



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001081

MEETING DATE: 04/28/2026

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: OC Public Works

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Edward Frondoso, 714-245-4596
Hugo Pineda, 714-955-0302

SUBJECT: Adopt the Orange County Roadside Memorial Program Pilot

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| CEO CONCUR Concur | COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW No Legal Objection | CLERK OF THE BOARD DISCUSSION 3 Votes Board Majority |
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| Budgeted: Yes | Current Year Cost: See Financial Impact Section | Annual Cost: See Financial Impact Section |
| Staffing Impact: No | Funding Source: Fund 115: 100% | Sole Source: No |
| Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A | | County Audit in Last 3 years: No |
| Levine Act Review Completed? N/A | | |
| Prior Board Action: 5/21/2024 #52 | | |

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Class 1 (Existing Facilities) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.
2. Adopt the County of Orange Roadside Memorial Program on a one-year pilot basis.
3. Approve implementation of the County of Orange Roadside Memorial Program in accordance with OC Public Works Policy No. 5410.1.15.
4. Authorize the Director of OC Public Works or designee to make administrative and non-substantive revisions to OC Public Works Policy No. 5410.1.15, including procedural updates, that do not materially alter the scope, eligibility criteria or requirements of the Program, without returning to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

SUMMARY:

Adoption of the Orange County Roadside Memorial Program will establish a standardized pilot program on County of Orange maintained roadways in unincorporated Orange County to provide safe and consistent commemorative signage while promoting traffic safety awareness.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Traffic-related fatalities have lasting impacts on families and communities, and roadside memorials are often placed as a form of remembrance. In unincorporated areas of Orange County, memorials are currently installed on an informal basis without consistent standards, which can create safety concerns, interfere with maintenance activities and result in inconsistent placement and duration.

The proposed Roadside Memorial Program (Program) establishes a standardized approach for the placement of memorial signs within County of Orange (County)-maintained right of way. The Program will be implemented as a one-year pilot to evaluate public interest, operational feasibility and program effectiveness.

The Program allows for commemorative signage at locations associated with fatal vehicle-related incidents, subject to safety, operational and design criteria established by OC Public Works. To qualify for participation in the Program, the memorial must be associated with a fatal vehicle-related incident that occurred on a County-maintained roadway. Applications must be submitted within a defined timeframe by an immediate family member or authorized representative and are subject to review and approval by OC Public Works.

The Program includes a standardized sign design that limits size, content and messaging to reduce visual distraction and ensure consistency. Memorial signs will include the name of the victim and an approved traffic safety message such as “Watch Your Speed,” “Don’t Text & Drive,” “Don’t Drink & Drive,” “Yield to Bicyclists,” or “Look for Pedestrians” (Attachment A). Where applicable, signs may include bicycle or pedestrian symbols. Where multiple victims are associated with a single incident, names may be consolidated on one sign.

Sign placement will be evaluated and approved by OC Public Works to ensure compatibility with traffic safety standards and to avoid conflicts with roadway operations, utilities, drainage infrastructure and maintenance activities. A maximum of one memorial sign per incident will be permitted and will be installed in a location determined to be safe and appropriate.

Memorial signs will be installed and maintained by OC Public Works for an initial period of up to five years, with an option for a limited extension subject to Program requirements and approval. OC Public Works retains the authority to remove, relocate or deny memorial signs if necessary to address safety, operational or compliance concerns.

Adoption of the Program in accordance with OC Public Works Policy No. 5410.1.15 (Policy) will ensure consistent treatment of requests while maintaining the County’s responsibility to protect public safety and infrastructure. Under the Policy, OC Operations and Maintenance will be responsible for the fabrication, installation, record keeping and removal of memorial signs; OC Development Services will review and approve applications and collect fees; OC Traffic Engineering will review technical criteria and will notify the appropriate Board office of memorial sign installations within each Supervisorial District.

Compliance with CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt (Class 1) from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, because it provides for the maintenance and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Program will operate on a one-year pilot basis with costs estimated to be about \$1,000 per applicant and will be funded through OC Road, Fund 115. Appropriations for this pilot program are included in the FY 2026-27 Budget for Fund 115. During the pilot period, costs associated with application processing, fabrication, installation and maintenance of memorial signs will be funded by Fund 115 due to the Program’s public education and traffic safety awareness component.

Following the pilot period, OC Public Works will evaluate program performance and may return to the Board with recommendations, including making the Program permanent. If the program will be established as a permanent, stand-alone program then a cost recovery fee structure will be proposed and brought to the Board for approval under

a separate action.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - OC Public Works Policy No. 5410.1.15 Roadside Memorial Signs on County Roadways