

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services

**PREPARED BY:** Meg West, Manager, Business Planning and Projects

**DATE:** August 20, 2018

**RE:** Street name change from Rivis Road to University Boulevard

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## **BACKGROUND:**

The Council approved street name Rivis Road was applied to the road registered Parts 3, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 51 on plan 65R-27018 in 2006 (see Figure 1). The name of the road was chosen to reflect the fact that the Rivis Family farmed this land in the 1800's. Further, the Thomas Rivis House, which was designated under Part 4 of the Heritage Act in 2002, in proximity to Rivis Road is located on the south side of YMCA Boulevard adjacent to the YMCA facility. The City historian confirmed that there are no members of the Rivis Family left in the area to consult, with respect to the proposed name change.

York University will be building a satellite campus on the lands on the east side of the current Rivis Road and south of Enterprise Boulevard (see Figure 1). York University had requested that the campus address to be on University Boulevard (see Attachment 1 - memo from Bud Purves, President, York University Development Corporation).

## **OPTIONS:**

Staff brought forward a memo to Council at the June 25<sup>th</sup> Development Services Committee Meeting to change Rivis Road to University Avenue. Committee referred the item back to staff to look at alternative considerations (see Attachment 2).

Staff reviewed options for another roadway in Markham Centre, such as YMCA Boulevard or the future alignment of Enterprise Boulevard be split.

## **YMCA Boulevard:**

As York University will be fronting on the north/south road, currently Rivis Road, and the City is retaining the southern portion of the property, renaming YMCA Boulevard will not provide York with the address on University Boulevard.

## **Future alignment of Enterprise Boulevard:**

At the June 25<sup>th</sup> DSC meeting Committee asked staff to consider renaming a portion of Enterprise Boulevard east of the GO Line to University Boulevard.

The future plans for Enterprise Boulevard relative to Verdale Road is yet to be determined and the outcome is not certain. It will be long past when York University's new campus opens before we have finalized the road network alignment in this area.

When contemplating a street name change the name should run continuously throughout its entire length. Any street name change must occur at an intersection and not mid-block. Staff would not consider a change where there are no definite street termination points. The GO Train bridge would not satisfy this principle.

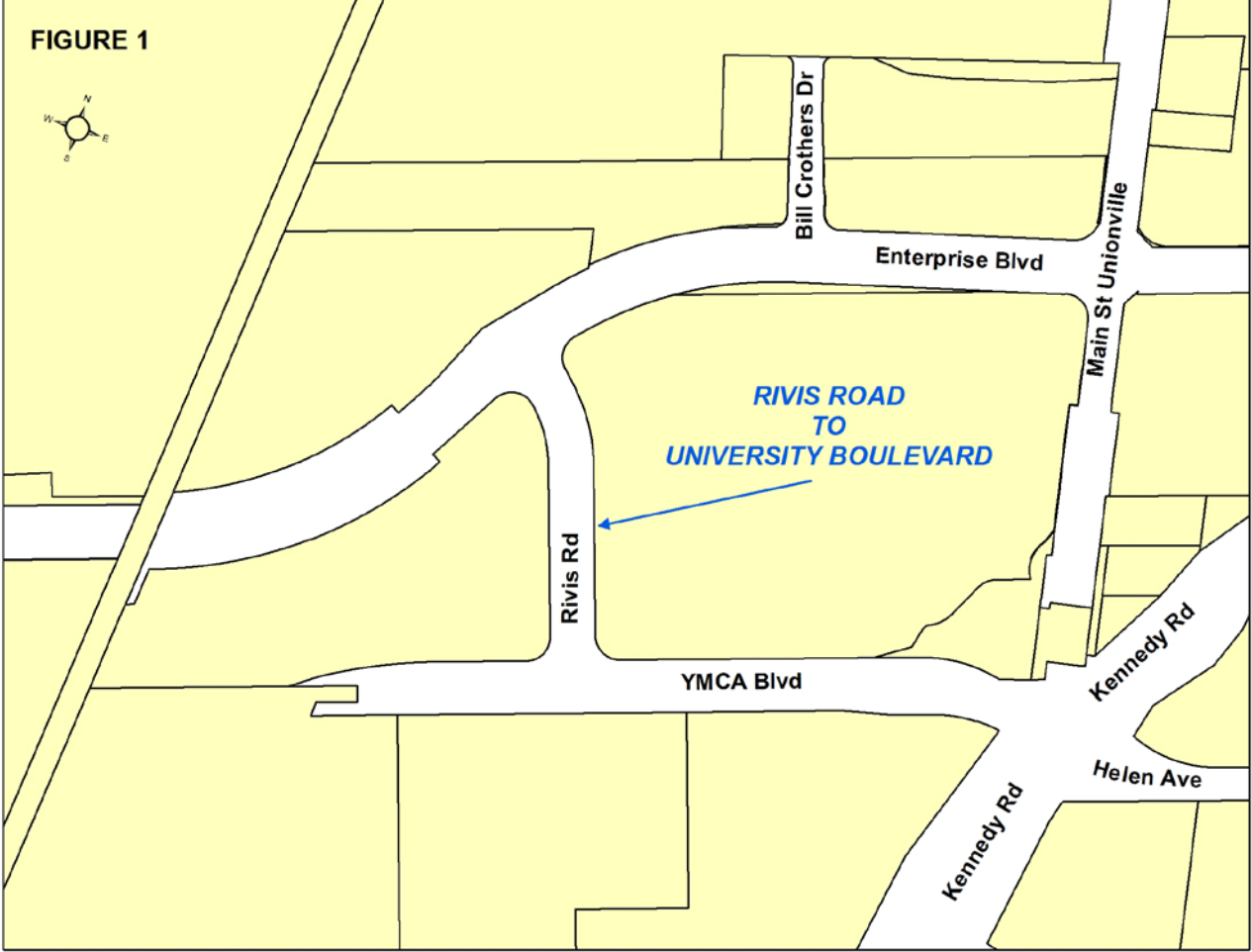
When considering a street name change consideration must be given to the residents and businesses that would be affected. For residential units, address changes require residents to request updates to a variety of government documents, utility and private billing information, and loan and insurance documents. Businesses would be required to change business card, letter head and website information, as well as lease/mortgage documents and utility and private billing information. They would also have to contact suppliers to update delivery information. Both residents and businesses would also be subject to the delays by utilities, Canada Post and electronic navigation services in updating their address information, thereby causing letter and package delivery issues.

If the City was to rename the portion of Enterprise Boulevard east of the tracks Council would need to direct Staff to proceed with a report recommending a street name change and to hold a community information session followed by a Public Meeting. The City would be required to contact every landowner with frontage onto the affected street and obtain written approval for the change, regardless of whether or not they have a municipal address onto the subject street.

Staff contacted the only landowner with frontage on the west side of Ravis Road (Metropia Development) and they have confirmed that they have no concern with the name change. In addition, a representative from Metropia Development was at the June 25<sup>th</sup> Development Services Committee meeting and indicated support for "University Boulevard".

Once built, the York University Markham Campus will front on to the east side of the road. Given the significance of York University building a satellite campus in Markham Centre, the first university campus in York Region and Markham, staff recommend that the road named Ravis Road be renamed to University Boulevard. Accordingly, Staff is seeking Council's authorization to proceed with the requested street name change.

**FIGURE 1**



Document Path: Q:\Geomatics\Departments\CAO\Meg West\Rename Rivis Road.mxd

August 8, 2018

Mr. Andy Taylor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Dear Mr. Taylor:

**Re: Request for Street Name Change – Ravis Road to University Boulevard**

York University will establish a major educational and institutional presence in the City of Markham in September 2021 when the doors of its new Markham Centre Campus open for the first time. More than 4,000 students and some 400 faculty will occupy the first phase of an emerging Centre of Excellence in post-secondary education and research. In the fullness of time, it is contemplated that student enrollment at the Markham Centre Campus will grow to as many as 10,000 students, to meet the growing demand from the City of Markham, and beyond.

To-date, the Council and citizens of Markham have demonstrated immense support for this initiative through the unprecedented contribution of the lands on which the campus will be built. We believe it a fitting opportunity, and further affirmation of the City's support of this new institution of higher education if it was located on a street bearing a name that denotes its significance. Accordingly, we respectfully request that Markham Council consider re-naming the abutting street on the west side of the campus site from Ravis Road to *University Boulevard*. We feel the new name will not only signify the presence of the institution while being distinct from a similar roadway in the surrounding Greater Toronto Area.

We thankfully acknowledge you bringing this matter before Markham City Council for their consideration, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request with you.

Yours truly,  
YORK UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



N.W. Bud Purves

cc: Meg West, City of Markham



**EXCERPT CONTAINING ITEM #0006 OF THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (June 25, 18)**

**6. STREET NAME CHANGE FROM RIVIS ROAD TO UNIVERSITY AVENUE (10.14)**

**Memo**

**The Committee considered using the Boulevard or Street designation, to differentiate this location from Toronto's University Avenue. It was suggested that the Rivis name remain on another road in Markham Centre, or that the University name be used on another roadway such as YMCA Boulevard or the future Enterprise Boulevard split.**

**A representative of Metropia Developments, located on Rivis Road, was in attendance and indicated support for University Boulevard.**

**Moved by: Councillor Don Hamilton**

**Seconded by: Councillor Alex Chiu**

**That the street name change from Rivis Road to University Avenue, be referred back to staff for alternative considerations.**

**CARRIED**