

Staff Report for Town Council

Meeting Date: June 12, 2025



Resolution to Rename a Portion of Green Level West Road to High House Road

Purpose: To rename a section of Green Level West Road to High House Road for the purpose of furthering navigation and an organized street network.

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Speaker: Erin Puckett, Planning and Development Services

Executive Summary: High House Road is a major thoroughfare in Cary, beginning at West Chatham Street and ending at N.C. 55, where its name changes to Green Level West Road. On Nov. 14, 2024, Council conducted a public hearing on a resolution to rename a portion of Green Level West Road to High House Road and deferred action to a future meeting. After considering input from community stakeholders and coordinating with various governmental agencies, staff proposes renaming the segment of Green Level West Road, between N.C. 55 and Green Level Church Road, to High House Road.

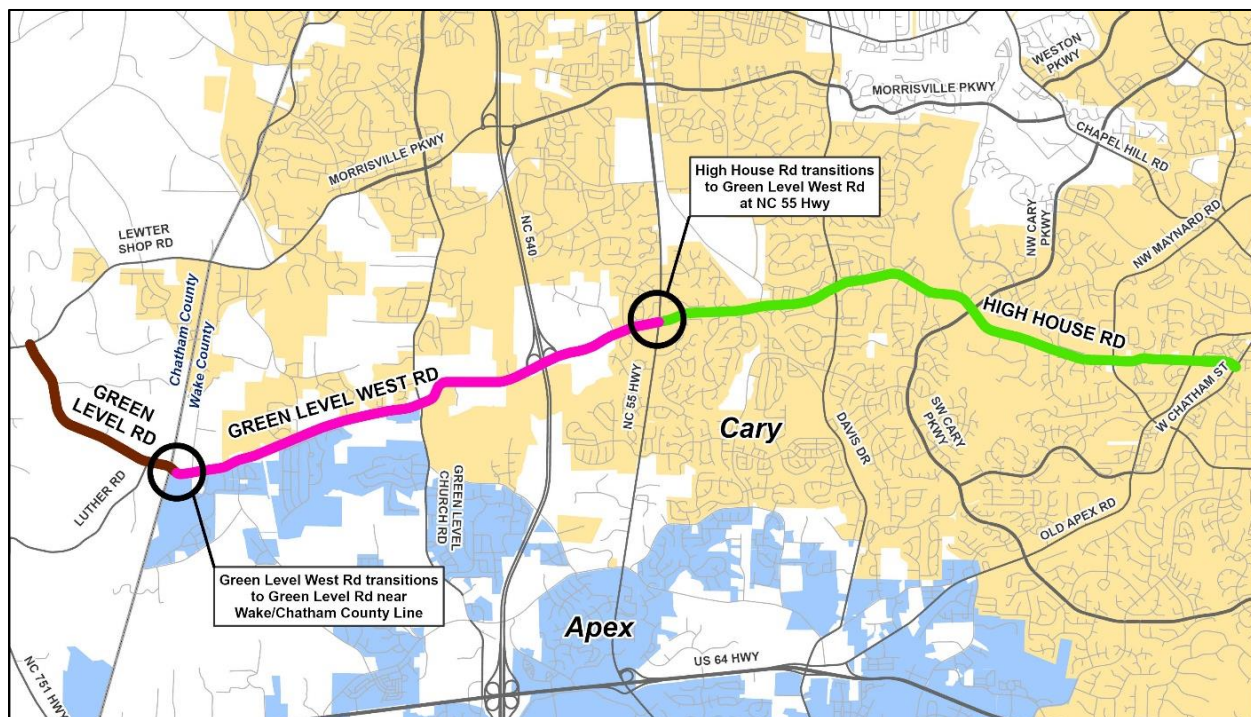
Recommendation: *Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached resolution renaming the portion of Green Level West Road extending from N.C. 55 to Green Level Church Road to High House Road.*

Background: Logical street naming and numbering have been best practices for municipal governments for many years. These practices allow for ease of navigation and logical cohesiveness to a municipality's transportation network. New development occasionally creates situations where multiple road segments with different names connect, and street renaming must occur to maintain an organized street network.

High House Road is a major east/west thoroughfare beginning near downtown Cary and ending at N.C. 55. West of N.C. 55, the road name changes to Green Level West Road and changes once more to Green Level Road near the Chatham County border. The road ultimately terminates at Lewter Shop Road within Chatham County. The entire corridor is owned and maintained by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

March 2023 Feasibility Study

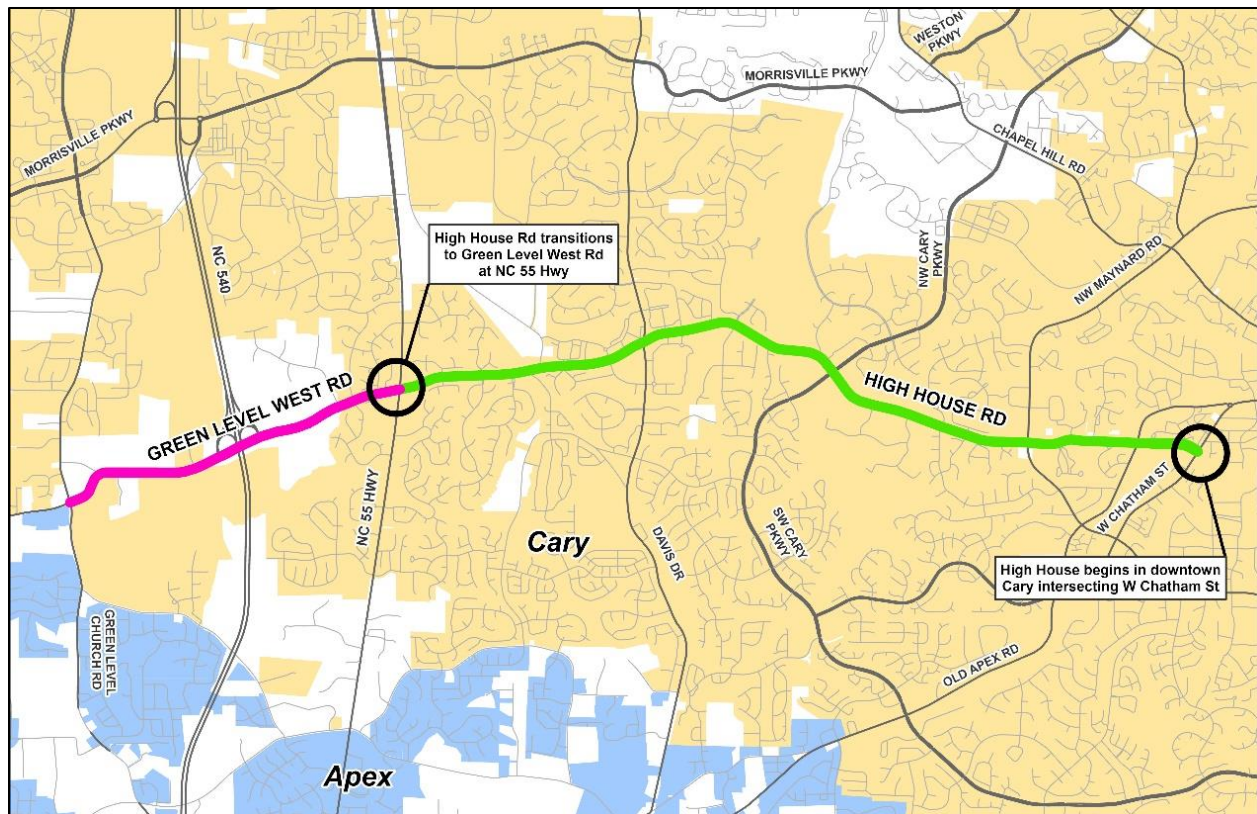
To reduce the multiple road name changes along this major corridor, staff researched the initial feasibility of a road renaming project along High House Road/Green Level West Road and presented findings to Council in March of 2023. As properties along High House Road are more fully built out than those on Green Level West Road, the High House Road name was recommended to be continued along the corridor. This would impact the fewest number of properties.



Staff initially researched the feasibility of a road renaming project along the entire length of High House Road/Green Level West Road.

Based on the results of the [feasibility study](#), Council directed staff to research the next steps to rename a limited segment of Green Level West Road from N.C. 55 to Green Level Church Road. This segment involves coordination solely with Wake County, whereas segments of the road further west would necessitate additional coordination and consensus with the Town of Apex and/or Chatham County, as shown on the map above.

This specific segment of Green Level West Road is approximately 9,500 feet in length and crosses portions of Cary's and Wake County's jurisdictions. There are 43 properties located on or near the Green Level West Road corridor segment that is under consideration for renaming; some of these are currently undeveloped, and approximately 28 have existing street addresses that would be subject to readdressing if the road name is changed. Additionally, 11 of these properties are within larger, active development proposals that would develop internal streets upon which all new structures would be addressed.



The portion of Green Level West Road (in pink) is under consideration to be renamed.

The Imagine Cary Community Plan envisions the Green Level Destination Center to be developed as a vertically integrated, employment-focused center located at a major interchange on N.C. 540 that will support the residences in Green Level and the larger region. Three large development proposals are in various stages of progress in this area of Cary. The three projects, as proposed by the approved rezoning requests, together could allow for the construction of a new hospital proposed by Duke Health, several hundred thousand square feet of office, over 2,000 multifamily residential units, and commercial and hotel uses. These developments will be located along the north and south sides of Green Level West Road, west of N.C. 540. Renaming this segment of Green Level West could align with new and future development in this area.

Green Level West Road Community Outreach

Following the March 2023 Council meeting, staff began developing a community outreach strategy in winter/spring 2024 and continued monitoring the status of the development projects along the Green Level West corridor. Staff then coordinated with internal and external departments, including Cary's Public Works Department, Wake County, NCDOT, and the N.C. Turnpike Authority, to better understand the fiscal and traffic impacts of renaming this Green Level West Road segment.

In July 2024, staff, with consultation from the Information Services Advisory Board, published a [webpage](#) about the Green Level West Road Renaming Study prior to conducting citizen outreach. Staff first identified and contacted key stakeholders, such as owners of property fronting the subject portion of Green Level West Road and individuals and organizations with community ties to the Green Level area. These stakeholders were invited to provide one-on-one feedback to staff via phone, email, or in-person meetings. Twenty-five

letters were sent to stakeholders, and in response, staff received three emails from impacted property owners – two against and one in favor of the road renaming – and one phone call in opposition to the renaming.

After soliciting stakeholder feedback, staff sent 207 letters to property owners within 800 feet of the subject portion of Green Level West Road for a public information meeting about the renaming, held in August 2024. Attendees were informed about the road renaming study, the rationale for the renaming proposal, and steps they would need to take if they are required to readdress. Two members of the public attended the meeting. They had questions about the proposed name for the Green Level West Road segment and whether there were any road-widening projects planned for the area.

Council held a public hearing on Nov. 14, 2024, to consider renaming the section of Green Level West Road under Cary's jurisdiction. There was one speaker in opposition to the renaming. Action on the renaming was deferred to a future meeting.

Fiscal and Traffic Impacts: New signs will be required along the Green Level West corridor should Council approve the street name change. The N.C. Turnpike Authority indicated to staff that approximately six new overhead and roadway signs would be required on N.C. 540, while other street and navigational signs bearing the Green Level West Road name would be required to be replaced on intersecting streets. Highway signage will be created and installed by the N.C. Turnpike Authority (and it is estimated to take around five months to fabricate), while Cary is responsible for other street signage along Green Level West Road.

As is recent practice, staff recommend providing a \$300 payment to the 28 property owners on the corridor who are subject to readdressing to help defray the costs associated with changing their address.

Based on information provided by the N.C. Turnpike Authority and Cary's Public Works Department, staff has budgeted \$85,000 in the FY 2026 budget for new highway and road signage, and readdressing-related payments to property owners.

In addition to signs, the Green Level West Road name is engraved into the overhead bridge on N.C. 540. N.C. Turnpike Authority staff advocated for maintaining the existing name on this structure, even if the road renaming is approved, as the name is engraved into a structural component of the bridge; therefore, covering or replacing the name would have numerous safety concerns. If the renaming is approved, staff will continue to work with the Turnpike Authority to understand the options for the engraved bridge sign.



Next Steps: Council may act on the proposed road name change.

As portions of this segment are not currently within Cary's municipal boundary, in order to rename the entire length of Green Level West Road between N.C. 55 and Green Level Church Road, Wake County's Board of Commissioners must also hold a public hearing and approve the street renaming before any changes go into effect. Their public hearing will only occur after, and if, Council approves the renaming.

If Council approves the renaming, and should Wake County do the same, Cary staff will:

- Finalize the sign replacement schedule;
- Mail a notification of the Town Council action to abutting property owners, with copies sent to the relevant Town departments, third-party agencies, and utility companies;
- Coordinate with N.C. Turnpike Authority to begin the process of changing highway signage; and
- Update 911 CAD systems and other Town address databases and GIS files.