

# SPECIALIZED HIGHWAY SIGNS

- Memorial Signs for Victims of Impaired Driving
- Memorial Signs for Victims of Motorcycle Crashes
- Designated Memorial Highways
- Adopt-a-Highway
- Sponsor A Highway



# SPECIALIZED HIGHWAY SIGNS

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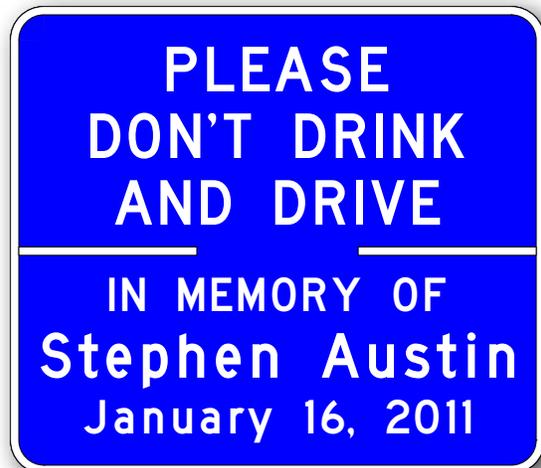
## OVERVIEW

Over the years, the Texas Legislature established several memorial sign programs to honor certain individuals, places or organizations. Examples include designating a highway in honor of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty, memorializing a loved one killed by a drunk driver or recognizing volunteers who help keep our roadways clean and beautiful. Knowing that the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) top priorities are focusing limited taxpayer dollars on highway safety and maintenance, reducing congestion and connecting Texas communities, state law requires outside resources to cover the costs of constructing and installing these signs. Each program is unique, and the costs for signs vary. Listed below are the instructions, forms and applications needed to begin each sign program process.



## MEMORIAL SIGNS FOR VICTIMS OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

Impaired driving continues to be a serious problem in Texas that results in hundreds of traffic deaths each year. In 2007, the Texas Legislature created the Memorial Sign Program for Victims of Impaired Driving. This program allows family or friends the opportunity to purchase a sign to commemorate a victim or victims of drunk or drugged driving. These signs also help raise awareness about the serious and tragic consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



## Eligibility Requirements

- A police officer's crash report or another government document indicating that drugs or alcohol were factors in a fatal crash.
- The crash must have occurred on the state highway system.
- The victim must not have been impaired by drugs or alcohol while operating a vehicle.

## Application

An applicant must apply to purchase the sign through TxDOT. The application can be found on TxDOT's website and must contain the following information:

- Applicant name and contact information.
- Victim(s)' name(s).
- Crash date and location.
- Name of one of the vehicle operators involved in the crash.
- A copy of the crash report attached to your application, if expedited processing is desired (optional).

	
SCAN WITH SMART PHONE	
For more information on the Memorial Sign program visit <a href="http://www.txdot.gov">www.txdot.gov</a> keyword search "Memorial Sign".	

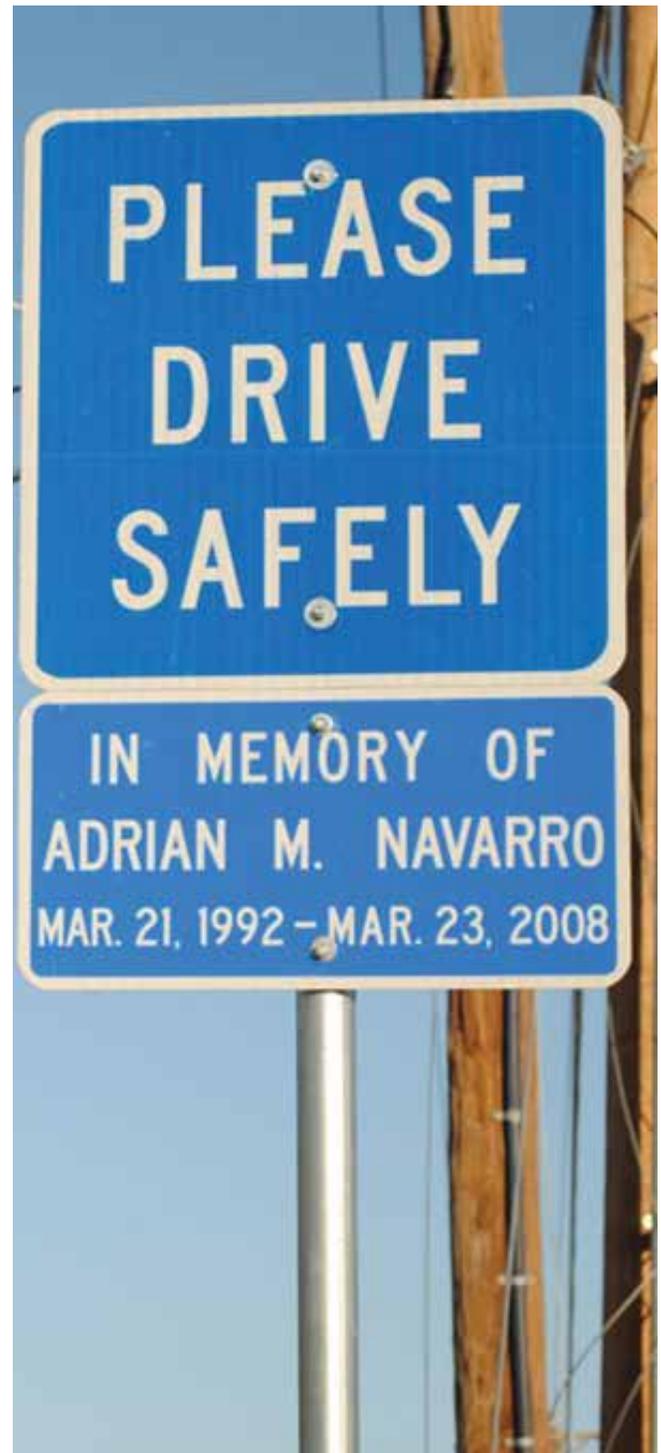
### The completed form should be mailed to:

Texas Department of Transportation  
Traffic Operations Division  
125 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78701-2483

## Sign Location and Display

TxDOT will install a memorial sign as close as practical to the location of the crash. Final placement will be based on traffic safety and space availability along the right of way. Each memorial sign will have a blue background and a white legend.

Current state law allows for an installed sign to be in place for up to two years. At the end of this time, the sign will be removed and offered to the applicant. The applicant will have 30 days from the time contacted to make arrangements to pick up the sign. If the applicant chooses not to keep the sign after the two-year period, the sign will be recycled.



## Sign Cost

The cost to the applicant is \$350, payable to TxDOT after the application has been approved. The sign will be installed only after payment of the fee, which covers the cost of the personalized sign panel. If the sign is damaged or vandalized, the applicant will have to pay an additional \$350 fee to have the sign reinstalled.



## MEMORIAL SIGNS FOR VICTIMS OF MOTORCYCLE CRASHES

Motorcycle safety is another serious issue in Texas. In 2016, there were 493 motorcyclists (operators and passengers) killed in crashes. The Memorial Sign Program for Victims of Motorcycle Crashes, which was created in 2011, allows family or friends of persons killed while riding or operating a motorcycle the opportunity to purchase a memorial sign.

### Eligibility Requirements

- A police officer's crash report or another government document indicating that the person was killed while operating or riding on a motorcycle.
- The crash must have occurred on the state highway system.

### Application

An applicant must apply to purchase the sign through TxDOT. The application can be found on TxDOT's website and must contain the following information:

- Applicant name and contact information.
- Victim(s') name(s).
- Crash date and location.
- Name of one of the vehicle operators involved in the crash.
- A copy of the crash report attached to your application, if expedited processing is desired (optional).

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

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For more information on the Memorial Signs program visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) keyword search "Memorial Sign".

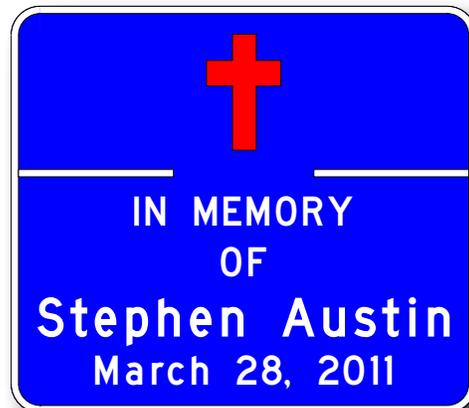
### Sign Location and Display

TxDOT will install the sign as close as practical to the location of the crash. Final placement will be based on traffic safety and space availability along the right of way. Each sign will have a blue background and a white legend displaying a red cross, the victim's name and the date of the crash.

Current state law allows for an installed motorcycle memorial sign to be in place for up to one year. At the end of this time, the sign will be removed and offered to the applicant. The applicant will have 30 days from the time contacted to make arrangements to pick up the sign. If the applicant chooses not to keep the sign after the one-year period, the sign will be recycled.

### Sign Cost

The cost to the applicant for a Memorial Sign for Victims of Motorcycle Crashes is \$350, payable to TxDOT after the application has been approved. The sign will be installed only after payment of the fee, which covers the cost of the personalized sign panel. If the sign is damaged or vandalized, the applicant will have to pay an additional \$350 fee to have the sign reinstalled.



## DESIGNATED MEMORIAL HIGHWAYS

TxDOT is prohibited from officially naming any portion of the state highway system with anything other than the regular highway number. However, portions of the state highway system may be designated as a named or memorial highway by state legislation or local government ordinance or resolution. When state or local law designates a portion of the state highway system, costs for the signs and installation are paid in full by grant or donation to the state highway fund. To avoid distracting drivers or cluttering the highway with too many signs, legislators and local officials should first consider designating rest areas, scenic overlooks, recreational areas or other locations where parking is provided for travelers.

### The completed form should be mailed to:

Texas Department of Transportation  
Traffic Operations Division  
125 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78701-2483



## Legislative Process

An elected member of the Texas Legislature may designate a memorial highway through legislation.

Once a bill becomes law, the legislative sponsor should contact TxDOT's State Legislative Affairs section to begin the process of acquiring and installing the signs. The sign will be installed only after payment for the sign is received.

## Local Process

State law also grants local governments the authority to apply a memorial or other designation to the state highway system. Local governments must provide TxDOT an authorizing resolution or municipal ordinance and a proposed sign location. The size, type and location of the sign must be approved by TxDOT. The sign will be installed only after payment for the sign is received. The local government is responsible for future maintenance of the sign.

In both instances, federal and state law govern where signs may be placed, what may be displayed on the sign and how many signs may be erected. Violations of the law puts Texas at risk of losing federal transportation funding.

## Eligibility Requirements

- The highway or structure to be named must be part of the state highway system and within TxDOT's jurisdiction (unless named by local ordinance).
- The highway or structure should not have a prior or existing designation.
- The highway or structure may be named only after a deceased person who was significant in the state's history or in the lives of Texans.

Please contact TxDOT's State Legislative Affairs section with questions regarding eligibility.

## Sign Location

- One sign is allowed on each end of the designated route.
- Intermediate signs must be spaced at least 75 miles apart.
- Signs may only be located on the designated route, not on cross streets or intersecting highways.

## Sign Display

- The sign will be rectangular in shape with a brown background and white legend and borders.
- The legend displayed on a sign is limited to the person's name and a simple message following the name, such as "Memorial Parkway."
- Biographical information is not allowed.
- Decorative or graphical elements, pictographs, logos or symbols are not allowed.

## Sign Costs

- A donor is required by statute to cover the cost to design, fabricate and install memorial designation signs.
- When a donor has committed to funding the project, TxDOT will enter into an agreement with them and install the signs.
- The cost of a sign will vary based on its size, the number of characters displayed on the sign and where the sign is located (larger highways require larger signs and more foundational support).
- Signs may cost anywhere between \$1,000 and \$20,000 per sign.

# ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

As Texas grows, the state can expect more vehicles, increased traffic and more litter. The Adopt-a-Highway program was created to give the public an opportunity to keep Texas highways litter-free. The program began in Texas in 1985 and has saved taxpayers money. This Texas-born program has spread to 49 states, Canada, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Mexico.

## Who Can Adopt

Individuals, families, youth organizations, businesses, governmental entities, civic and non-profit organizations, religious groups, fraternities, sororities, schools and other approved groups may adopt a highway.

## Program Rules and Information

- Adopt a two-mile stretch of highway for a minimum of two years.
- Agree to pick up litter four times per year (more in some areas due to high traffic volumes).
- Adopt-a-Highway signs will be posted with the individual's or group's name at each end of the adopted section.
- TxDOT will provide volunteers with traffic control signs, safety vests, litterbags and safety information.

Adopt-a-Highway is a free and easy way for the public to make a visible impact on their community and show some well-deserved Texas Pride.

## SPONSOR A HIGHWAY

The Sponsor A Highway program gives businesses and organizations the opportunity to sponsor roadside maintenance in exchange for a monthly fee. A sponsorship will include a recognition panel with the company name and logo on a Sponsor A Highway sign that is placed directly alongside some of Texas' busiest roadways. Signs are located in the five Texas major metropolitan areas including Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. For more information on Sponsor A Highway program visit [www.texasponsorahighway.com](http://www.texasponsorahighway.com).



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For more information on the Adopt-a-Highway program visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) keyword search "Adopt-a-Highway".



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



## VALUES:

### People

People are the Department's most important customer, asset, and resource. The well-being, safety, and quality of life for Texans and the traveling public are of the utmost concern to the Department. We focus on relationship building, customer service, and partnerships.

### Accountability

We accept responsibility for our actions and promote open communication and transparency at all times.

### Trust

We strive to earn and maintain confidence through reliable and ethical decision-making.

### Honesty

We conduct ourselves with the highest degree of integrity, respect, and truthfulness.

## VISION:

A forward-thinking leader delivering mobility, enabling economic opportunity, and enhancing quality of life for all Texans.

## MISSION:

Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- **Deliver the Right Projects** – Implement effective planning and forecasting processes that deliver the right projects on-time and on-budget.
- **Focus on the Customer** – People are at the center of everything we do.
- **Foster Stewardship** – Ensure efficient use of state resources.
- **Optimize System Performance** – Develop and operate an integrated transportation system that provides reliable and accessible mobility, and enables economic growth.
- **Preserve our Assets** – Deliver preventive maintenance for TxDOT's system and capital assets to protect our investments.
- **Promote Safety** – Champion a culture of safety.
- **Value our Employees** – Respect and care for the well-being and development of our employees.



This document is part of an educational series on transportation issues produced by the Texas Department of Transportation. This document, the full Educational Series and other helpful resources can be found online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) keyword search "State Legislative Affairs".