



Texas House panel hears no opposition to designating part of Central Expressway for George W. Bush

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AUSTIN — Efforts to designate a portion of Central Expressway in honor of George W. Bush sped along in the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday.

Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, described his measure to rename a 4-mile stretch of Central near the new George W. Bush Presidential Center. A revised version of his proposal would have the designation apply to Central between Knox-Henderson and Park Lane.

More than 18,000 people have signed an online petition saying they don't want the roadway named for Bush. But the petition was not presented during the hearing, and no opposition was voiced.

Branch said the mayors of Dallas and University Park are onboard with the proposal, which will not rename the expressway on maps, but will bear the name George W. Bush Expressway in signs along the route. Branch said the cost of the signs will be paid by private donors, not taxpayers.

"This is a bipartisan effort. It's something that will be good for this part of the metroplex," Branch said.

Dan Bartlett, an adviser who served Bush when he was governor and president, was the only person to testify on the bill. He called it "another innovative tool to attract attention to what is an extraordinary library."

He said he hoped the Bush Center would be a major draw for the Dallas area.

"Regardless of political persuasion, it attracts people from all perspectives. It is a piece of history," Bartlett said.

The bill was left pending.

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