

I was also on the Unity Coalition Advisory Committee. my 1st instinct was to be in favor of the Johnson Ave renaming but when the option of the eastern by-pass came up, I liked the idea as I didn't want to see my city torn apart any more than it already was by Johnson renaming & I liked that the by-pass would be huge & become of great importance, which to me was much more fitting. I knew that in June of 2009 the overpass was named for MLK, but I also knew it was in lieu of an actual street naming. Then in 2010 @ ASU @ the MLK Day celebration, the mayor promised, complete with a street sign held by Rev Adrian Rogers, that the next street built by the city would honor MLK. As the city is not in the road building business, (developers build & name their roads) that's been a long time coming. Therefore, my vote was to name the eastern bypass for Dr King. It came up during our meetings that renaming the portion of Commerce Dr shouldn't be difficult as it's not densely populated like Johnson. Additionally it had been pointed out by a postal employee that the mail would ALWAYS be delivered to proper doors regardless of name change.

This is what we sent to Public Works along with trail proposal which we endorsed unanimously. (Education is always a winning plan.)

The pushback from the Public Works Committee was disappointing.

Not wanting to rename a portion of Commerce & subsequent comments

I believe both there & @ council meeting following about never ~~will~~ be *ing*

in favor of renaming were extremely disappointing. Disappointing

because we have renamed streets before & in fact, some of those

same ppl voted in favor of it.

Just since 2000, there have been 5 instances of roads or parts of

roads being renamed.

2003–Res. 03:37. Rogers Chapel Rd to Nestle Rd

All members present voted aye: Farmer, Province, Hargis, Moore, Williams, Perrin, Street, Dover, McCall & Roddy.

2005–Res. 05:374. Renaming part of Nestle back to Rogers Chapel.

Farmer moved, Furr seconded, all vote aye by voice: Farmer, Province, Hargis, Moore, Williams, Perrin, Street, Johnson, Dover, Furr, McCall & Ashley.

2008–Res. 08:202. Haworth to Nice Pak Rd.

Motion by Moore, seconded by Street. All present voted aye by voice: Dover, F McCall, Williams, Frierson, Province, Hargis, Moore, Perrin, Street & Johnson.  
Absent: Furr & T McCall

2009–Res. 09:096. Cook Rd to Nordex Dr.

Passed on consent agenda by: Dover, Williams, Frierson, Hargis, Moore, Street, Vance, Gibson, Woods & Fears.

2014–Res. 14:097. Dustin Drive to Cedar Creek Lane

Moved by Street, seconded by Gibson. Consent vote 11-0: Dover, Williams, Frierson, Moore, Street, Johnson, Vance, Gibson, Woods & Coleman. (McCall absent.)

Anecdotally, renaming has been done back as far as 1949, when Ord. 49:009 changed Park to Melrose, with more changes in 1954, 1957, 1958 (6 street names changed that year), 1962, 1964 & the 2 that prob really stick with people are 1979 Res. 79:1855 changing by-pass from 63 to Joe Martin Expressway & 1977 Ord. 77:2121 changed Young Rd to Stadium Blvd—& we all know that changed again in 2013.

In conclusion, we certainly have changed the names of multiple roads & members of the current council have done so.

I ask you, please, let's get this done. Let's not be the topic of a sad, corrosive & disruptive conversation any longer. Our city seal heralds PEOPLE, PRIDE, PROGRESS. Please, let's honor that & finally move forward on naming the eastern by-pass, in it's entirety, for the esteemed Dr Martin Luther King.

I thank you for your time & always for your service to our city.