

Street Name Change, NC-17-001
Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

Summary of Response Forms

Number of response forms mailed: 289
 Number of response forms received back: 65
 Number of forms indicating support of name change: 20 (12 abutting, 8 non-abutting)
 Number of forms indicating opposition of name change: 45 (28 abutting, 17 non-abutting)

Comments indicating Support – Abutting Addresses

1. I strongly support changing the name of the street, and I like the idea of naming it after Ms. Morton. However, I don't like the idea of having to spell out the name every time I tell someone my address. Would you consider A.T. Morton Rd? Thanks!
2. Recently we attended a presentation at the Bob Bullock State History Museum given by a Mr. John Nau, who has some of his Civil War collection on display. When asked about the removal of various Civil War monuments and names his reply was fascinating! He felt one should discover why the statue or name was placed. For example, most seem to have been placed to honor the men as 'service men', while others were specifically placed to commemorate or honor the Civil War. In his opinion, when honoring a soldier for his service, the name / statue should remain. However, if it was named / placed to honor the civil war, it should be removed. Before renaming the street, I'd like to know the history of the original naming. Do you know why Robert E Lee Street was named as it was? Perhaps because Robert E Lee camped along Barton Creek -- as I read in a local hiking book. All of us have complicated lives -- and although Robert E Lee was a Confederate General, he also served as an instructor at West Point after the Civil War. Did you know that our government confiscated his family property in Virginia? They buried Civil War soldiers 5 feet from the family home's kitchen door -- and the Lee property is now what is known as Arlington National Cemetery. Perhaps we should let his name remain on one small road in Austin! If, for a good reason, we should change the name, please let it be a simple name -- NOT something as unusual and long as Azie Taylor Morton Road. Yikes -- would you like to have to spell that all the time!! How about South Zilker Road -- that is what it is.
3. My wife and I knew Azie Taylor Morton when she was employed at the Texas State AFL-CIO Office. We were college students, Azie working toward an education degree and I working on a law degree. She graduated cum laude and received her degree in commercial education. Her rise to the position of Treasurer of the United States deserves the pride and appreciation of America, Texas, and Austin! We would be honored to have her name grace the street sign on Spring Creek and Robert E Lee, which happens to be in our front yard.

Comments indicating Support – Non-abutting Addresses

1. "Azie Taylor Morton" is kind of long. Can we just use Azie Morton?

Comments indicating Opposition – Abutting Addresses

1. Although, we fully support the name change - it absolutely must change - we graciously request that an alternative name be selected. Please consider Carroll Harris Simms Rd or Charles Umlauf Rd. or Umlauf Rd or Melvin Edwards Rd.

Street Name Change, NC-17-001

Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

2. A small list of choices should be given; information about the individual being honored would be nice. This feels like it is being forced; an option should be considered to shorten such a long name ie: AT Morton Rd.

3. Greetings, I am writing to express my opposition to the renaming of Robert E Lee Road in Austin. I am a stakeholder; myself, my partner, and my family have owned property on this street for more that forty years. My opposition isn't politically motivated, but stems from strong personal concerns about current trends that would attempt to "whitewash" history, rather than own it and meet the challenge (and reward) of actually comprehending it. I do understand that's its trendy to dismiss and remove reminders that would glorify confederate historical figures, but with respect to Texas history and Robert E Lee in particular, his name and participation traces back to the realization of Manifest Destiny, and the Mexican-American War when he first distinguished himself as a brilliant ad promising young officer in south Texas his subsequent participation in the American Civil War was as nuanced as it was regrettable to many, but it neither exempts, not dismisses him from his prominence in the American story, and our history. I would further argue that removing his name where it appears is a slight to future generations in that it discourages curiosity to understand who we were and what we are today. Our present national political climate is as much a consequence of our collective forgetfulness as it is simple ignorance. Understanding and remembering Robert E Lee is a necessary, if painful exercise in understanding ourselves. FWIW, I consider myself a left-leaning progressive; a former Obama voter an impassioned supporter. I make it no secret that I oppose our current president and administration at every opportunity, I didn't sit the last election out. That said, I also resent the presumed political division that subscription to this stated position so often implies, but the act of removing all distasteful reminders of our past to appease current social agendas is a dire mistake, and both slight to the presumed intellect of future generations as much as it is an arrogant disgrace to our own.

4. Being 1/2 American Indian I feel the most appropriate name should be Tonkawa Indian Rd in honor of "All American Indians" who have killed by the 1,000's over the last couple of hundred years. This is the real history of this area that is so special to Austin and the heart and soul. To remind people of who lived here for 1,000's of years.
 Have been at this location since 1999 with my Wife and 4 kids. To enjoy the Heart and Soul of Austin across the street with our springs and parks. Move to Austin in 1984 to open [redacted names of businesses]. I personally feel a Great connection to Austin Community and Cultural over all these years. And Feel Austin is coming a World Class City that people take notice on our decisions and directions. While I have a problem changing the Street name for so many reasons, a few listed below. I hope this is not a classic example of Austin city politics that have already made its decision? And if that is the case, then I would like to see a full package compensation on my time and cost with such items listed below.
 - When do we stop trying to change history as it never happen!
 - Is the city going to provide the \$1,000's for each property owner on Robert E. Lee road
 - The expense of changing the street names
 - The cost of changing everyone's Deed
 - The time and cost of changing Driver's License
 - Time and cost of changing everyone's address on Insurance.
 - Credit cards

Street Name Change, NC-17-001
Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

- Bank Statements
- City Utilities and dozens more!

5. While Ms. Morton seems like she was a fine citizen, I would much rather this opportunity be taken to honor someone who embodied the spirit of Austin who was from this unique neighborhood such as AD Stenger, Roky Erickson, Cactus Pryor, etc. This would be more meaningful to the residents and city at large. The process that Ms. Kitchen decided to follow by not including the residents of the street is disrespectful, and is not the spirit of Austin nor this neighborhood. We are very disappointed in how she has chosen to act upon, rather than with, her constituents and the households of this street in particular.

While I am not opposed to a name change because Robert E Lee was essentially a traitor to the United States, fought for an unjust and inhumane system of slavery, and is not a desirable model of modern enlightenment and humanity, I believe that the choice and the process by which this name change is happening is inappropriate, and I am very disappointed in my councilperson Ms. Kitchen for her role in this. This is a missed opportunity to honor someone important from the neighborhood who was significant to the culture and history of the neighborhood and City of Austin as a whole. While Ms. Morton seems like a fine person who was very accomplished, especially outside of Austin, her accomplishments were not as directly significant to the neighborhood nor Austin as many other individuals contributions. Choosing her is a politically savvy, narrowly focused, reactionary offering based mostly on her being an African American that does, indeed, appropriately counterbalance a Confederate general who is a symbol of oppression and racism. I support trying to right a racially offensive wrong, and I am even all for a name change of the street I grew up on, but Ms. Morton is not an obvious choice other than for her racial identification. This selection is a lost opportunity to make a meaningful connection to the history and culture of the neighborhood when there are many other, better, more appropriate and equally deserving figures of Austin history from which to choose. There are many local visionaries who would make for a more evolved and significant choice from the neighborhood such as A.D. Stenger, the architect, builder and developer of the neighborhood that is currently in upheaval due to rising property taxes and subsequent redevelopment because of the success Stenger helped create. He is one of the early shapers of the creative resistance that gave birth to the Austin Weird Era and our identity that helped instigate a prosperous and thriving creative city. And other creative geniuses like Roky Erickson of the 13th Floor Elevators who established and coined the term for the psychedelic genre of music. He grew up in the neighborhood next to Stenger's family, and he is much more germane to the history and culture of this neighborhood and of Austin. Or Cactus Pryor, neighbor, client, and friend of A.D. Stenger and an important entertainment personality. Or John Henry Faulk who also was friends and a client of Stenger's and a nationally noted political commentator and humorist who lived in a Stenger home in the neighborhood. Or even Leslie Cochran who was the symbol of the Austin Weird Era. Any of these would be a much more genuine candidate for renaming a street that is the gateway to our neighborhood. But it has turned into a failure of leadership. Ms. Kitchen's selection is a misguided attempt to do the right thing, and it is marred by the poorly executed process of Ms. Kitchen's that excluded the residents of the street, public discourse, and understanding of the contextual meaning to the neighborhood or more broadly to the City of Austin. This is a lost opportunity to actually do the right thing, rather than to do just what looks like the right thing to do.

Street Name Change, NC-17-001

Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

6. The proposed name is way too long. Also has no purpose/tie to Austin. If we are going to change it, make it shorter and have meaningful context to our neighborhood or Austin.
7. This is crazy and will cost us more money. Why do we allow them to change history because they want to take over?
8. I strongly object to any name change to Robert E Lee Rd. The reason being it presents a huge burden to the Residents to change all of our mailing address on all of our documents. Plus the name chosen per this letter is so long and difficult to pronounce that it creates a burden. Please please leave our street name alone!!!
9. This presents a HUGE and undue burden to the residents of Robert E Lee Rd, in the name of political expediency. I strongly object to this change and intend to fight against it.
10. Changing our streets name would be a needless waste of time and money...for both Robert E Lee home-owners and the city. At a minimum, it's based on an ill-informed, knee jerk revision of American history. The Civil War was primarily an issue of states' rights and homeland, not of slavery. The city should be prepared to change its name from Austin if we change the name of our street; Stephen F Austin supported slavery as the only way to profitable grow cotton. Remember: those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. Bottom line: do not let the ill-informed "do-gooders" waste the time and money of our city and its homeowners.
11. Street name is too long.
12. A name change of an existing street is unnecessary. I have lived at this property for 25 years and the disruption, inconvenience, cost, and potential risk to my family is unacceptable. The name you have suggested, I fully support, but should be used for a new street. Furthermore a shorter name would be more desirable for a residential address. Can you imagine having to spell such a long name EVERY time you give someone your address? Finally, if a name change is insisted upon by all of those offended, why not extend the name "Bluebonnet Rd" since this section of roadway is an extension of the existing Bluebonnet Rd.
13. I strongly object to changing the name of my street. Although, the proposed name is to honor a very accomplished African American, Azie Taylor Morton, it is not enough of a reason to alter the lives of all the people living on Robert E Lee Rd. My father built our home on Robert E Lee Rd in 1952-1953, and has been owned and occupied by me and my family since then. With all the new construction in Austin, why not name a new street in honor of Ms. Morton, instead of disrupting the current residents living on Robert E Lee Road? Robert E Lee, was an officer in the United States Army before the Civil War, and the street was named after him because it is said he camped near here with his United States Army. He eventually led his troops into Mexico during the US Mexico War. If we are going to change all names we don't like, like streets named for people that either owned slaves or fought for the Confederacy, then we also need to change the name of our City, and County, just for starters. Where does it all stop? Slavery was a terrible period in American history, but it still occurred. History cannot be changed, but we can learn from past mistakes.

Street Name Change, NC-17-001

Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

14. 1) Changing the name will create an unnecessary inconvenience & expense. I will need to spend time changing the address and will need to purchase new checks, business cards, and the like. 2) If the name is changed please change it to a more generic and shorter name. Robert E Lee Road Unit 8 is a long address. It does not fit in the address spaces at many medical facilities and other address lines. Changing to a shorter name like Zilker Road would be considerably more convenient. -I understand the appropriateness of recognizing people of distinction but please make it short. - Please reimburse us for the costs incurred with the change or allow us to use the current address for 5 years or so to mitigate the costs included.
15. This is NOT practical! Imagine trying to explain this name to anyone in a call center or 911...Not Good!
16. I agree with changing the name, however the proposed name is too long and will be difficult to communicate to others. How about extending Melridge Pl to be Melridge Rd since it feels like the same Road as Robert E Lee Rd?
17. I have lived on Robert E Lee Rd for 19 years; all my legal, historical, professional, & identification paperwork has that designated address - I strongly disagree with changing the name. RE Lee has a true historical connection to Austin. He was a flawed man of his age like every other human being. This rush to obliterate everything that could be offensive has gone too far, in my opinion. I do agree with removing statues that glorify war, including the civil war.
18. I feel the suggested name is too long and complicated - and do not support naming after a person. If the name were to be changed I feel it should be reflective of recreational location to enhance property values. I believe following names would be more appropriate given location at back entrance to Barton Springs: 1) Springs Pool Rd 2) South Springs Pool Rd 3) River Road (the original name until 1938).
19. WAY too clunky. Please note that: I propose 1) Lady Bird Lane or 2) River Road or 3) Lazy Lane. We own a condo @ [redacted]. The proposed name Azie Taylor Morton Rd. is awfully clunky. Does not quite roll off the tongue. I know who Azie Taylor Morton was, she was from Texas, first and only African American to hold the office of Treasurer of the US. All good, all good, just does not quite sync. Here are names that would suit the area and the neighborhood quite well, or at least we think so: a) Honestly – “Azie Lane” would be GREAT! Here a few others: b) Stevie Ray Road – He did live in the neighborhood c) Lady Bird Lane d) River Road e) Lazy Lane f) Umlauf Rd. g) Lazy River Road.
20. Please don't change the street name. With dozens of websites and other vendors that have my address in their databases, the disruption will be profound, expensive & unnecessary.
21. As “affected property owners” (and “interested parties”) we are writing regarding the proposed street name change for the road currently called Robert E Lee. Though this is a change we concur with heartily, and whose time has come, we do have concerns about the current proposal. With all due respect to the very accomplished Azie Taylor Morton, she has no relevance to this location. The confluence of Barton Creek and Ladybird Lake is arguably the heart and soul of our beautiful city. The renaming of an intersecting street in this area is a great opportunity to add to our cartographic poetry in a meaningful way. In this spirit, we would like

Street Name Change, NC-17-001

Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

to offer some options: SOS Avenue, Blind Salamander Way, Parthenia Street, Zenobia Lane, Livings Springs Road, Waterloo Way, Eliza Springs Road, Zilker Way, Sacred Springs Road, 68° Drive. Please consider a public hearing or a period of public input from our highly creative citizenry in order to optimize this opportunity.

22. I am against changing the name to a long unfamiliar name that is difficult to spell, remember, etc. something simple and convenient to use would be a much better choice. Let me know if you need suggestions. Who is Azie Taylor Morton, anyway?

Comments indicating Opposition – Non-abutting Addresses

1. A name change of an existing street is unnecessary. I have lived at this property for 25 years and the disruption, inconvenience, cost, and potential risk to my family is unacceptable. The name you have suggested, I fully support, but should be used for a new street. Furthermore a shorter name would be more desirable for a residential address. Can you imagine having to spell such a long name EVERY time you give someone your address? Finally, if a name change is insisted upon by all of those offended, why not extend the name "Bluebonnet Rd" since this section of roadway is an extension of the existing Bluebonnet Rd.
2. Changing the name is fine but the new proposed name is unduly complicated. Purpose of street names is for directions and ease of use. Imagine trying to communicate "Azie Taylor Morton Road" to a business or delivery person. Impossible. Simplify it, name a building after ATM, not a main road. Suggestions: Umlauf Road.
3. Please shorten the name or consider Umlauf Rd since the Umlauf Family has so graciously given the city the beautiful grounds.
4. The entire idea is idiotic and a waste of time and money. The fact that city government is even spending time on such a thing is embarrassing. A far better use of our time and effort would be to repave the street which is desperately overdue. Finally, if you insist on changing the name, it would be far better to have a one or two word name. The three-word name 'Azie Taylor Morton' is going to be really annoying to people living on that street who have to write it out over and over. When I have out of town guests and give directions how to find my house, I'll tell them "turn from Barton Springs Rd onto Morton Road" and hope they don't get confused when they see the sign.
5. American History is messy. No need to polish out all the messy details as if they didn't happen.
6. There is no need to change this street name. We cannot or should not erase history!! The actions to remove statues; change school names etc. etc., is not valid. Again, we should never attempt to erase history; one learns from history.
7. While I support a name change to Robert E Lee Rd, I do not approve of the change to Azie Taylor Morton Rd. I propose the change to Stevie Ray Vaughn Rd instead.
8. I am not opposed to a name change to the road that is now Robert E. Lee Road but I am opposed to renaming it to Azie Taylor Morton Rd for the following reasons: 1) A street name should first and foremost be easy to say, understand and spell. The propose name will pose a

Street Name Change, NC-17-001

Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Taylor Morton Road

constant burden to any resident that has to provide the name to someone and will need to be spelled out virtually every time. 2) I have no idea who Azie Taylor Morton is and suspect that the vast majority of people living and using this thoroughfare will not know who she is either. I trust that she is a honorable figure and has ties to Austin but this just paves the way for competition for future street naming's and I can see it getting political in nature. Street names should not take sides or having any undertones or moral messaging. 3) Any time a person's name is used, particularly a modern historical name, it brings discontent to at least a portion of the population. For that reason I recommend using a name not associated with any particular person but instead name the street after some other feature of nature, be in flora or fauna.

9. A.D. Stinger developed this area. The road should be change to the great Austin man.
10. I don't think we should engage in revisionist history...regardless of whether we approve of that piece of history or not. Learn from it, don't cowardly make it disappear.