

EXCERPT FROM BRYAN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2016:

h. Consideration - Naming of Highway 47 to Riverside Parkway

Councilmember Owens moved to name Highway 47 as Riverside Parkway in honor of the Brazos County community of Riverside, which was permanently eliminated during World War II when the federal government needed the property now known as the Riverside Campus in order to build the Bryan Army Air Field. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hardeman. It was explained that even though the vast majority of Highway 47 is within the Bryan city limits, the staff should coordinate this effort with both Brazos County and the City of College Station for those portions of the highway located outside the City of Bryan in order for the highway to bear the same name throughout its length. It was added this naming of Riverside Parkway has been proposed and is supported by the Brazos County Historical Commission. The motion carried with all present voting aye.

September 27, 2016

RE: proposed naming of State Highway 47 as Riverside Parkway



CITY OF BRYAN
The Good Life, Texas Style.™

Dear Highway 47 property owner -

Brazos Central Appraisal District records indicate that you own real property in Brazos County that lies adjacent to State Highway 47 between State Highway 21 and Raymond Stotzer Parkway (FM 60). This letter informs you of a proposal to name State Highway 47 “Riverside Parkway” to help remember the Riverside Community which existed on property now commonly referred to as Texas A&M University System Riverside (or RELLIS) Campus at the southwest corner of State Highways 21 and 47 in Brazos County. If you have any feedback regarding the matter, we ask that you contact us by the means described below by **12 Noon on Friday, October 7, 2016.**

BACKGROUND:

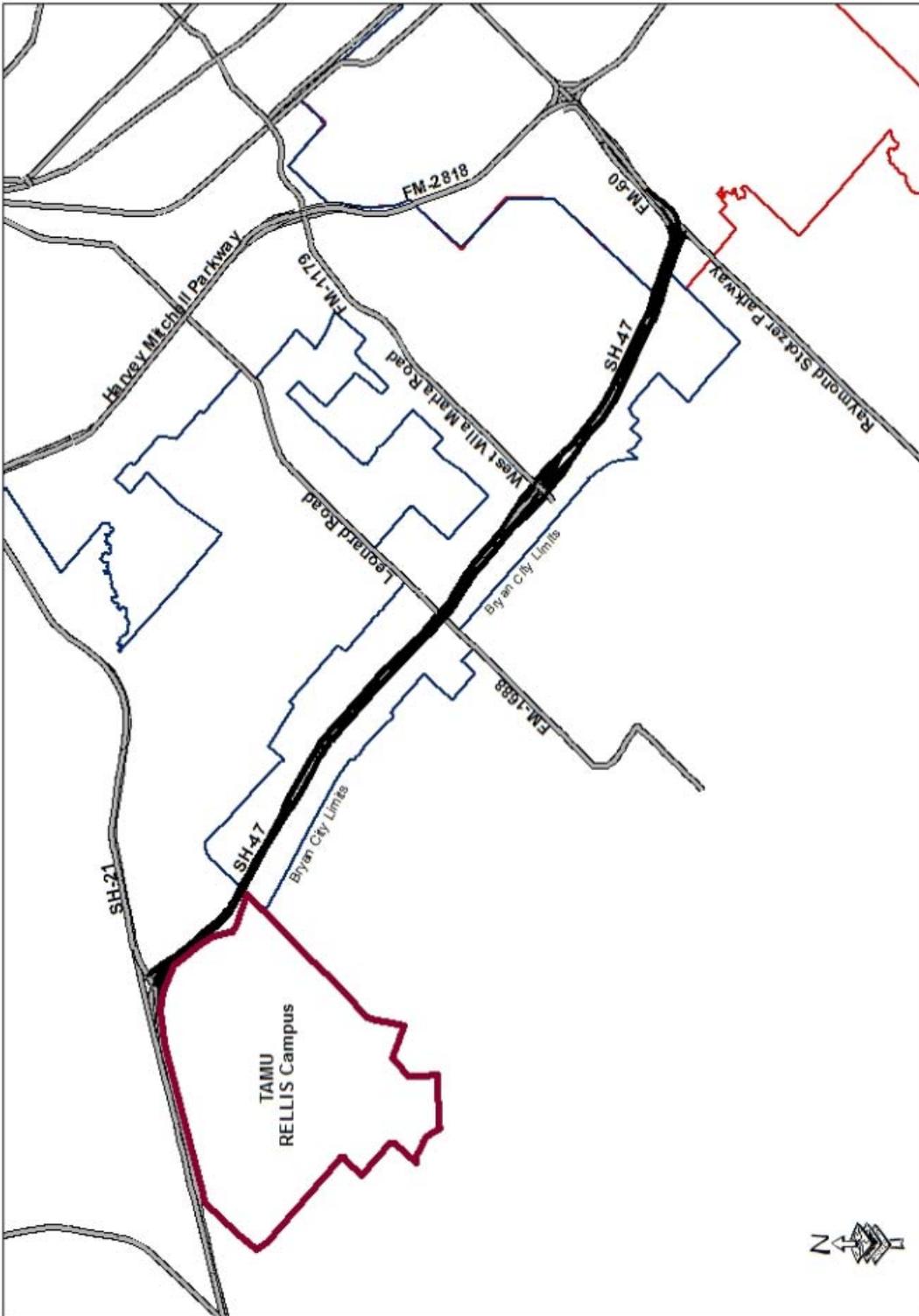
On July 12, 2016, the Bryan City Council voted to direct City staff to pursue the assigning of the name “Riverside Parkway” to Highway 47 in honor of the former western Brazos County community of Riverside. The approval of assigning a name to a state roadway lies with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The Riverside community existed from the late 19th century until 1942 when the federal government purchased nearly 2000 acres of land, including all of the Riverside Community, to establish the Bryan Army Airfield. Having been in use as a military facility between 1943 and 1961, ownership was transferred to Texas A&M University in 1962. For a number of years, the property was known as the Riverside Campus. In September 2015, the university announced a 150 million dollar campus renovation planned to transform the property under a new name, RELLIS Campus.

Highway 47 is approximately 6.5 miles in length with all but 1.1 miles of that distance lying within the current city limits of Bryan. Please also refer to the map on the reverse of this letter. In order to facilitate an efficient transition to the new name and to ensure that the road bears the same name along its entire length, the City staff is working to coordinate the naming process with TxDOT and the City of College Station.

CONTACT:

If you have questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact Martin Zimmermann, by 12 Noon on Friday, October 7, 2016, either by phone at 979.209.5030 or email at: mzimmermann@bryantx.gov.



RESOLUTION NO _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS, SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF TEXAS STATE HIGHWAY 47 AS “RIVERSIDE PARKWAY” TO HELP PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THE FORMER WESTERN BRAZOS COUNTY COMMUNITY OF RIVERSIDE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE;

WHEREAS, the Riverside community was once situated in the immediate area now located southwest of the intersection of Texas State Highway 47 and State Highway 21 in Brazos County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, immigrant families and African-American farmers settled the Riverside community in western Brazos County over 100 years ago, to make a better life for themselves; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside community was eliminated in 1942 in the interest of national defense in order to permit the construction of the Bryan Army Airfield upon the United States’ entry into the Second World War; and,

WHEREAS, many Riverside community families were displaced on very short notice, with minimal recompense, for the construction of the Bryan Army Air Field; and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, the site of the Riverside community was known as the Texas A&M University “Riverside Campus” and, as such, provided decades of education, training and innovative research; and,

WHEREAS, the former site of the Riverside community is currently known as the Texas A&M University System RELLIS Campus; and,

WHEREAS, since its original designation in 1987, Texas State Highway 47, has served as a western gateway into Bryan, College Station, and Texas A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Bryan has previously declared that as a matter of public policy the preservation, protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of historic and cultural resources are necessary to promote the economic, cultural, educational, and general welfare of the public; and,

WHEREAS, during its regular meeting on July 12, 2016, the Bryan City Council directed City staff to pursue the assigning of the name “Riverside Parkway” to Texas State Highway 47 in honor of the former community of Riverside; and,

WHEREAS, the naming of Texas State Highway 47 as “Riverside Parkway” will help serve to perpetuate the memory of the Riverside community; and,

WHEREAS, the Brazos County Historical Commission endorsed the naming of Texas State Highway 47 after the former western Brazos County community of Riverside; and,

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the City of College Station, Texas State Highway 47 would be designated Riverside Parkway through the City limits of Bryan and College Station;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS:

1.

That the City of Bryan hereby supports the designation of Texas State Highway 47 as “Riverside Parkway” and thereby requests that the Texas Department of Transportation take the appropriate action and make the necessary changes to designate Texas State Highway 47 as a memorial route for the former western Brazos County community of Riverside.

2.

It is hereby found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution was adopted was open to the public as required by law and notice of time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

3.

That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bryan, Texas, at a regular meeting on the 25th day of October, 2016.

ATTEST:

CITY OF BRYAN:

Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary

Jason P. Bienski, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Janis K. Hampton, City Attorney