

George Small

To: Naming Committee - MLK  
Cc: Dale McKeel  
Subject: Street naming information

I received the attached information from the State regarding renaming streets. I spoke with Sandy Nance in the Secretary's office and confirmed that there are three options that the State has an interest in (i.e. the State takes no part in naming or renaming local streets; its policies involve only State roads both within and outside of municipal boundaries):

\*Standard policy allows only one "honorary" naming of a road or bridge for an individual or group. An honorary name is designated by large signs at the beginning and end of the facility being so designated. The honorary name does not change the pre-existing street name or route designation. You often see sections of State highways given honorary names. The James Taylor Bridge is considered an honorary name. A section of State route NC 401 was dedicated in 1994 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

\*As an alternative to the above policy, the State will consider additional assignment of an "honorary" name (that already exists on the State road system) for State roads that are *entirely within municipal limits, carry primarily local traffic, and are not controlled-access facilities*. Airport Road in Chapel Hill would probably meet these criteria, as might the NC 54/Raleigh Road/South Road corridor. It is unlikely that the NC 54 Bypass would be a viable candidate. Again, the "honorary" designation would involve placement of large signs at the termini of the designated street segment; but would not change the small green street signs and/or addresses on the street in question. (e.g. if Airport Road was given the honorary name of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, its street name would remain as Airport Road, and street signs/addresses would remain unchanged).

\*The final alternative involves "renaming" a State street that is within the Municipal Limits. The State differentiates this from assigning an honorary name. If the State agrees to rename a State street in a municipality, then all of the small green street signs at intersections would be changed to the new name, and the large honorary signs discussed above would not be installed. All properties fronting on the renamed street would be assigned new addresses reflecting the new street name. This alternative would likely be applicable for most State roads in Chapel Hill, including Airport Road.

Please see the attached information from the State.

2/11/2004



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

February 7, 2004

**ORANGE COUNTY**

Mr. George Small, P. E.  
Town Engineer  
Town of Chapel Hill  
306 N. Columbia St  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516


Subject: Dedication of a portion of NC 86 (Airport Rd.)  
In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear Mr. Small,

This office has recently been in contact with members of your staff regarding the dedication of a portion of NC 86 (Airport Rd.) to Dr. King. Please find the attached information regarding dedication and renaming of State Maintained roads.

I hope that that this information will be helpful to you. If I can be of further assistance, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
C. N. Edwards Jr., P. E.  
District Engineer

Cc: J. M. Mills, P. E., attn.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

January 2, 2004

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO: Board Members  
Division Engineers

FROM: Sandy Nance *Sandy Nance*

SUBJECT: Road Naming Procedures

As you know, the Board of Transportation's Road and Bridge Naming Procedures do not allow more than one honorary naming of a road or bridge for an individual or group. One of the most frequent duplicate requests we receive is for a roadway honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. With the Martin Luther King holiday this month, we typically receive several inquiries regarding our road naming procedures and requests for dedications for Dr. King. The following information may be helpful if you should receive any inquiries from your area.

In July 1994, the Board of Transportation dedicated the section of NC 401 through Scotland County from the South Carolina State Line to the Hoke County line in honor of Dr. King. When we receive another request for Dr. King, we advise the municipality or citizen of this dedication and that the Board does not approve more than one facility for any individual or group.

What we advise a municipality they can do is name a municipally owned bridge or roadway in honor Dr. King. Since the roadway is not state owned or maintained, this does not require any approval or action by the Board. Many cities have taken this action and have facilities honoring Dr. King.

Another action a municipality can take to honor Dr. King is actually name or rename a street within their city limits. In lieu of an honorary naming with signs at either end of the designated segment, this would actually be the street name and the mailing address for anyone living on the street. The signing would be the typical small green street signs. If the street is municipally owned, no action or approval is needed by the department. If the street is within the city limits but part of the state highway system, then forms are submitted through the division office and the renaming of the street would appear on the Board's regular agenda for approval. This is not considered an honorary naming by the Board. Some cities have chosen this option if the citizens along the roadway do not object to their mailing addresses being changed.

MAILING ADDRESS:  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR  
1536 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH NC 27699-1536

TELEPHONE: 919-733-7384  
FAX: 919-733-9428

WEBSITE: WWW.DOH.DOT.STATE.NC.US

LOCATION:  
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING  
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET  
RALEIGH NC

Finally, if a state owned roadway meets certain criteria, the city can request the Board's Road and Bridge Naming Committee to defer to the city the authority to dedicate the roadway for Dr. King. The roadway must be completely within the city limits, be primarily local traffic, and not a controlled access facility. The city submits a written request through their board member for review by the Road and Bridge Naming Committee. If the request is approved, the city will be advised they can proceed. This is not a board approved dedication and is action taken by the municipality only. Many cities have used this option to honor Dr. King within their city limits.

~~With all the above actions, all costs associated with the dedication and signing are the responsibility of the municipality and requires no action by the department except the division staff must approve the sign design and locations.~~

Dr. King was the example used above but the same procedures and processes apply for any duplication requests received by the department. If you have questions on this information or any aspect of the road naming process, please feel free to contact this office at 733-7384.

cc: Secretary Tippett, Co-Chairman, Road and Bridge Naming Committee  
Doug Galyon, Co-Chairman, Road and Bridge Naming Committee

## PROCEDURES FOR NAMING ROADS/BRIDGES/FERRIES

The following documentation and information is required before any naming request will be considered by the Board of Transportation.

### Information to be provided by the local nominating entity:

- 1. **Background information on nominee.** Sufficient information must be provided to explain why the naming is warranted; for example, local, state, and/or national contributions and accomplishments.
- 2. **Description of what is requested to be named.** The Board will consider naming Ferries, Interstate, US, and NC routes/bridges only, or more significant bridges on the state's secondary road system. The distance of dedication should be approximately 5 miles or less. Law enforcement officers will be honored with bridge dedications in lieu of highways.
- 3. **Resolutions from all local governing bodies associated with or affected by the request.** City or town councils and/or county commissioners must adopt resolutions in sufficient detail to adequately justify the request.
- 4. **Strong public input and support.** Explain the degree to which the public supports the request and had notice of action with an opportunity for input.

### NCDOT Staff Review:

- 5. **Whether another facility has been previously named by the BOT.** The Board does not name more than one facility for the same individual.
- 6. **If the facility is planned or under construction, expected completion date.** The Board typically does not name facilities prior to construction.
- 7. **Opposition.** The Board does not mediate local disagreements.

### Action by the Road and Bridge Naming Committee and Board of Transportation:

- a. Board member must endorse request and present to Committee and Board.
- b. NCDOT Secretary chairs Committee, calls meetings, and approves the agenda.
- c. A naming request reviewed and recommended by the Committee will be "held" for at least one month before being considered by the full Board.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH ROAD/BRIDGE NAMING REQUESTS  
FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENTS:**

- The requesting party should have the family's support for the road or bridge naming request including agreement with the requested location of the dedication.
- The requested wording to appear on the actual signs needs to be stated in the resolution by the local government (with the family's concurrence) to insure the signs are manufactured correctly.
- Interstate designations will use the wording "Freeway" and NC & US roadways designation will use the wording "Highway".
- Local governments could consider the "Adopt a Highway" program as an alternative method of honoring an individual or group.
- The Board does not typically name a facility for accident victims. An individual's accomplishments and contributions to the state and community are used as criteria for consideration for a memorial designation.
- It is the responsibility of the individual seeking the road or bridge naming request to work directly with the local government to obtain the necessary resolution for submittal to the Board.
- Municipalities may name municipally owned streets or bridges in honor of individuals or groups. This does not require DOT review or approval.
- It is the Board's opinion that the Blue Star Memorial Highway designation honors all veterans and military groups in the state. Therefore, any other designation of a road or structure for veterans or military groups would be considered a duplication.
- ?? - Honorary signs will be ground mounted; overhead signs will not be installed. Signs will be installed at the beginning and ending termini of the approved roadway segment, and will not be installed on exits, Y-lines, or intersecting roadways.