

NAMING STATE HIGHWAYS

1. **Purpose:** *The purpose of naming a segment of state highway or a bridge is to bring to public attention and recognize officially a person, organization or other entity who has contributed significantly to the well-being of others.*

This document provides policy for processing requests to name state highways and bridges. The office of primary responsibility for this DOT-OI is the Traffic Engineering Division. This DOT-OI supersedes DOT-OI 60-01 dated December 18, 2017.

2. **Requests:** A written request to name a state highway or bridge must be made by the applicable sponsoring organization or agency to the Department of Transportation. When a state highway bridge is located on the state line and, therefore, is located partially in another state, the request to name the bridge must be approved, in writing, by the highway department or department of transportation (whichever is applicable) of the other state. A request to name a state highway segment must be submitted with a resolution of support from each County Board and/or City Council whose jurisdiction the segment to be named would occupy.

- a. *Individual interchanges may not be named.*
- b. *Rest Areas each have an official name and are not eligible for additional naming.*
- c. *Only those border bridges crossing the Missouri River are eligible.*
- d. *No more than one name per major highway segment will be approved. The Director and State Highway Commission will determine what constitutes a major highway segment.*

- (1) *The naming of an isolated roadway segment or bridge along a highway may be allowed to overlap a statewide memorial named highway only if approved by the Director and Highway Commission. Similarly, a proposed statewide route may be allowed to overlap named segments or bridges only if approved by the Director and Highway Commission.*

- e. *There is a limit of one named highway segment or bridge per person, organization or other entity.*
- f. *While it is recognized that there are many that have given their lives in service to their country, it is not feasible to honor them all. There are simply not enough highways to honor all the Fallen Heroes, so cities and counties are encouraged to establish local memorials off the State Highway System to honor Fallen Heroes.*

3. The name requested and their accomplishments must be widely recognized across the entire State of Nebraska. *Requests will be evaluated using the following criteria:*
 - a. *A person shall have been deceased five years to be considered.*
 - b. *A person shall meet at least one of the following three requirements:*
 - (1) *Have been born in Nebraska.*
 - (2) *Have lived a significant part of his or her life in Nebraska.*
 - (3) *Made a contribution to society that was affected by his or her residence in Nebraska.*
 - c. *The honored person, organization, or other entity must be widely recognized across the entire state and must have contributed to the betterment of Nebraska.*
 - d. *Primary consideration will be given to contributions in fields such as public affairs, the arts, the sciences, the professions; secondary consideration will be given to contributions in entertainment, athletics, and kindred fields where interest, publicity, and general recognition may for a time be intense but where a contribution to society is secondary.*
 - e. *Activities that have added to the welfare of society and to the reputation of the state shall be weighed more heavily than activities primarily benefiting the individual or organization.*
4. Interstate routes have been designated by Congress as the "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways." Except for I-480 which has previously been named, interstate highways and bridges will not be further named.
5. The Department of Transportation will refer requests to name state highways or bridges to the State Highway Commission for review and recommendations to the Director and Governor. Final approval is by the Governor.

Limitations: The Highway Commission will select not more than one name for consideration by the Director and Governor in any one-year period. Requests may be received at any time. Only those requests submitted before October 1 of each year will be considered for that year's single name approval. An opportunity for a brief presentation to the State Highway Commission will be offered in December. If necessary, the number of requests may be narrowed to an appropriate group of finalists prior to recommending a single name to the Director and Governor.

6. After approval by the Governor, the sponsoring organization or agency will be required to fund, at its own expense, the roadway signs to designate the route, including installation costs. These signs, limited to one at an appropriate location in each route direction, must conform with the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and must be installed by the Department of Transportation. Replacement and repair costs necessary to maintain the signs will be borne by the sponsoring organization or agency.

- a. *For designated routes that are statewide or span multiple counties, the sponsoring organization may request the installation of additional signs. The location of these additional signs will be limited to no more than one sign per direction in each county. Additional signs will not be installed within municipalities on NDOT ROW. NDOT has final approval of the number and location of any additional signs and if necessary, may deny a specific location due to existing signing in the area, roadway geometry, etc.*

7. The Department of Transportation will not place directional signs on interstate or other state highways in order to direct traffic to a state highway which has been "named" in accordance with the procedures in paragraphs two through six above. The policy in this paragraph does not apply to or affect directional signs which were in place prior to August 23, 1996.
8. This policy is supplementary to and does not infringe upon the authority of municipalities within their jurisdictions in accordance with Sections 60-6, 120 and 60-6, 121, Nebraska Statutes.

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