

## Section 2M.1

### MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION SIGNS

#### 2M.1.1 MUTCD SECTION REFERENCE

Memorial or dedication signing 2M.10

#### 2M.1.2 DEFINITION

This policy is intended to define DOTD installations of memorial and dedication signing. Named highways are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway, hence the address would not be affected.

#### 2M.1.3 STATE ROUTE NUMBERING

In accordance with RS 32:235, the Department has adopted the MUTCD as the standard for traffic control devices on all roadways in the state. The MUTCD requires the establishment of a route number system to which the Department conforms. All Louisiana state highways have a route designation and are signed with this route designation system.

#### 2M.1.4 NAMING STATES HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

RS 48:192 gives the Louisiana legislature the exclusive right to name state highways and bridges. To date over fifty legislative Acts have been passed that name various highways and bridges across the state typically as memorials to individuals or groups. Most of these Acts simply designate the name of the route. However, some acts also direct the Department to install signs.

#### 2M.1.5 LOCATION AND PLACEMENT

When the Act directs the installation of signs by the Department the following section of the MUTCD applies:

**If the installation of a memorial or dedication marker off the main roadway is not practical, memorial or dedication signs may be installed on the mainline.**

**Where such memorial or dedication signs are installed on the mainline, (1) memorial or dedication names shall not appear on directional guide signs, (2) memorial or dedication signs shall not interfere with the placement of any other necessary signing, and (3) memorial or dedication signs shall not compromise the safety or efficiency of traffic flow. The memorial or dedication signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction, each as an independent sign installation.**

## 2M.1.6 MEMORIAL GUIDE SIGN DESIGN

For Acts of the Legislature which direct the Department to install signs, the Department will install brown signs with white legends on each end of the route at appropriate locations. The signs are made of 0.08-inch aluminum, with brown reflective sheeting and the sign legends are white reflective sheeting. There shall be no graphical elements, logos or pictograph symbols.

The sign and legend are sized according to the route type. The minimum letter heights for capital letters are:

- a. two lane roadways - 4 to 6 inches
- b. multilane roadways, 45 mph or less - 4 to 6 inches
- c. multilane roadways, 50 mph or greater - 4 to 6 inches
- d. control of access roadways - 8 to 13 inches

## 2M.1.7 MEMORIAL GUIDE SIGN APPROVAL

Traffic Engineering Management (section 77) shall review the Acts of Legislature directing DOTD to install the memorial sign and shall then send the sign fabrication request to Traffic Services (section 45). Traffic Services shall fabricate the sign for the District to install unless the sign is on the interstate. If the sign is located on the interstate, Traffic Services shall install it.

**Figure 2M.1.1** Example DOTD Memorial Guide Sign



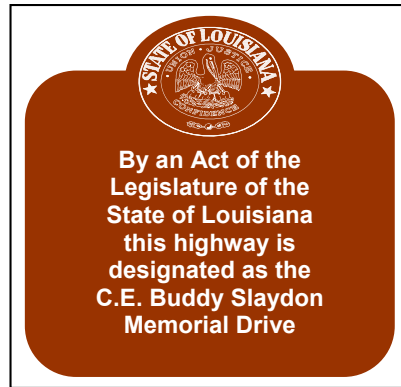
## 2M.1.8 MEMORIAL PLAQUE SIGN DESIGN

For Acts of the Legislature that do not require signs but signs are requested, the Department has developed a standard memorial plaque shown below for installation at appropriate locations. The plaque is made of 0.08 inch aluminum, is 24 inches by 30 inches, letter size is 1-½ inches, the background is brown reflective sheeting and the legend are white reflective sheeting. There shall be no graphical elements, logos or pictograph symbols.

## 2M.1.9 MEMORIAL PLAQUE APPROVAL

Traffic Engineering Management (section 77) shall review the Acts of Legislature directing DOTD to install the memorial sign and shall then send the sign fabrication request to Traffic Services (section 45). Traffic Services shall fabricate the sign for the District to install.

**Figure 2M.1.2** Example DOTD Memorial Plaque



### **2M.1.10 MEMORIAL MARKERS BY OTHERS**

In both cases the local government also has the ability to erect memorial markers such as the one shown in Figure 2M.1.3 thru the Department's Memorial Sign permit process. The local government is responsible for the cost of the sign, the permit application, the installation of the sign, and the maintenance of the sign.

Typically these markers are installed in parks or rest areas where motorists can safely stop to read the marker.

### **2M.1.11 MEMORIAL MARKER APPROVAL**

The District Traffic Operations Engineer shall recommend for approval and the Traffic Engineering Management Administrator shall approve.

**Figure 2M.1.3** Example of a Memorial Marker



### **2M.1.12 UNOFFICIAL ROADSIDE MEMORIALS**

Unofficial roadside memorials consisting of crosses, flowers, ribbons, or other items are occasionally placed by friends or relatives on highways at or near the site of crashes which involve fatalities. Such encroachments on DOTD right of way and are illegal (LA R.S. 48: 347). However, DOTD does not regularly remove such memorials unless complaints are received, an unreasonable safety hazard is created, or they interfere with routine mowing and roadside maintenance functions.

**Figure 2M.1.4** Unofficial Roadside Memorial



### **2M.1.13 DOCUMENTATION**

The District Traffic Operations Engineer may consider document the locations of the memorial/dedication signs by either Control Section – Logmile or GPS coordinates.