

Item Title: Public Hearing to Consider Renaming a Portion of Green Level West Road

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners holds a public hearing and adopts the attached ordinance to rename permanently a portion of Green Level West Road (SR 1615) as High House Road, effective January 30, 2026.

Item Summary:

Purpose: North Carolina General Statute § 153A-239.1(a) requires that any renaming of state-maintained roads located outside the corporate limits of municipalities must be preceded by a public hearing conducted by the Board of Commissioners. This agenda item initiates that process for a proposed street name change affecting a segment of Green Level West Road in the County's jurisdiction.

Background: Logical street naming and addressing have long been recognized as best practices. These practices support ease of navigation, reduce confusion for emergency services, and promote overall cohesiveness within a transportation network. Street renaming may be necessary to maintain an orderly and intuitive street system.

High House Road is a significant thoroughfare beginning near downtown Cary and extending westward to NC 55. West of NC 55, the roadway is currently named Green Level West Road. The entire corridor is owned and maintained by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

On June 12, 2025, the Cary Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution (7–0) to rename the portion of Green Level West Road between NC 55 Highway and Green Level Church Road to High House Road. The change was proposed to establish a consistent name for a major east–west transportation corridor within Cary's planning area.

The Town of Cary's resolution applies to areas within its municipal boundaries. However, because a portion of the affected road extends beyond Cary's corporate limits, Wake County is required to conduct a public hearing before finalizing the proposed name change in the unincorporated area.

The name change impacts six single-family residences in the unincorporated portion of the county. No businesses are located along the affected segment.

All affected properties fall within the Town of Cary's planning and addressing jurisdiction. The Town has notified property owners and residents.

Strategic Plan: This action aligns with the Board of Commissioners' authority to name roads not within a municipality under North Carolina General Statutes and does not relate to a specific Strategic Plan goal or initiative.

Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact to the County is minimal. One street name sign, located in the unincorporated area, will need to be replaced. This work will be completed by Wake County staff, and the cost is expected to be absorbed within the existing departmental budget.

Additional Information:

The segment of Green Level West Road under consideration is approximately 9,500 feet in length and crosses both Cary's and Wake County's jurisdictions. The portion of Green Level West Road under consideration lies entirely within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town of Cary and Wake County. Therefore, it was not necessary to involve the Town of Apex in this process.



Wake County GIS address staff have reviewed the proposed change and identified no conflicts with existing street names or addressing conventions. Coordination with NCDOT, the Town of Cary, and emergency response agencies will ensure a seamless transition in all applicable systems, including 911 databases and public records.

Town of Cary Community Outreach:

March 2023: Cary Town Council's initial discussion.

Winter 2023/Spring 2024: Town of Cary staff developed a community outreach strategy. Town of Cary staff identified and contacted key stakeholders, including property owners fronting the road segment and individuals with community ties to the Green Level area. Twenty-five letters were sent to these stakeholders, resulting in three email responses (two opposed, one in support) and one phone call in opposition.

August 2024: After gathering stakeholder input, Cary staff mailed 207 letters to property owners within 800 feet of the corridor segment to invite them to a public information meeting. Two residents attended the meeting, where they asked about the proposed name and any road-widening plans for the area.

November 14, 2024: A public hearing was held by the Cary Town Council to consider the renaming within Cary's jurisdiction. One speaker, a Cary resident, opposed the change, and the Council deferred final action.

June 12, 2025: The renaming resolution was formally adopted by unanimous vote (7–0).

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Town of Cary Resolution
3. Wake County Ordinance
4. Town of Cary Staff Report