther King Road versus Martin Luther King Boulevard.
2. Municipality/County wishes to change the name of George Washington Highway (US 1). The NCDOT Board of Transportation named this road in 1967. The Municipality/County cannot change the name of the road without requesting the NCDOT Board of Transportation to change or remove the name of the road. Whenever the BOT names a facility, only the General Assembly or the BOT may change the name.
3. There may be examples where the proposed name is distasteful, and the District Engineer's office would notify the Municipality/County that it would not be allowed. If the District/Division Engineer believe the name is inappropriate, they should notify the BOT Member and Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming Committee Staff, Shelly Heath. They can inform the Municipality/County that the BOT can take official action to place a more suitable name on the road if necessary.
4. The cost to change the name from Sam Road to Jonathan Tannenball Road requires the replacement of overhead sign and overhead structure the expectation would be that the Municipality/County would pay for this cost. There may be a TIP project of other project that would be modifying these signs, it would at the discretion of the Division to determine cost share, if any.