

Chapter 10

Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming

10.1 Overview

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) [§136-18 \(8\)](#) and NCGS [§136-82 \(f\) \(2\)](#), the North Carolina Board of Transportation may name roads, bridges, and ferries. The North Carolina Board of Transportation (BOT) has developed policies and procedures for carrying out the naming of roads, bridges and ferries.

The purpose of placing these in the traffic ordinance system is so that the designations and names will properly translate to changes made in the State road system.

- I. The following actions are included in this chapter:
 - Road Naming
 - Honorary Designation
 - Road Overlay
 - Bridge/Structure Naming
 - Interchange Honorary Designation

- II. Ferry naming:
 - Ordinances are not needed for ferry naming at this time as the Ferry Division owns and tracks these vessels in accordance with [§136-82 \(f\) \(2\)](#)

10.2 *Road Naming*

Ordinance Type Number:	120
Ordinance Type Status:	Active
NCGS Authority:	§136-18 (8)
NCAC Authority:	None
TEPPL Reference:	N-01
Ordinance Required:	Yes
Overlap Conflict with Ordinance Types:	120
Investigation Required by Statute and/or Code:	No
Signing/Marking Required by Statute/Code:	No
Additional Information/Justification Required:	Yes

Guidance:

The Board of Transportation has the authority to “give suitable names to State highways” and to “change the names...of any highways that shall become a part of the State system of highways” ([§136-18 \(8\)](#)).

A highway is defined as “the entire width between property or right-of-way lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular traffic” ([§20-4.01 \(13\)](#)).

Road names are usually approved by the Board of Transportation through their resolution process after being reviewed by the Board of Transportation’s Road, Bridge and Ferry Naming Committee and a resolution package is required for the ordinance. However, occasionally, the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) will name a road, and these follow same rules and can only be changed through subsequent NCGA action. The only way to change the road name is through a subsequent Board of Transportation action or via legislation.

These changes may have address implications for residents and businesses.

A road name stays with the pavement and not the route number.

Examples:

Billy Graham Freeway

10.3 Honorary Designation

Ordinance Type Number:	121
Ordinance Type Status:	Active
NCGS Authority:	§136-18 (8)
NCAC Authority:	None
TEPPL Reference:	N-01
Ordinance Required:	Yes
Overlap Conflict with Ordinance Types:	121
Investigation Required by Statute and/or Code:	No
Signing/Marking Required by Statute/Code:	No
Additional Information/Justification Required:	Yes

Guidance:

The Board of Transportation has the authority to “give suitable names to State highways” and to “change the names...of any highways that shall become a part of the State system of highways” ([§136-18 \(8\)](#)).

A highway is defined as “the entire width between property or right-of-way lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular traffic” ([§20-4.01 \(13\)](#)).

Honorary designations are usually approved by the Board of Transportation through their resolution process after being reviewed by the Board of Transportation’s Road, Bridge and Ferry Naming Committee, and a resolution package is required for the ordinance. However, occasionally, the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) will designate a road, and these follow the same rules and can only be changed through subsequent NCGA action.

Addresses are not affected. Honorary designation lengths may be adjusted by Board action or as designated by the Board. The State Traffic Engineer may also adjust an honorary designation length to accommodate other Board actions or due to project-related necessities.

An honorary designation stays with the pavement and not the route number.

Examples:

Major General Joseph McNeil Way

Harold Lee Frank Highway

10.4 Road Overlay

Ordinance Type Number:	122
Ordinance Type Status:	Active
NCGS Authority:	§136-18 (8)
NCAC Authority:	None
TEPPL Reference:	N-01
Ordinance Required:	Yes
Overlap Conflict with Ordinance Types:	None
Investigation Required by Statute and/or Code:	No
Signing/Marking Required by Statute/Code:	No
Additional Information/Justification Required:	Yes

Guidance:

The Board of Transportation has the authority to “give suitable names to State highways” and to “change the names...of any highways that shall become a part of the State system of highways” ([§136-18 \(8\)](#)).

A highway is defined as “the entire width between property or right-of-way lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular traffic” ([§20-4.01 \(13\)](#)).

Overlays are usually approved by the Board of Transportation through their resolution process after being reviewed by the Board of Transportation’s Road, Bridge and Ferry Naming Committee, and a resolution package is required for the ordinance. However, occasionally, the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) will name a road, and these follow the same rules and can only be changed through subsequent NCGA action.

An overlay stays with the pavement and not the route number. Some overlays have specific statutory designations such as the following:

- Wesley D. Webster Highway ([§136-18.5](#))
- Purple Heart Memorial Highway ([§136-18.5A](#))
- Dale Earnhardt Highway ([§136-18.5B](#))
- The U.S. Marine Corps Highway ([§136-18.5C](#))
- Blue Star Memorial Highway ([§136-102.1](#))

Examples:

Blue Star Memorial Highway

Purple Heart Memorial Highway

10.5 Bridge/Structure Naming

Ordinance Type Number:	123
Ordinance Type Status:	Active
NCGS Authority:	§136-18 (8)
NCAC Authority:	None
TEPPL Reference:	N-01
Ordinance Required:	Yes
Overlap Conflict with Ordinance Types:	123
Investigation Required by Statute and/or Code:	No
Signing/Marking Required by Statute/Code:	No
Additional Information/Justification Required:	Yes

Guidance:

The Board of Transportation has the authority to “give suitable names to State highways” and to “change the names...of any highways that shall become a part of the State system of highways” ([§136-18 \(8\)](#)).

A highway is defined as “the entire width between property or right-of-way lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular traffic” ([§20-4.01 \(13\)](#)).

Honorary designations are usually approved by the Board of Transportation through their resolution process after being reviewed by the Board of Transportation’s Road, Bridge and Ferry Naming Committee, and a resolution package is required for the ordinance. However, occasionally, the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) will name a bridge/structure, and these are entered in the same manner as Board approved resolutions.

Currently, only bridges and tunnels have honorary designations.

An honorary designation stays with the structure for the life of the structure (unless the designation is repealed by the Board or legislation). If a structure is replaced, the Board will need to decide if the previous designation continues with the new structure or if a different (or any) designation is attached to the new structure.

Examples:

Officer Jason Shuping Bridge (NCGA)

Officer Donald Ray Tucker

10.6 Interchange Honorary Designation

Ordinance Type Number:	124
Ordinance Type Status:	Active
NCGS Authority:	§136-18 (8)
NCAC Authority:	None
TEPPL Reference:	N-01
Ordinance Required:	Yes
Overlap Conflict with Ordinance Types:	124
Investigation Required by Statute and/or Code:	No
Signing/Marking Required by Statute/Code:	No
Additional Information/Justification Required:	Yes

Guidance:

The Board of Transportation has the authority to “give suitable names to State highways” and to “change the names...of any highways that shall become a part of the State system of highways” ([§136-18 \(8\)](#)).

A highway is defined as “the entire width between property or right-of-way lines of every way or place of whatever nature, when any part thereof is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular traffic” ([§20-4.01 \(13\)](#)).

Honorary designations must be approved by the Board of Transportation through their resolution process after being reviewed by the Board of Transportation’s Road, Bridge and Ferry Naming Committee, and a resolution package is required for the ordinance.

An honorary designation stays with the interchange and not the route numbers.

Examples:

Designated Honorary Interchange