

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

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GA DOT OKAYS MEMORIAL SIGNS FOR HIGHWAY FATALITIES

ATLANTA – Signs memorializing persons killed in traffic incidents now will be allowed on federal and state highway right of way in Georgia, the Department of Transportation announced today.

Fifteen-inch, round white signs with the black-lettered message "Drive Safely; In Memory; (the deceased's name) can be requested by family or friends for a \$100 fabrication and installation fee. The sign will remain in place for one year; after which time it will be removed and given to the requesting sponsor.

"We believe this will appropriately address the desires of an individual's family and friends to note their passing while allowing the Department to maintain safety and uniformity along our roadways," Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr., said.

Family or friends (with approval of immediate family) of individuals killed in accidents on federal and state routes on or after July 1, 2010, may request a sign by submitting a written application, the pertinent accident report and the \$100 fee to the Department's Maintenance Engineer (contact and relevant information as well as forms available at:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/doingbusiness/PoliciesManuals/pap/Documents/Policies/6160-9.pdf>.



Roadside signs memorializing persons killed in highway traffic incidents can be requested by family or friends.

Georgia DOT maintenance personnel will erect the sign (sample photo attached) at the edge of the mowing limits as close as practical to the scene of the incident (except in active construction zones or if prohibited by local laws).

The memorial sign program is similar to an effort the Department, the Georgia General Assembly and the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council began in 2006 for fatality victims of those convicted of driving under the influence. That program (information and forms available via this link: <http://cjcc.ga.gov/forms.aspx?id=150>) will continue.

These two types of fatality memorial signs are the only such markers, remembrances or tributes allowed on federal or state right of way; all others will be removed for safety reasons. In addition, gatherings, ceremonies or other activities at sign areas pose safety hazards and will not be allowed.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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