

8:30 a.m., Friday, August 22, 2025  
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

*On Friday, August 22, 2025, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at Mid-Plains Community College North Campus at 1101 Halligan Drive in North Platte, NE. The agenda, a recording of the meeting, attendance sheets, and handouts relevant to the business of this meeting are a part of the permanent minutes of record and are on file at NDOT Central Headquarters. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act (Statutes 84-1407 to 84-1414) was posted in the meeting room.*

## MEETING NOTICE

- Notice of the regularly scheduled meeting, including the time, location, and agenda, was advertised on the Department of Transportation and the State of Nebraska's websites no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- The agenda was emailed or mailed to commission members, NDOT staff, and interested persons no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- A media release was emailed on Friday, August 15, 2025.
- The meeting agenda was kept current and available to the public in the Communication Division of the Nebraska Department of Transportation, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, Nebraska. No changes were made to the agenda within 48 hours prior to commencement.
- Copies of the meeting agenda were posted and available to the public at the entrance to the meeting room.

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- |                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| • Commissioner Richard Meginnis | District 1 |
| • Commissioner David Copple     | District 3 |
| • Commissioner James H. Kindig  | District 4 |
| • Commissioner Doug Leafgreen   | District 5 |
| • Commissioner Jim Hawks        | District 6 |
| • Commissioner Greg Wolford     | District 7 |
| • Director, Vicki Kramer        | Ex Officio |

Molly Mellinger, NDOT Executive Coordinator, was recording. A transcript of the meeting is available upon request. Nebraska State Highway Commission meetings are conducted in compliance with the statutes of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

## CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner **Wolford** called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- The chair requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.
- The June 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes were called for approval.
  - Motion made by Commissioner **Hawks; Meginnis** seconded.
  - Motion carried by unanimous rollcall vote

## INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chair **Wolford** called for Commissioner and NDOT introductions.
- Welcome from District 6 Commissioner **Hawks**.
  - Welcome, grateful for everyone who comes out to share their input.
  - Sparsely populated, but rural highways help transport a lot of agricultural products.
  - Welcome also to Cameron in his first year.

## MEETING BUSINESS

District 6 Program Presentation  
Cameron Craig, District 6 Engineer

- District 6 Overview
  - Contacts for each region
- 2025 Maintenance Project Highlights
  - Preservation program – spot patching, crack sealing, etc.
  - \$5.3 million annually for maintenance
- 2025 Construction Project Highlights
  - Let ~\$130 million for projects
  - Projects with great improvements
    - US-83 Lake Maloney South
    - US-83 In North Platte, Leota – 1<sup>st</sup> Street
    - I-80 Ogallala – Roscoe
- One & Six-Year Highway Program
- Questions (none)

Public Input on District 6 Program

- Eric Seacrest representing the North Platte Area Chamber & Development Corporation
  - Thanks to NDOT
  - Improved intersection needed for Hershey Rail Park
  - Traffic volumes continue to increase in Newberry Access Road
  - Access problem: request to plan new Interstate interchange corridor for traffic and trade
  - Keep I-80 the best connection between East and West
  - \*\*Hershey Rail Park handout
- Gary Person, President of North Platte Area Chamber & Development Corporation
  - Eric provided details
  - Thanks for service
  - Rail creates interesting first designated inland port authority situation
  - Soon many entities will have rail access for their products
  - Concern about getting traffic in and out – 10-year plan
- Layne Groseth, City Administrator for the City of North Platte
  - Thank you for the partnership and the projects
  - This has improved safety and access
  - Thank you for the good working relationship between city and state

- Tom Werblow, Superintendent for McPherson County
  - o Appreciate your work
  - o Least populated county in Nebraska, 5<sup>th</sup> least populated county in the US
  - o 50 miles of pavement to care for in the county, lots of semi traffic, cattle, etc.
  - o Asphalt 10 feet wide makes things dicey
  - o Limited resources make it very difficult to maintain what we have—having to forego asphalt for gravel instead
  - o Question from Commissioner **Copple**: Is the 10-foot road you mentioned on the state highway system?
    - No, county roads

Highway 66 Connection in Louisville  
Brian Johnson, Roadway Design

- Project Purpose & Need
  - o Connect discontinuous route, reduce traffic, eliminate conflicts, improve N-50 and N-66 intersection
  - o At-grade crossing is needed
- Project Overview & Scope of Work
  - o Description of current discontinuous route
  - o Description of new continuous route (new alignment, at-grade crossing, trench & inlay, added turn lanes, closure of crossings to create single crossing)
- Design Features
  - o Segment A: Mill/Fill existing asphalt, 12' driving lane
  - o Segment B: 2' trench widening, mill/fill, 12' driving lane
  - o Segment C: rebuild curb, mill/fill, 12' driving lane
  - o Segment D: shifting center line, 12' driving lane, 6' shoulders, sidewalk, bridge
  - o Segment E: reverse curve, driveway, 12' driving lane 3' shoulders, curbs
  - o Final CE document will be submitted to FHWA later this year
- Public Involvement
  - o Project started as Louisville South Bypass (1990s)
  - o Project Scuttled (2000s)
  - o Resumed focus on at-grade crossing (2019)
  - o PI Open House for N-66 connection (2025)
    - 106 in attendance
    - 26 comments
    - Overall project support
    - Pedestrian concerns accounted for
- Cost and Schedule
  - o Estimated Cost: \$9 million
  - o Federal, State, and City funds
  - o Final design & letting 2026
  - o Construction Fall 2026 – Fall 2027
- Questions:
  - o Were people overwhelmingly, reasonably, or less than supportive?
    - They've been waiting for a long time—supportive.
  - o When was the idea of a bypass abandoned?
    - 2000s, people knew it wasn't going to happen
  - o What percentage is local?
    - A very small percentage, for the sidewalks
- Approval of Resolution 2025-5
  - o Motion for approval made by Commissioner **Copple**; Commissioner **Meginnis** seconded.
  - o Motion carried by rollcall vote, 6 – 0

#### DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

- Comments on making the project a reality, thanks to Lt. Gov, Senator Clements, City, etc. for persistence
- Thanks also to community of North Platte, had an opportunity to discuss with them
- Governor and I were in Ogallala recently speaking with them about their needs
- Continued resource constraints challenge the department to provide what is needed
- Will continue to work with Governor's Office & Legislature
- Reminder: We are funded through gas tax (~\$192/year)
- We will take care of existing assets with limited resources, continuing to look for ways to improve NSI across the state
- Very busy summer especially on the Interstate
- Encourage your friends and family to drive safely, plan to go back to legislature with safety focus
- Working closely w/ partners to get Niobrara project settled
- NDOT supported first meeting of Infrastructure Task Force instituted by LB 558, working on funding literacy
- Several grants pending, Infrastructure Hub is doing the same for our local partners
- Relaxed NEVI guidance
- Sunset of EOP and return of Rec Roads funds totaled ~\$11.5 million pay-in from NDOT to help balance the state budget – going forward any funds will come from Transportation revenue
- Question from Commissioner **Kindig**: Has there been any discussion about tollways?
  - o USDOT/FHWA don't allow tolling for existing infrastructure, some states have applied for exemption
  - o Focus on finding alternative revenue sources, user fees
  - o We've looked at what it would take to toll new infrastructure
  - o Consultant partnership, P3, AIAI, all working together to approach transportation funding
  - o No situation where a tolled route would be an efficiency route, lack of feasibility
- Question from Commissioner **Kindig**: Trucking companies use I-80 as thoroughfare. Is there any way for a surcharge?
  - o We're looking at this—what would an I-80 surcharge look like? What would a diesel fee look like?
- Question from Commissioner **Copple**: Is there any discussion about electric vehicles paying their fair share?
  - o It's pretty equal to what traditional users pay right now.

#### PUBLIC INPUT – STATEWIDE

- Michael Kerby
  - o Retiree from NSP, here to talk about those in NSP who gave ultimate sacrifice
  - o Recognition in other states—simple signs designating highway or bridge where state police/highway patrol troopers lose their lives
  - o Michael Farber #427 was struck and killed – Hampton interchange – We can do better to honor their service
  - o Proposal: provide a designator in the vicinity of the place they died in the line of duty
  - o \*\*handout
- Scott Black
  - o Retired NSP Investigator, currently Chief Sergeant at Arms for the Nebraska Legislature, speaking as retiree representative for State Troopers Association
  - o Unconditional support for Captain Kerby's initiative
  - o Proposed memorial signs would be a constant reminder for the motoring public
  - o Thank you for the chance to honor legacy officers and families
- Remark from Director **Kramer**: We've had two public servants killed under this administration—we're working on ways to get people to understand the importance of lives on the highway.
  - o Move over law last session, more work to do
  - o Continue to work w/ association to honor those lost

#### REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- Commissioner **Wolford**: This request doesn't exactly meet the naming highway policy, I don't know what the rules are for memorial signs. I'd like the department to come back w/ a presentation on what is and isn't allowed, then the commission can address this.
- Director **Kramer**: December may be too late if we need to address this legislatively. I'd suggest open conversation regarding your intent before then.
- Commissioner **Copple**: Do you think this is to the level that it will require legislative action?
- Director **Kramer**: If something does need to happen legislatively we will need to do something sooner. We'll get you information sooner, and if you can send your intent sooner then we can move before the December meeting.
- Commissioner **Wolford**: This raises a lot of questions. Let's figure out what we can and can't do.
- Commissioner **Kindig**: Michael called me and we talked about many of these things, so I thought it would be best if he came to make a presentation.
- Director **Kramer**: Given that the commission has the authority in many ways, it would make sense for the commission to make a formal request to the department that could then be carried.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) has two public meetings scheduled between now and the next Highway Commission meeting.
- First, NDOT will hold a public information open house meeting regarding proposed improvements along Nebraska Highway 1 and Nebraska Spur 13C in Cass County, Nebraska. The meeting will be held at the Elmwood Fire Hall, 601 N. 4th Street, Elmwood, NE 68349 on Thursday, September 4, 2025, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- An additional public information meeting regarding the Leota – 1st St NB Project in North Platte, Nebraska will be held at Harvest Christian Fellowship, 1501 S Dewey St. North Platte, NE 69101 on Tuesday, September 9th from 3:00 – 6:30 PM.
- The next Highway Commission Meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on October 24th, 2025 at Mid-Plains Community College McCook East Campus at 905 E 7th St in McCook, Nebraska.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- The chair adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

The following pages of the minutes are comprised of handouts provided by speakers during the public input portion of the meeting.

**Remarks by Eric Seacrest  
On behalf of North Platte Area Chamber & Development  
Presented at Nebraska Highway Commission meeting  
In North Platte NE, August 22, 2025**

**We applaud the Department of Transportation for valued accomplishments**  
We are grateful that the State Highway Commission provides opportunities for Nebraskans to discuss highways in a public forum.

We applaud the fine people associated with the Department of Transportation and their many accomplishments that benefit this state in countless, important ways.

**Improved intersection needed for Hershey Rail Park**

The 300-acre Hershey Rail Park on US Highway 30 west of North Platte recently was designated as the **first Union Pacific Focus Site** in Nebraska. Union Pacific Focus Sites are strategically selected to give businesses great access to the rail network and speeding time to market.

The Hershey Rail Park also is the **first designated Inland Port Authority** in the state of Nebraska.

The **North Platte area at last has an industrial rail park** with access to one of Nebraska's prime assets – the mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Development of the Hershey Rail Park is underway now **directly adjacent to US Highway 30**, just east of the town of Hershey and 12 miles west of North Platte.

US Highway 30 in this location is a two-lane highway that **lacks turning lanes**.

The Hershey Rail Park needs an **improved intersection on US 30 at the entrance** to the Rail Park. Once again, support from the State of Nebraska is important to economic development and opportunity.

We need and support the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation to timely plan, design and construct intersection improvements that will safely handle truck turning moves between the Rail Park and US Highway 30.

**Traffic volumes continue to increase on Newberry Access Road**

In the two years since this Commission last met in North Platte, traffic numbers of large trucks and other vehicles have continued to grow on Newberry Access Road east of North Platte (Nebraska Highway Link 56G).

A new truck stop recently opened on the north side of the I-80 interchange on Newberry Access. That is the **third truck stop** operating at this interchange.

Further north along Newberry Access, the **new Sustainable Beef plant** opened and is getting close to full production. Located in the middle of world-class beef country, this beef plant is expected to soon have 850 employees and their vehicles along with even more trucks coming and going on Newberry Access each day.

North of the I-80 interchange, Newberry Access **still is a two-lane road**. When Newberry Access was originally designed over 40 years ago, it was planned for two-lanes in each direction and **enough right of way was acquired for two additional lanes**.

Plans to add lanes to Newberry Access were **announced back in 2016** as part of the Build Nebraska Act and Transportation Innovation Act program.

The two-miles of Newberry Access Road from the I-80 interchange north to US 30 is **overdue for needed expansion to four lanes** along with intersection improvements to increase safety.

We look forward to learning about design plans for improvements and planned construction as soon as possible.

#### **Plan new Interstate interchange corridor for traffic and trade**

The **access problem** around North Platte is unique and serious. North Platte is located between two rivers and divided by one of the world's busiest freight railroad corridors and one of the largest railroad yards anywhere. North Platte currently is limited to essentially only seven roads in and out of the main part of the city.

This small number of access routes forces many drivers to use inefficient routes and causes a large amount of wasted time, energy and vehicle wear.

In addition, this situation is an emergency "time bomb" that someday may overwhelm the road network with tragic results. The Southwest part of North Platte is home to over half of the city's population and there is **NO way out to the South or Southwest** over the South Platte River.

13 miles separate the US 83/I-80 interchange here from the next interchange west at Hershey. Average separation between interchanges on I-80 west of Lincoln is 7 miles.

A new western corridor would help reduce congestion and accidents along the busy US 83 corridor through North Platte that has higher than acceptable accident rates.

The state has realized **enormous benefits by adding new corridors with Interstate interchanges** to improve links to population, employment and travel destinations, including:

- Corridor and interchange near Mahoney State Park and Strategic Air Command Museum close to South Bend.

- North 27<sup>th</sup> St. corridor and interchange in Lincoln.
- Locust Street corridor and interchange south of Grand Island.
- Kearney East Bypass and interchange east of Kearney.

If a road corridor is not planned, it cannot be protected or developed when needed in the future.

We urge and appreciate Nebraska Dept. of Transportation cooperation with local governments to study and designate a corridor for a future roadway and Interstate interchange west of North Platte.

### **Keep I-80 the best connection between East and West**

Nebraska's location along the prime East-West Interstate 80 corridor is one of the state's greatest advantages. Much of our state's **well-being depends on maintaining Nebraska's Interstate 80 as America's best and safest connection** between East and West. This is big challenge in part because I-80 is such a major trucking corridor.

**Congested segments and delays anywhere** on Interstate 80 in Nebraska effect other areas of the state.

Interstate 80 in **Omaha has the most delays** due to traffic congestion. Delays getting through Omaha are significant and warrant finding solutions.

West of Lincoln, the state benefits if traffic **congestion is minimized by expanding Interstate 80 roadway to three lanes** wherever warranted by projected traffic volumes.

### **Enormous benefits and value**

Good roads produce enormous benefits for the safety, the productivity and the well-being of the people of Nebraska. And the people who build, maintain and police roads in Nebraska add enormous value to our state and we are very grateful for what you do.

# *Hershey Rail Park*

ZONED  
INDUSTRIAL

&

INFRASTRUCTURE  
INCENTIVES  
AVAILABLE



**300  
ACRES  
AVAILABLE**



**FUTURE SITE OF THE HERSHEY RAIL PARK  
& INTERNATIONAL PORT OF THE PLAINS**

# Improve US Highway 30 intersection

*at Hershey Industrial Rail Park so trucks can move better between US 30 and 300-acre industrial rail park*



Honorable Nebraska Highway Commission Members,

My name is Mike Kerby, I'm a retiree of the Nebraska State Patrol. In my 35 plus years as a proud member of the Patrol, I've had the honor and privilege of working with many exceptional law enforcement officers across the United States with some of the finest being from my former agency. Unfortunately, some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving those they took an oath to protect. Thus, the reason for me being here today and I thank you for this opportunity.

As I now work in an occupation that provides sufficient leave-time allowing me to travel the country with family and friends, I've noticed a similar pattern of recognition in many of the states I've either visited or traversed and wondered why I've never seen the same in Nebraska. These recognitions are simple signs designating a stretch of Interstate, state highway or bridge where one of their state police/highway patrol troopers lost their lives while serving the public. Nebraska rightfully declares memorial highways for politicians who honorably served the state and made a difference, coaches and military heroes, but no troopers.

I now reside northwest of Grand Island and when traveling east on Interstate 80, I routinely pass the Hampton interchange where friend and campmate Michael Farber #427 was struck and killed by a fleeing juvenile in 1980. Mike died while serving those he was sworn to protect. As with all Nebraska State Patrol on-duty deaths, Mike's badge number has been retired and out of respect for his sacrifice, will never be issued again. Additionally, his picture is on the NSP State Headquarters wall in Lincoln as well as at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island as a continuing tribute and constant reminder of his ultimate sacrifice. There are now thirteen fallen troopers sharing that honor on that wall.

An observation I've made over the years, after the memorial service, internment and final goodbyes, these fallen heroes for the most part, fall into forgotten obscurity except for those who knew them; family, friends and co-workers. Annually, during Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Week, Nebraska's fallen officers are memorialized and remembered with a wreath and a gravesite service. Who attends? As I've already mentioned, family, friends and

agency personnel. As recipients of their service, and as Nebraskan's, I think we can do better.

My proposal would be to provide a designator such as a specially designed public sign located in the vicinity of the place they died in the line of duty (bridge, highway, interstate) to serve as a constant reminder of the Nebraska State Trooper who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is my intent to forever etch the names of the Patrol's fallen into the minds of Nebraska's motoring public who they signed on to serve.

I don't know all the logistics associated with completing my proposal. I am, however, willing to do what it takes to provide the necessary information on the location and circumstances surrounding their deaths if that is helpful. My handout today is courtesy of the State Patrol and it highlights in GPS coordinates where each Trooper's public service and law enforcement career tragically ended. I have also included the appropriate link directing you to this document and the story behind each Trooper's line of duty death. Thank you to Investigator Dion Nuemiller for producing this research. There is also a letter of support for this project from the Nebraska State Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Bryan Waugh. Support from retired Troopers has been overwhelming. But, I'll let the Trooper's Association representative address that.

If you find this a worthwhile project and within the established guidelines for such recognition, I anxiously await your guidance. Thank you for taking time today to listen to my proposal and I'll answer any questions you might have if I can."

Respectfully,

Michael P. Kerby  
Retired Captain, Nebraska State Patrol, Badge #107-R  
10403 Loup River Road W.  
Dannebrog, NE 68831  
[mkerby107@msn.com](mailto:mkerby107@msn.com)  
402-510-3787



**Jim Pillen**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA STATE PATROL  
**Colonel Bryan D. Waugh**  
Superintendent  
P.O.Box 94907  
Lincoln, NE 68509 -4907  
Phone (402) 471 -4545

August 4, 2025

Dear members of the Nebraska Highway Commission,

On behalf of the Nebraska State Patrol, I am writing to fully support the creation of fallen trooper memorial markers along Nebraska roads. These signs honor the brave individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our state and its citizens.

As law enforcement officers, we dedicate ourselves to protecting the public, often risking our own safety. Sadly, some of our fellow troopers have lost their lives while responding to emergencies, enforcing traffic laws, or performing other duties. These memorial signs are not just markers; they are symbols of courage, sacrifice, and the deep commitment to public safety that our troopers demonstrate every day.

The placement of these memorials would ensure that the legacy of our fallen officers is not only remembered but also honored by future generations. It would serve as an opportunity for the motoring public to reflect on the sacrifices made by our fellow troopers and the families who support them.

We understand that the highway system plays a vital role in public safety, and these memorial signs are part of that larger commitment. The Nebraska State Patrol would be proud to collaborate with the Nebraska Highway Commission on this project and appreciates Mr. Kerby for bringing this proposal forward for consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to our continued collaboration in honoring the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Nebraska State Patrol.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Waugh".

Colonel Bryan D. Waugh  
Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety



## **Guidance Document**

*Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-901.03*

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

For questions, please contact Ryan Balluck, [Ryan.Balluck@nebraska.gov](mailto:Ryan.Balluck@nebraska.gov)

# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Criteria and Guidelines for Roadside Memorials

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Last Updated on July 11, 2023*

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Criteria and Guidelines for Roadside Memorials**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
001 DEFINITIONS.....	1
002 ELIGIBILITY.....	1
003 APPLICATION.....	1
004 SIGN SPECIFICATIONS.....	2
005 PLACEMENT.....	2
006 DURATION AND REMOVAL.....	3
007 MISCELLANEOUS.....	3
APPENDIX A - SAMPLE SIGN.....	4

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Criteria and Guidelines for Roadside Memorials**

**001 DEFINITIONS**

001.01 Department - Department will mean the Nebraska Department of Transportation

001.02 Immediate Family Member - Will be defined as the deceased person's:

001.02A Grandparents

001.02B Parents

001.02C Spouse

001.02D Son(s)

001.02E Daughter(s)

001.02F Sister(s)

001.02G Brother(s)

001.03 Memorial Sign - Will mean a sign erected by the Nebraska Department of Transportation to honor a person who lost their life due to a vehicle crash on the state highway system.

001.04 Private Memorial - Any decoration(s) placed on a State or Federal Highway intended to honor or memorialize a Person who lost their life due to a vehicle crash on the State Highway System. Private memorials include, but are not limited to markers, flowers, balloons, religious or other symbols, wreaths, or non-approved signage. Official signs placed by the Department under this document are not Private Memorials

001.05 State Highway System - As defined in §39-1302(37) Neb. Rev. Stat.

**002 ELIGIBILITY**

002.01 Any person who is killed as the result of a motor vehicle crash on the State Highway System will be eligible to have a Memorial Sign erected in their honor, except in cases where:

002.01A Such person was the operator of a motor vehicle and was found to have a blood alcohol content equal to or above the legal limit set forth in §60-6,196 Neb. Rev. Stat.

002.01B Such person was the operator of a motor vehicle and was found to have been impaired by any recreational or other illicit substance which is illegal in the state of Nebraska.

002.02 The Department will not consider an application for a memorial sign until all applicable test results have been submitted to the Department.

**003 APPLICATION**

003.01 Following are the requirements to apply for a Memorial Sign:

003.01A There will be a limit of one name per application. If multiple names are to be displayed, each name will be submitted on separate applications.

003.01B An application will only be accepted by the Department when signed and filed by an immediate family member of the deceased;

003.01B1 If any member of the deceased's immediate family requests that a sign application not be granted, the application will be denied without prejudice.

003.01C The application must be filed with the Department no more than ten years from the date of the crash.

003.01D The application form may be completed electronically on the Department's website at <https://ne.accessgov.com/ndot/Forms/Page/ndot/roadside-memorial-sign/> or printed and filed with the Nebraska Department of Transportation, Communication and Public Policy Division, Government Affairs Section, PO Box 94759, Lincoln, NE, 68509-4759

003.01E There will be a \$50 fee per application. If an application is denied, the fee will be refunded.

#### **004 SIGN SPECIFICATIONS**

004.01 The Memorial Sign assembly will have a blue background with white lettering (See Appendix A).

004.02 Each Memorial Sign assembly will consist of one Safety Message Sign and one or more supplemental Memorial Message Plaque. No other words, depictions or symbols will be allowed on the Memorial Sign.

##### 004.02A Safety Message Sign

004.02A1 Each Safety Message Sign will measure 24"x 24" and include one of the following safety messages which will be chosen by the applicant:

- 1) Please Drive Safely
- 2) Seat Belts Save Lives
- 3) Don't Drink and Drive
- 4) Don't Text and Drive
- 5) Don't Drive Impaired
- 6) Watch for Motorcycles

##### 004.02B Memorial Message Plaque

004.02B1 Each Memorial Message Plaque will measure 24" x 12" for one name or 24"x18" for two names, be placed directly below the Safety Message Sign and include the following text:

In Memory of  
-----

[Recipient's Name Here] (Maximum 20 Characters)

Or

In Memory of  
-----

[Recipient's Name Here] (Maximum 20 Characters)  
[Recipient's Name Here] (Maximum 20 Characters)

#### **005 PLACEMENT**

005.01 Placement location of the Memorial Sign will be at the sole discretion of the Department.

005.01a The Applicant may request a specific direction the sign faces for viewing by traffic. The sign will be placed at a ninety-degree angle to the road.

005.01b Memorial signs shall be placed near the roadway at a location similar to general traffic signs and as close to the requested location as possible.

005.02 Memorial Signs will not be placed within municipal boundaries.

005.03 Memorial Signs will not be placed on the National System of Interstate Defense Highways or Freeways.

#### **006 DURATION AND REMOVAL**

006.01 Each Memorial Sign will be left in place for five years from the date the sign is erected.

006.02 At the end of the five-year period, the sign will be removed and stored at the nearest Department maintenance yard for thirty days. The applicant will be contacted by the Department and may retrieve the Memorial Message sign during that time. After thirty days, the sign will be recycled.

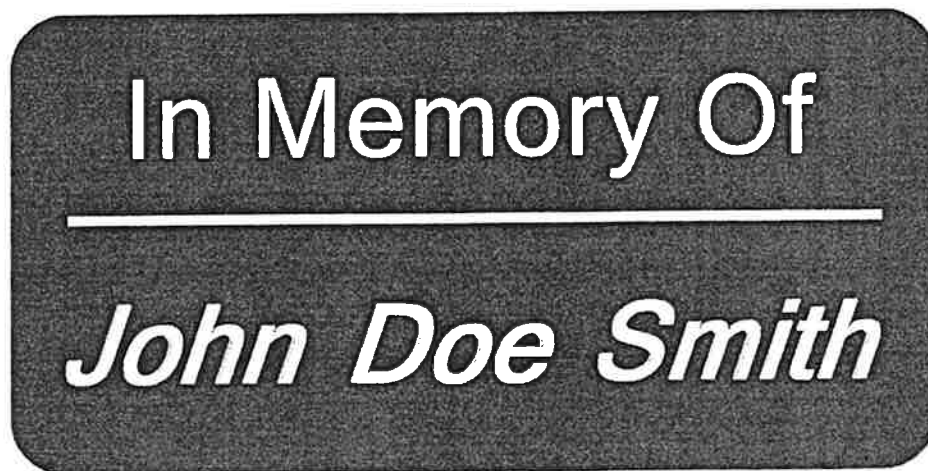
006.03 After a victim has been memorialized for a full five-year duration, no further applications will be accepted to memorialize said victim.

#### **007 MISCELLANEOUS**

007.01 Private memorials will not be allowed on any state highway. All private memorials, whether placed alone or in addition to the official Memorial Sign will be removed without notice.

007.02 Multiple applications for separate fatalities seeking placement at the same location will be erected using one Safety Message panel. One Memorial Message panel for each of the applications will be placed below the Safety Message panel in a stacked arrangement. The victim's names will be organized in alphabetical order from the top down.

APPENDIX A - SAMPLE SIGN





# KANSAS HIGHWAY DEDICATION SIGNING

## FACT SHEET: THE PROCESS



### Legislative and KDOT process for proposed signing of Memorial or Dedication Highway/Bridge/Interchange

1. Legislator will present the Senate Bill (SB) or House Bill (HB) to the legislative committee.
2. KDOT will review proposed legislation for adherence to KDOT naming requirements. If needed, KDOT can provide recommendations.
  - Names and titles only – i.e. Jack Jonson; Sen Jack Jonson; Sgt Jack Jonson
  - No periods; no apostrophes
  - No nicknames – i.e. Jack "Bull" Jonson not allowed
  - No epitaphs
  - Three lines maximum; two lines preferred
3. Legislative committee will request a cost analysis (fiscal note) from KDOT.
4. KDOT will provide the legislative committee with a cost analysis and proposed sign layouts.



#### Once legislation is passed and signed by the Governor

Legislator will provide KDOT with contact information of the individual(s) representing the sponsor(s).

Payment, if required, is made to: *KDOT Division of Engineering and Design  
Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison St. – 7th Floor  
Topeka, KS 66603-3745*

#### Project begins with payment

KDOT initiates a dedicated sign project **only** after full payment has been received or as directed by legislation. Costs are not standardized, rather individual sign costs are based on such factors as dimensions of sign, number of support posts, installation requirement, etc.

- Once check/payment is received, KDOT will develop plans.
- District will order signs and schedule installation.
- District Public Affairs Manager (PAM) will communicate with the sponsor(s) regarding estimated schedule.

### Dedications Events

- Dedication ceremonies are not allowed on highway ROW due to safety considerations.
- The district PAM will serve as liaison between KDOT and the sponsoring group on the status of sign delivery and installation.
- Any event, ceremony or unveiling will be the responsibility of the sponsoring group.
- PAM can arrange for signs to be available at off-site unveiling ceremonies prior to installation.
- If requested, PAM will assist legislator/sponsor with media alerts and news releases.

It is recommended dedication/unveiling ceremonies be scheduled **after** signs have been delivered and an installation date has been confirmed.

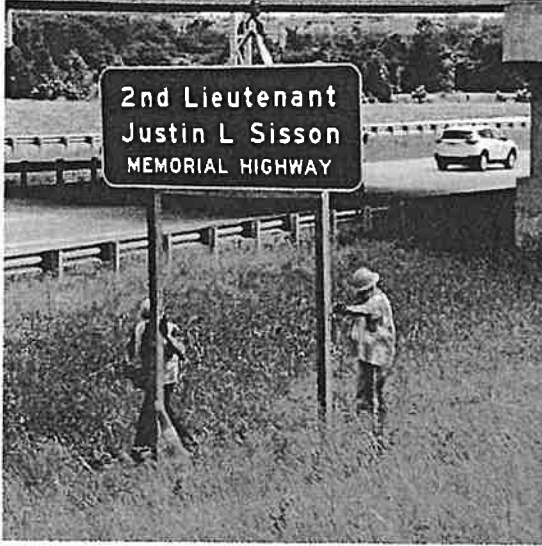


#### Online Map

The Kansas highway system has more than 100 dedicated bridges, interchanges and highways. A list and locations can be viewed at: [www.ksdot.gov/home/showdocument?id=608&t=638763465422983143](http://www.ksdot.gov/home/showdocument?id=608&t=638763465422983143)

# KANSAS HIGHWAY DEDICATION SIGNING

## FACT SHEET: THE PROCESS



**Kansas allows individuals or organizations to be commemorated with designated signage along state-owned highways, bridges and interchanges.**

### **Key points for dedication signage on Kansas highways, bridges and interchanges:**

- This is a legislatively led process, requiring a state representative or senator to introduce and carry legislation forward. Legislative passage of the bill and the Governor's signature is required for approval.
- The Kansas Department of Transportation provides information, location review and cost analysis.
- Most legislation requires the requesting party to be responsible for 100 percent of cost for manufacturing and installation of the dedication sign(s), plus an additional 50 percent of that cost to cover long-term maintenance and replacement.



### **Pre-Legislation Requests**

The highway dedication process begins with the requesting sponsor – family, group, organizations, etc. – contacting a legislative representative about obtaining dedicated signing on the state highway system. Dedication signage on Kansas-owned right of way can only occur when a legislator introduces a bill, legislative approval is received and the Governor signs the bill.

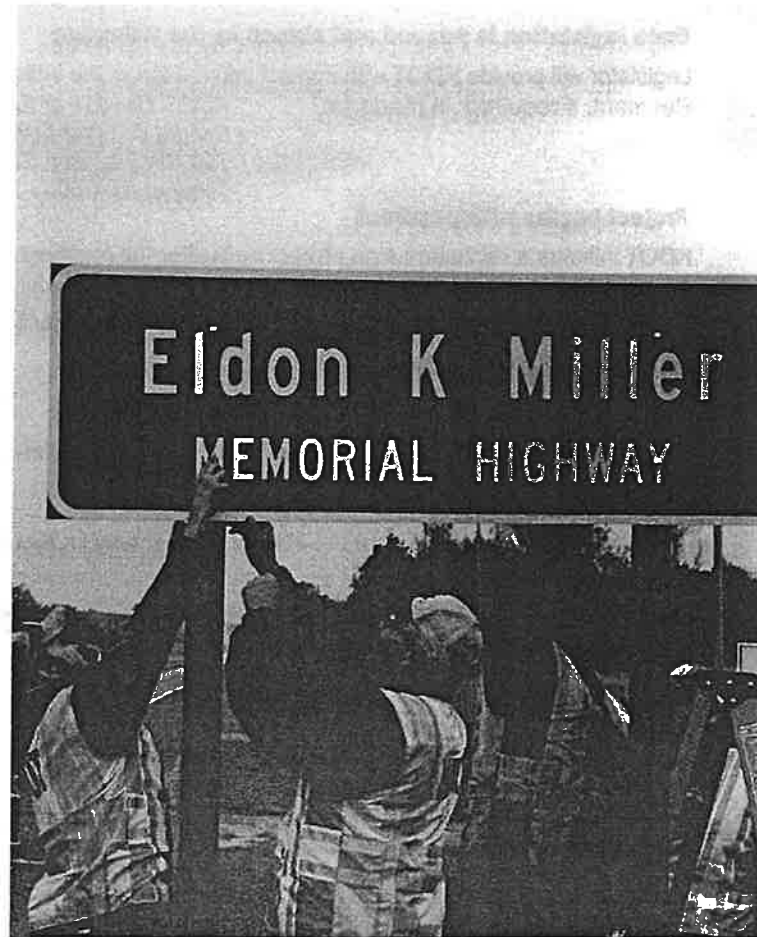
KDOT cannot and does not have a role in introducing, advocating or approving dedication signage legislation.

#### **Information needed for requests:**

- Designated highway – Identify the route(s) on the state highway system with beginning and ending points.
- Designated bridge – Identify the bridge location on the state highway system.
- Designated interchange – Identify the interchange location and route(s) on the state highway system.

Legislators or requesting sponsor(s) are encouraged to contact KDOT to obtain information about the process prior to presenting to legislative committees or other legislators. KDOT offices involved in the process include: Division of Policy, Division of Communications, Division of Fiscal & Asset Management, Office of Finance & Budget and Bureau of Traffic Engineering.

For information contact the KDOT Division of Communications at 785-296-3585 or [KDOT#PublicInfo@ks.gov](mailto:KDOT#PublicInfo@ks.gov)



### **Determining locations before legislation is introduced**

KDOT can confirm a requested memorial or dedication highway, bridge or interchange location is not already designated as a memorial or dedication location. KDOT will collaborate with sponsor and legislator to review alternative options.

## Legislative Process- Service Personnel Killed in the Line of Duty

This process allows the Missouri Legislature to introduce a bill designating a memorial highway or bridge to honor:

- Members of the Armed Forces killed in the line of duty
- Members of the Armed Forces who are missing in action
- Emergency personnel killed while performing duties relating to their employment
- State employees killed while serving the state
- Missouri Medal of Honor recipients

The bill must pass both the House and Senate chambers and be signed into law by the Governor with the bill becoming law on August 28th of that current year.

### Program Information

- Memorial Name –
  - Honoree name may be subject to sign design limitations.
  - The name signed into law will be the name on the sign.
- Sign Information –
  - A total of two signs will be installed, one marking the beginning of the highway section or bridge, and one marking the end.
  - MoDOT cannot designate non-state routes.
  - MoDOT determines the sign location to ensure safe operation of the highway system.
  - Memorial Bridge signs are installed on the roadway carried by that bridge, not on the roadway traveling under the bridge.
  - Each sign will have a white legend on a green background displaying the mandated text:
    - Memorial Highway
    - Memorial Bridge
  - Sign fabrication cannot be requested until the memorial becomes law, August 28th of the current year.
  - Sign delivery can take approximately five to seven weeks.
  - Once signs are received from the manufacturer, allow 120 days for sign installation, weather permitting.
  - MoDOT does not provide the official installation date to ensure the safety of all individuals involved, including our personnel and the traveling public.
  - A photo image of the installed sign will be provided electronically to the applicant's email, if provided to MoDOT's Highway Safety and Traffic Division
  - Signs remain in place indefinitely.
- Participation Fee –

- **Standard Signs (6' x 3') is \$4,000.00 for two signs and due before sign is fabricated.\***
  - \*Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for designations on the state highway system honoring members of the Armed Forces killed in the line of duty, members of the Armed Forces who are missing in action, Missouri recipients of the medal of honor, emergency personnel killed while performing duties relating to their employment, or state employees killed while serving the state, no fees shall be assessed and all costs associated with such designation shall be funded by MoDOT.
- Payment is made by private donations, from organizations or by family members.
- Fee covers cost of constructing, installing and maintaining the signs
- Payment made payable to MoDOT's Account: Director of Revenue – Credit State Road Fund
- Memorial Sign PDF Proof Request - (Optional)
  - Upon request, MoDOT will provide a no-cost PDF file of the memorial dedication sign, provided completion of the PDF terms and condition declaration.
  - This process allows the applicant's/honoree's family to utilize local sign, banner or printing companies to fabricate commemorative signs for ceremonies or personal use.
- Honoree Biography - (Optional)
  - Applicants may submit a biography of the honoree
    - Complete an Honoree Biographical Form.
  - All biographies have the same format style/design, MoDOT designed
  - MoDOT reserves the right to review and edit the biography
  - Biography will be publicized on MoDOT's Memorial Designation Map for each honoree
  - A photo image of the honoree may be added to the biography
    - To add, contact Highway Safety & Traffic Division at (573) 751-7643

#### Requirements

- Verify roadway availability, click **here** or contact **MoDOT's Highway Safety & Traffic Division** at **(573) 751-7643**.
- Applicants are required to have legislative sponsorship supporting the designation
  - Find your local Representative, click **here**.
  - Find your local Senator, click **here**.
- MoDOT requires verification of fallen individual.
- Written consent from the honoree's family authorizing the designation, if designating after an individual.

#### Application Process

This process allows Missouri highways and bridges to be designated after an individual, organization, an event or place. No section of highway or bridge may be designated more than once. Each individual, organization, event or place is eligible for one highway or bridge designation.

#### Program Information

- Application -
  - Application, participation fee and supporting documentation must be submitted together.
  - MoDOT reviews the application, and the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight conducts final review and approval.
  - Falsifying information on an application will void the request and result in loss of fees and sign installation.
  - If application is not approved, 97 percent of the payment is refunded.
- Memorial Name -
  - Honoree name may be subject to sign design limitations.
- Sign Information -
  - A total of two signs will be installed, one marking the beginning of the highway section or bridge, and one marking the end.
  - MoDOT cannot designate non-state routes.
  - MoDOT determines the sign location to ensure safe operation of the highway system.
  - Memorial Bridge signs are installed on the roadway carried by that bridge, not on the roadway traveling under the bridge.
  - Each sign will be a white legend on a green background displaying the mandated text:
    - Memorial Highway
    - Memorial Bridge
  - Once application is approved and signs are received from the manufacturer, allow 120 days for sign installation, weather permitting.
  - Sign delivery can take approximately five to seven weeks.
  - MoDOT does not provide the official installation date to ensure the safety of all individuals involved, including our personnel and the traveling public.
  - A photo image of the installed sign will be provided electronically to the applicant's email, if provided to MoDOT's Highway Safety and Traffic Division
  - Signs remain in place for 20 years and may be renewed for an additional 20 years.
    - At 19 years, a second application and application fee are required to renew the memorial. The renew fee covers maintenance costs associated with the signs.
- Participation Fee -
  - ***Standard Signs (6' x 3') is \$4,000.00 for two signs and due with submission of application.***

- **Optional Signs (8' x 3') is \$4,800.00 for two signs and due with submission of application.**
  - These signs accommodate an event's, organization's, or place's name, which may not fit on the standard sign.
  - These signs have an increase in costs, due to the increased sign size and larger posts required to support the signs.
  - The route must be able to accommodate the larger sign; MoDOT determines its final eligibility. (If the standard sign is required, MoDOT will reimburse the difference in cost between the standard sign and the optional sign.)
- Payment is made by private donations, from organizations or by family members.
- Fee covers cost of constructing, installing and maintaining the signs
- Payment made payable to MoDOT's Account: Director of Revenue – Credit State Road Fund
- Memorial Sign PDF Proof Request – (Optional)
  - Upon request, MoDOT will provide a no-cost PDF file of the memorial dedication sign, provided completion of the PDF terms and condition declaration.
  - This process allows the applicant's/honoree's family to utilize local sign, banner or printing companies to fabricate commemorative signs for ceremonies or personal use.
- Honoree Biography - (Optional)
  - Applicants may submit a biography of the honoree
    - Complete an Honoree Biographical Form.
  - All biographies have the same format style/design, MoDOT designed
  - MoDOT reserves the right to review and edit the biography
  - Biography will be publicized on MoDOT's Memorial Designation Map for each honoree
  - A photo image of the honoree may be added to the biography
    - To add, contact Highway Safety & Traffic Division at (573) 751-7643

#### Requirements

- Verify roadway availability, click **here** or contact **MoDOT's Highway Safety & Traffic Division** at **(573) 751-7643**.
- Honoree shall be deceased for minimum of two years.
- Applicants are required to have legislative sponsorship supporting the designation
  - To find your local Representative, click **here**
  - To find your local Senator, click **here**.
- Collection of 100 signatures of Missouri residents from the area supporting the designation.
- Copy of a Death Certificate or Obituary, if designating after an individual.
- Written consent from the honoree's family authorizing the designation, if designating after an individual



Sioux City

Norfolk

Omaha

Lincoln

Grand Island

Hastings

Kearney

Nebraska

North Platte

UNITED STATES

81

20

83

80

76

34

33

20

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=fd281d40265b443aa3904f461d97474>

2

Nebraska Highway Commission

*Good afternoon, Chairman Hawks and members of the Nebraska Highway Commission.*

My name is Scott Black. I am a retired Nebraska State Patrol Investigator and currently the Chief Sergeant at Arms for the Nebraska Legislature. Additionally, I hold the position of Retiree Representative for the State Troopers Association of Nebraska's Executive Board, and am speaking today for our nearly 500 current Nebraska State Patrol retirees.

The purpose of my representation today is to applaud the effort and add our complete and unconditional support for retired Captain Kerby's Line of Duty Death Memorials proposal. Additionally, we want to encourage this committee to move forward with making this a well deserved and long overdue reality.

The motto of the Nebraska State Patrol is 'Pro Bono Publico'...which translates as, "For the Good of the Public". From day one of our journey starting with the NSP training academy throughout the twenty-five or more years it takes to achieve retirement; this motto sets the tone every day these officers leave their homes and families for their shift of duty until the time they hopefully return.

Most of us have been fortunate enough to successfully finish our careers unscathed, but sadly, some of our brothers in blue have not been so lucky and unfortunately met their fate and gave their lives serving the people of this great state. It is for that reason they have surely earned the respect and at least, the minimal privilege of being recognized for their Ultimate Sacrifice.

The proposed Officer Memorial signs shall be a constant reminder for the motoring public to pay attention to traffic; to drive with caution; and the opportunity to appreciate the officers they do encounter during their travels. Through both day and night from the simplest flat tire assist, to the plethora of potentially dangerous situations encountered along the roadways the troopers are there, placing themselves at risk for the protection of others.

I appreciate your time and consideration for helping us to honor our "Legacy" officers and their families. Thank you for listening to our request and please know that we can never replace those who gave all, but would love to be able to honor them in their absence. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Scott Black  
Retiree Representative  
State Troopers Association of Nebraska

(402) 432-0761

Sblack@netroopers.org

**Nebraska Highway Commission,**

**On behalf of the members of the State Troopers Association of Nebraska, the board is very appreciative and gives our unconditional support for retired Captain Kerby's Line of Duty Death Memorial proposal. Additionally, we want to encourage the committee to move forward with this memorial.**

**Each one of us have brothers in blue that have given the ultimate sacrifice while bravely protecting and serving our state and Nebraska citizens. We think of those who have given their all on a daily basis as we strap on our duty belt and Kevlar vest. It is a constant reminder that we are the fortunate ones. We get to kiss our spouse at bedtime, we get to make dinner for our family, we get to watch our children get married.**

**While we honor those we have lost in many ways within the agency and association, we would love to see roadside memorial markers to physically remind and honor our fallen brothers. For those troopers who did not pass on the roadside, we may also recommend hosting the sign upon the interstate at the mile marker that coincides with the fallen Trooper's badge number.**

**Our fallen brothers have earned the respect and privilege of being recognized in this way for their Ultimate Sacrifice. We thank you for your support and efforts in this process. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or needs.**

**Best,  
James Estwick  
President  
State Troopers Association of Nebraska**