

LANCASTER COUNTY ROADSIDE MEMORIAL POLICY

Authority.

The Board of County Commissioners of Lancaster County, Nebraska, (“Board”) pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 60-6121, is authorized to place and maintain such traffic control devices upon highways under its jurisdiction as it deems necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of the Nebraska Rules of the Road or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic;

The Board, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-1402, is vested with general supervision and control of the public roads of Lancaster County (“County”), and the Board has the power and authority of establishment, improvement, maintenance and abandonment of public roads of the County and of enforcement of the laws in relation thereto; and

The Lancaster County Engineer (“Engineer”), pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-1507, has control, government, and supervision of all the public roads and bridges in the county under the general supervision and control of the Board.

Purpose.

To establish criteria for installing warning signs at the sites of crash fatalities on County section line roads through the placement of roadside memorial signs.

Sign Requests.

The following persons shall be considered qualified applicants who may request a memorial sign by submitting a completed application form to the Engineer

- (1) An immediate family member of the individual to be memorialized. An immediate family member is a spouse, child, stepchild, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, mother, stepmother, father or stepfather.
- (2) Alternatively, a non-family member sponsor may request a memorial sign by submitting a completed application form together with written concurrence of at least one member of the immediate family of the individual to be memorialized.

Applicability.

All of the following criteria must be met:

- (1) The accident occurred within six years of application.
- (2) The accident resulted in the death of the individual to be memorialized.
- (3) The accident occurred on a County maintained section line Road.
- (4) The Engineer has not received any written opposition to the installation of a memorial sign from any immediate family member of the individual to be memorialized.

- (5) In the case where application is made for an intoxicated driver (alcohol or any other controlled substance) who was fatally injured, the name plaque shall read “Sponsored by (family name or applicant)” and will not include the driver’s name.

Procedures.

- (1) The applicant submits to the Engineer a completed application form.
- (2) The Engineer will review the application. The Engineer’s review will typically be completed within 30 days and includes review of the accident report from County records. If necessary for verification purposes, the applicant may be asked to provide a copy of the accident report and death certificate.
- (3) The Engineer forwards the Engineer’s recommendation to the Board. The decision to approve the sign is within the sole discretion of the Board.
- (4) The sign will be ordered, fabricated, delivered and installed by the Engineer within 60 days of Board approval.

Sign Details.

- (1) Signs shall be a 24” x 36” blue rectangular sign panel with legend in white.
- (2) The legend may bear one of the following warning statements to be chosen by the applicant:
 - a. Please Drive Safely
 - b. Seat Belts Save Lives
 - c. Please Watch for Bicyclists
 - d. Don’t Drink and Drive
- (3) A white on blue rectangular plaque bearing the words “In Memory Of (Name of Fatality)” will be installed beneath the rectangular panel. Birth and death years may also be requested. In the case of an intoxicated driver, the plaque will read “Sponsored By (name of sponsor)” as noted above. In the event of multiple fatalities and subsequent sign requests at one location, additional names may be placed on the plaque, but only one sign may be approved.

Location and Installation of Signs.

- (1) Signs will be installed only on County maintained section line roadways. Requests for signs on State Highways must be submitted to the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT).
- (2) Signs will be installed in accordance with National, State and County standards. This includes posts, hardware, materials, and placement location.
- (3) One sign designating the site of a fatal crash will be installed in one direction of travel on the right side of the road in close proximity to the crash location where it is deemed safe and practical to do so. The specific location of the sign is at the discretion

of the Engineer.

(4) Only one sign will be installed per accident, intersection, or 1,500 ft of roadway. Should a sign already exist, additional names may be added to the plaque on an existing sign.

Maintenance and Removal of Signs.

(1) The sign shall be posted and maintained for three years from the date of initial placement. The applicant may request removal in writing to the Engineer at any time.

(2) Within 3 years of the Board's resolution authorizing placement, the applicant may request a one-time renewal of the three-year time limit.

(3) The County will replace the sign one time should it become vandalized or otherwise damaged.

(4) Signs removed due to County work will be replaced after work is completed.

(5) After three years from the date of initial placement (or six years with the one-time extension), the sign will be removed by the County.

(6) Following removal, a sign and associated plaques may be sold by the Engineer as surplus County property pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-3115.

Exceptions.

(1) Re-application on behalf of an individual previously commemorated with a sign is not allowed.

Funding.

The Board intends to utilize Keno Funds to provide for this community betterment purpose.