

**Item Title:** Public Hearing to Consider Renaming Portions of Louisburg Road as North Main Street, South Main Street, and Creek Pine Drive

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners holds a public hearing and adopts the attached ordinance to permanently rename portions of Louisburg Road as North Main Street, South Main Street, and Creek Pine Drive, effective July 29, 2016.**

**Item Summary:**

***Background:*** The 13-mile section of US 401 Highway between Capital Boulevard in Raleigh and the Franklin County line is named Louisburg Road, except for a two-mile section where it passes through the town of Rolesville. The highway is named South Main Street and North Main Street within the Rolesville corporate limits. In July of 2015, a nine-mile stretch of limited-access divided highway constructed around the eastern side of Rolesville opened to traffic, thus creating the “Rolesville Bypass.” The new bypass was aligned with Louisburg Road at points on the south and north sides of the town of Rolesville, making for a continuous and more efficient route for motorists traveling along US 401 Highway.

As a result of the new highway construction, portions of the Louisburg Road rights-of-way were closed and the roadway re-aligned to create intersections with the new bypass, leaving three offshoots of Louisburg Road: One leading into the town of Rolesville from the south side and one from the north side, and one that now serves as access to the Lakes of Rolesville subdivision (map attachment 3).

A few months ago, Wake County Geographic Information Services (GIS) staff and Town of Rolesville Planning staff began working on a remedy to the disjointed configuration of Louisburg Road that would be most logical for motorists, emergency personnel, and the general public. Staff concluded that renaming each of the three offshoots was the best solution.

***Proposal:*** Wake County GIS staff and Town of Rolesville Planning staff recommend naming the new bypass as Louisburg Road to provide for a single, continuous road name for the entire length of US 401 Highway from Capital Boulevard to the Franklin County line, and renaming the three offshoots of Louisburg Road. Applying the Louisburg Road name to the bypass does not require the Board’s approval; however, renaming existing portions of Louisburg Road do require the Board’s approval by way of a public hearing. Article 12, Section 153A-239.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires the Wake County Board of Commissioners to hold a public hearing when renaming roads dedicated to the public that are not within a city. All three Louisburg Road sections we are proposing to rename are located in Wake County’s unincorporated area.

Staff recommends renaming two portions of Louisburg Road by extending the North and South Main Street names from the Rolesville town limits to their intersections at the new bypass. Staff also recommends renaming the stubbed-out portion of Louisburg Road that provides access to the Lakes of Rolesville subdivision as Creek Pine Drive, thus extending the existing Creek Pine Drive road name from the subdivision entrance to its intersection with the street proposed as North Main Street (map attachments 4 & 5). Wake County has installed a temporary way sign to help direct the public to the Lakes of Rolesville subdivision.

***Rationale for renaming:*** Town of Rolesville and public safety officials have stated that the current configuration of Louisburg Road may be cause for concern when responding to emergency calls. It is also viewed that having North or South Main Street visible on the street signs at the intersections with the highway would assist with directing motorists into the town of Rolesville.

***NCGS Guidelines:*** Article 12, Section 153A-239.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires that the Wake County Board of Commissioners hold a public hearing when renaming roads dedicated to the public that are not within a city. At least 10 days before the day of the hearing to name or rename a road, the Board of Commissioners shall cause notice of the time, place and subject matter of the hearing to be prominently posted at the county courthouse, in at least two public places in the township or townships where the road is located, and shall publish a notice of such hearing in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county.

***Compliance with NCGS:*** 1) Wake County staff placed a legal advertisement in the Western Wake News publication for two consecutive weeks in an attempt to notify interested parties, and 2) Wake County staff posted double-sided notice-of-public-hearing signs in four locations within the township and a notice in the Wake County Courthouse, all ten days prior to this hearing.

***Public Involvement:*** As an added measure to involve the public and gather input, Wake County, in a joint effort with the Town of Rolesville, conducted a public information session on Tuesday April 19, 2016 from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Rolesville Town Hall. Notification letters advertising the information session were sent to all residents and property owners along the proposed roads to be renamed. The letters also invited citizens to contact County and Town staff by phone with comments or concerns about the name change. No phones calls were received. Three residents whom attended the meeting verbally acknowledged the need to improve and clarify the road names.

***Contingencies:*** This public hearing request is not contingent upon any action by the Town of Rolesville. However, the Mayor and Rolesville Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting the proposed road renaming at their May 2, 2016 meeting (attachment 6).

**Impact:** The new street names will cause address changes for 32 residences, one business, and one church. These structures are not being renumbered so the owners may keep their posted street numbers. Wake County GIS staff will process all change of address notifications, and Wake County Field Services will replace seven street signs.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has indicated there should be no adverse impact on mail delivery, and the effective date of July 29, 2016 should give citizens ample time to make address changes.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The staff recommends approval of the permanent renaming of portions of Louisburg Road as North Main Street, South Main Street, and Creek Pine Drive to be effective July 29, 2016.

**Attachments:**

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Area Map of Proposed Road Name Changes
3. Map of Proposed Name Change Southside
4. Map of Proposed Name Changes Northside
5. Town of Rolesville Resolution Supporting Name Changes
6. Wake County Ordinance Approving Name Changes