

Department of Public Works

Roadside Memorial Sign Program - Overview

PURPOSE and BASIC GUIDELINES:

For citizens who wish to commemorate loved ones who lost their lives in crashes, El Paso County offers a Roadside Memorial Sign Program.¹ The program both respects those individuals and protects public safety along our roadways.



To apply for a sign, an applicant must request a sign permit within five years of the crash date and be an immediate family member of the deceased victim(s) (or provide written consent of the family).

The County will install signs *only* on County owned and maintained roads. *NOTE:* Several highways within County boundaries are actually State or U.S. roads, for example: State Highways 83, 94, 105, and 115; Powers Boulevard (State Hwy. 21); U.S. 24; U.S. 85/87; and Interstate 25. Also, several roadways within County boundaries have been incorporated by cities or towns.²

Please contact the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) if you have questions about County ownership.

MEMORIAL SIGN PLACEMENT and DURATION:

Once a sign permit has been approved and the fee paid, DPW installs the Memorial Sign within 60 days. The sign will display a name (or names) and a safety message.

DPW will install the sign near the crash location. The County Engineer determines placement, after considering public safety and traffic signage and devices in the area.

Timing of installations is weather- and schedule-dependent; as such, DPW cannot provide exact installation dates. Due to safety concerns, the County will not allow on-site dedication ceremonies nor additional sign decorations.

DPW maintains the sign for five years, then staff will contact the applicant, who may retrieve the sign.

FEE:

To help partially cover the costs of sign fabrication, installation, maintenance, and removal, the applicant shall submit the fee determined by the Board of County Commissioners. However, payment is not due until *after* the Memorial Sign Permit is approved (at which point DPW will contact the applicant with payment specifics).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The decision to approve or deny a Roadside Memorial Sign application lies within the sole discretion of El Paso County. After the sign is installed, if the County receives an objection from a living individual involved in the crash or from an immediate family member of a deceased victim, the sign may be removed.

FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING ALCOHOL OR DRUGS:

In the case where application is made for an intoxicated driver (alcohol or 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. Additionally, a sign will not be erected for deceased intoxicated drivers involved in fatal crashes (in their sponsor’s name(s)) unless the immediate family of any other victim(s) killed in the crash and any living survivor(s) involved in the crash (or their guardians) grant written, notarized consent.

ROADSIDE MEMORIALS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE CRITERIA WILL BE REMOVED BY EL PASO COUNTY

¹ This document summarizes some information from El Paso County’s policy. To read the policy in its entirety, including the policy on law enforcement memorials, see Board of County Commissioners Resolution 26-104 or the Department of Public Works website: <https://publicworks.elpasoco.com/>.

² If the crash occurred within an incorporated city or town, contact that city or town to determine if it has a Roadside Memorial Sign program. If the crash occurred on a state highway, you may be able to apply for the Colorado Department of Transportation’s Memorial Sign Program: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/signs/memorial-sign>.