



# STREET NAMING GUIDE

ADA COUNTY ASSESSOR  
LAND RECORDS DIVISION  
190 E FRONT ST, STE 107, BOISE, ID 83702  
PH (208) 287-7262 | FAX (208) 287-7219  
streetnamemail@adaweb.net

## OVERVIEW

All public and private street names in Ada County must be approved by county or city government before use. The jurisdiction with approval authority is based on the street's location. While each jurisdiction has its own standards for street naming, review of all street name applications is administered by a single agency, the Ada County Assessor Land Records Division.

## AUTHORITY

The Land Records Division administers the appropriate regulations based on a street's location during the application review. Street naming standards apply as follows:

Unincorporated Ada County (except Boise city impact area): [Ada County Code](#) Title 2, Chapter 1.

City of Boise (including city impact area): [Boise City Code](#) Title 9, Chapter 6.

City of Meridian: [Meridian City Code](#) Title 8, Chapter 2.

Cities of Eagle, Star, Garden City and Kuna: These cities have an agreement with Ada County for the administration of street naming. Ada County's standards are followed for streets in these cities.

## APPLICATION

To apply for new street names or to change an existing street name the following must be submitted to the Land Records Division:

1. A completed application form.
2. A plan which shows proposed streets, adjacent streets and legible street name labels. For streets part of a proposed subdivision or condominium, a copy of the preliminary plat must be submitted.

## COST

There is no direct fee charged for street name applications. Fees for the street naming process have been incorporated into the fees for the associated development applications.

## REVIEW PROCESS FOR NEW STREETS

1. Note about review process. A street name application for a new street is associated with a development application, such as for a subdivision, condominium or private road. The street name review is one part of the development review and is subordinate to that process.

2. Application Review. After receiving a complete application, the Land Records Division will review it for conformance with applicable regulations. As part of the review, the application will be forwarded to various agencies for comment including the Ada County Highway District (ACHD), Ada County Sheriff Dispatch, the fire department which serves the subject street, and the city planning department if the street is in an incorporated city. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received and the review typically takes 2-3 weeks.
3. Approval/Denial. Applications found to be out of compliance with regulations will be denied and returned to the applicant with an explanation of the reasons for denial. Conforming applications are either approved or recommended for approval to the entity with final authority, depending on the street's location:

Unincorporated Ada County (except Boise city impact area): The Land Records Division approves street names.

City of Boise (including city impact area): Street name approval is granted with final approval of the associated development application by city council.

City of Meridian: Street name approval is granted with final approval of the associated development application by city council.

Cities of Eagle, Star, Garden City and Kuna: The Ada County Land Records Division approves street names.

4. Limits of Approval. There are a few circumstances in which street name approval will be rescinded and an applicant must reapply for approval:
  - a. The applicant changes the layout of a proposed street after approval.
  - b. Approval of the associated development application is not obtained within 24 months of street name approval.
  - c. Another development receives final approval before the applicant's development and that development's street names or layout cause the applicant's proposed names to be out of compliance with applicable regulations.

## **REVIEW PROCESS FOR STREET NAME CHANGES**

Applications for street name changes go through the same review detailed above but are also reviewed a second time by another entity. For streets in unincorporated Ada County, applications must go to hearing before the Board of County Commissioners for final approval. For streets in incorporated cities, the second review body differs depending on the jurisdiction. If you wish to apply to change a street name, contact the Land Records Division and staff will assist you with the process.

## **APPEALS**

Decisions on street names made by county or city officials may be appealed. The process is different depending on the jurisdiction. If you wish to file an appeal contact the Land Records Division and staff will assist you. Do this as soon as possible because there are time limits on when an appeal must be filed with each jurisdiction (the time period can be as short as 10 days after the decision). More information on appeals can be found in the appropriate code section listed above.

## STREET SIGNS

All street signs must be installed and maintained in conformance with ACHD standards as well as the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices”. Installation and maintenance of street signs for private roads is the responsibility of the applicant or property owner.

## STREET NAME STANDARDS

General Standards. The following general standards apply to streets located in unincorporated Ada County and the cities of Eagle, Star, Garden City and Kuna. This is not a complete list of all requirements. The standards for Boise and Meridian are similar to these but with some differences. For a list of all requirements for each jurisdiction refer to the appropriate code section listed above.

1. Predirectional. Street names must include a predirectional (*North, South, East or West*) based on the street’s general direction of travel relative to the initial point of the addressing district the street is located in. The words *North, South, East* and *West* may not be used in any other part of the street name.
2. Post type. Street names must include one of the following post types based on the street’s characteristics:
  - *Street:* An east-west street generally running in a straight line.
  - *Avenue:* A north-south street generally running in a straight line.
  - *Drive:* A meandering street running generally east-west.
  - *Way:* A meandering street running generally north-south.
  - *Court:* An east-west cul-de-sac.
  - *Place:* A north-south cul-de-sac.
  - *Road\*:* A street which travels through both urban and rural areas.
  - *Boulevard\*:* A street that is 80 feet or more in width with a raised, usually-landscaped median.
  - *Lane:* A private road.

\*Use of *Road* and *Boulevard* post types must be approved by ACHD.

3. Length. Street names cannot be longer than 13 characters in length including spaces.
4. Duplicate Names. Street names must not duplicate an existing name in spelling or pronunciation (*i.e. Bell Way, Belle Way*). Use of predirectionals or post types to differentiate between street names is not allowed (*i.e. N Belle Road/E Belle Road*).
5. Sound-a-likes. If a proposed street name sounds substantially similar to an existing name so as to create confusion in the dispatch of emergency services, it cannot be used.
6. Alignment. If a proposed street is in general alignment with an existing street, the name of the existing street must be used. Street segments that are separated by 150 feet or less perpendicular to the direction of travel and are separated by one mile or less along the direction of travel, or future development will likely cause them to be separated by one mile or less, are considered in alignment.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need assistance or have questions about the street naming process, please contact the county addressing technician at [streetnamemail@adaweb.net](mailto:streetnamemail@adaweb.net) or 208-287-7273.