



MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Pam Bissonnette, Interim Public Works Director
David Godfrey P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

Date: March 21, 2013

Subject: Roadside Memorials Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council approves the attached policy regarding memorial signing and temporary memorials at sites of fatal vehicle crashes.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Public Works staff was approached by family members of fatal crash victims requesting memorial signs in the City of Kirkland, similar to those provided by other agencies in the area. Staff investigated the memorial sign policies and practices of the Washington Department of Transportation, King County Road Services, and the City of Woodinville. This information was used as a basis to develop a draft policy. The draft policy was reviewed by the Transportation Commission and their suggestions and edits have been incorporated into the attached policy and application (Attachment A and Attachment B) for Council consideration. If approved, the policy will be placed in the administrative policies maintained by the Public Works Department.

The policy provides the opportunity to have a memorial sign placed near the crash site with a plaque stating the name of the deceased. Signs remain in place for five years, and the sign may be claimed by family members when it is removed. The message on the sign depends on the nature of the crash e.g. **PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY** or **WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS**.

The cost of one sign and one plaque is \$400. This is in line with costs charged by other agencies (Table 1). If the sign is damaged or vandalized for some reason, a replacement sign can be installed for an additional \$400.

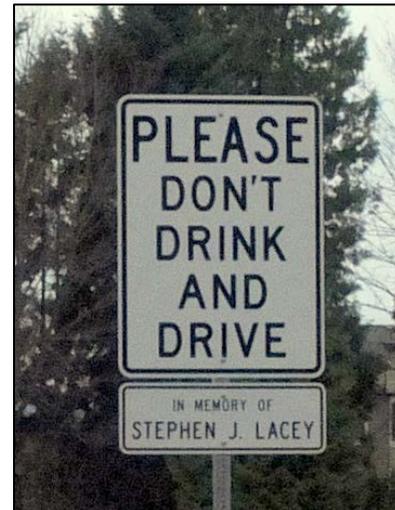


Figure 1 WSDOT Memorial Sign near Central Way/I-405

The breakdown of the \$400 cost is shown in Table 2. Only a portion of engineering and administrative costs are being recovered in order to keep the overall cost in line with the costs charged by other agencies. It's estimated that this represents about half the actual engineering and administrative costs. The Transportation Commission felt it important to keep the price of the memorial sign relatively affordable.

The policy allows for additional memorial name plaques to be added to existing signs, and the cost breakdown for this is shown in Table 3.

Table 1 Cost of Memorial signs—other agencies

Agency	Cost
WSDOT	\$500-\$950 depending on road type
King County	\$450.00
Lewis County	\$400.00
City of Woodinville	\$200.00

Table 2 Cost of Memorial sign and plaque

Item	Description	Cost
Sign Post, installed	Labor and material to install sign post and signs.	\$211.00*
Memorial sign	Sign fabrication	\$40.00*
Memorial plaque	Sign fabrication	\$54.00*
Engineering and administration	Partial recovery of time to work with customer, field check site, etc.	\$95.00
Total		\$400.00

* Costs from Public Works Standard Sign Cost Schedule, rounded up to nearest dollar from schedule cost.

Table 3 Cost of additional memorial plaque on existing sign

Item	Description	Cost
Labor and equipment to install sign	Modified cost from Public Works Standard Sign Cost Schedule (1 hr labor + vehicle)	\$72.00
Memorial plaque	Sign fabrication	\$54.00*
Engineering and administration	Partial recovery of time to work with customer.	\$44.00
Total		\$170.00

* Costs from Public Works Standard Sign Cost Schedule, rounded up to nearest dollar from schedule cost.

Family members or their representatives may apply for signs. This is described in sections B2 and B3 on page 4 of the policy.

In addition, to memorial signs, the policy covers informal and short-term memorials that are often spontaneously placed at the site of fatal crashes. It provides guidelines to ensure safe conditions for drivers and pedestrians in the area while allowing an expression of grief by those affected by the crash. A 14-day period is allowed if all guidelines are met yet provides for immediate removal if the City deems it necessary to ensure safety.

Since 2003, there have been 9 fatal crashes resulting in 10 fatalities.

Attachment A: Roadside Memorial Sign Policy

Attachment B: Roadside Memorial Sign Application

Attachment A
Roadside Memorial Signs
City of Kirkland Public Works Roadway Policy _____
March 19, 2013

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of the Memorial Sign Program is to:
 - a. Provide families of persons fatally injured in crashes with a process to sponsor a memorial sign to be erected near the scene of the crash;
 - b. Ensure that memorial signs are located and installed in a safe and consistent manner; and
 - c. Increase the public's awareness of the need to drive safely.

B. Definitions

1. Deceased: Any person who was fatally injured in a vehicle crash.
2. Immediate family member: A spouse, domestic partner, child, stepchild, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, mother, stepmother, father, stepfather, grandparent, step grandparent or lineal descendent of the deceased.
3. Single crash site: The site of all vehicle crashes that occur within 1,000 feet from each other, regardless of when they occur.
4. Sidewalk: Includes any structure or form of street improvement in the space between the street margin and the roadway, known as the sidewalk area. (KMC 19.20.010).
5. Representative: A person authorized by and acting in the interest of an immediate family member

C. Long-term memorial application procedure

1. An immediate family member or their representative may apply to sponsor a sign memorializing the deceased.
2. The applicant must complete and return a memorial sign application on forms furnished by the City. The documentation provided by applicant must establish that the deceased died as a result of a vehicle crash at a specific location in the City of Kirkland.
3. In the absence of the accident report, the applicant may produce other information or documents that are equally reliable. The City, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether other information or documents provided in lieu of an accident report are sufficiently reliable.
4. Sign applications will not be accepted for private streets.
5. A person may file an application under this policy to memorialize a fatality in a crash that occurred not more than two years prior to the application date.

D. City review of long-term memorial sign application

1. The City shall review all applications to ensure they are complete and accurate. The City may request more information from the applicant if the application is not complete or if the City needs additional information to process the application. The City shall deny any

application that does not meet the criteria set forth in this Policy or does not contain the information required in this Policy or in the application.

2. Within 45 days after the City receives a correctly completed application submitted pursuant to this policy, the City shall complete its review of the application and inspect the proposed site for the memorial sign and shall send a written decision to the applicant indicating why or why not the application is accepted and indicating the proposed location of the sign.

E. Location, placement, and ownership of long-term memorial signs

1. Once an application has been approved, the applicant must pay the fee set forth in the City of Kirkland Public Works fee schedule to cover the cost of administration, fabrication, installation, and maintenance of the memorial sign and any name plaque that may be requested.
2. The City will select, purchase, install, remove, and retain ownership of memorial signs.
3. 24" by 24" signs will be installed in accordance with applicable City policies and standards for signs. This includes posts, hardware, materials, vertical, longitudinal, and lateral positioning. 24" by 12" name plaques shall be installed directly below the sign.
4. Memorial signs shall be placed only in a City right-of-way, on the right side of the roadway, facing oncoming traffic. Signs will not be installed in the median of any City roadway.
5. Memorial signs shall be placed in close proximity to where the accident occurred at a location where the City determines it is safe and practical to do so.
6. Only one sign will be installed per intersection or per 1,000 feet of roadway for each direction of traffic. However, a memorial sign will not be placed in a location where the memorial sign obstructs the visibility of an existing traffic sign, or traffic signal or impairs sight distance below adopted City standards. Signs will not be placed on any bridge over I-405, or where these signs cause any concern or obstruction to any public appurtenance.
7. The City will not replace the sign should it be vandalized, damaged, or found missing; however, the applicant may apply for a new sign, including payment of the fee set forth in the City of Kirkland Public Works fee schedule. Any replacement signs will continue for the five year period (section E8) that began timing with the original sign.
8. Unless it is determined that public safety requires the sign to be removed, the City of Kirkland will allow the sign to remain in the right-of-way for five years after its placement, or until the City determines that the condition of the sign has deteriorated to a point where it is no longer serviceable, whichever occurs first. The City shall remove and retain ownership of the sign after removal. The City may properly dispose of the sign unless applicant has requested, in writing on the application, possession of the sign after its removal. The applicant shall be responsible for promptly obtaining the sign from the City after its removal. Any signs left unclaimed after 45 days will be disposed of. The request to take possession of the sign is incumbent on the applicant.

G. Wording on long-term memorial signs

1. One of the following six messages, related to the cause of the crash, is available for standard memorial sign installation. The City, in its discretion, shall determine whether the requested message is related to the cause of the crash:

- a. *Please don't drink and drive.*
 - b. *Please drive safely.*
 - c. *Seat belts save lives.*
 - d. *Watch for pedestrians.*
 - e. *Watch for bicyclists.*
 - f. *Watch for motorcyclists.*
2. A secondary plaque displays the message *In Memory Of*, together with the victim's name (See Schematic below). No more than three name plaques may appear below a single memorial sign.

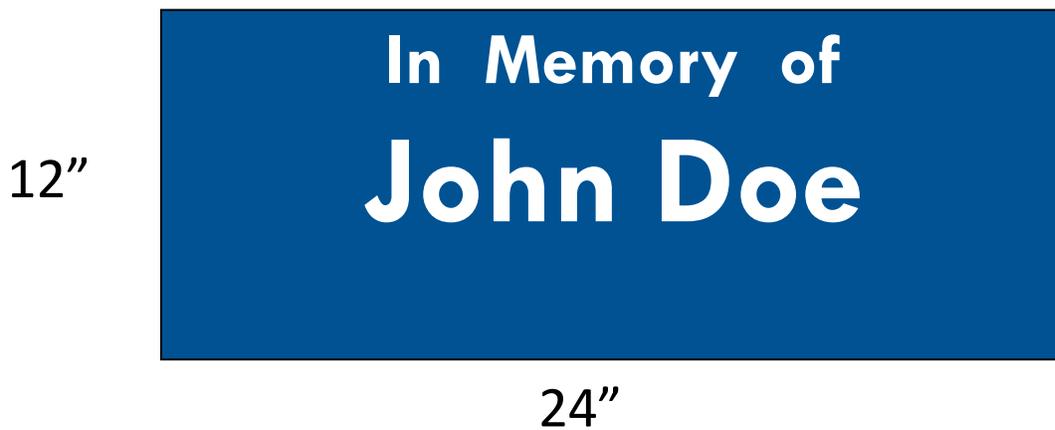
H. Multiple long term memorial sign applications

1. Only one sign will be installed per single crash site. Should a sign already exist, an additional name plaque may be added to an existing sign upon City approval. Multiple deceased names may appear on one sign.
2. The City may approve applications for an additional memorial sign at an existing crash site under the following circumstances:
 - a. Additional name plaques can be attached to the existing sign installation; or
 - b. A second memorial sign can be installed across the roadway from the first sign installation so that the second sign installation faces the traffic approaching from the opposite direction.

F. Informal short-term memorials and anniversary memorials

1. The placement of informal memorials shall be allowed in the right-of-way for up to 14 days after an accident with the following conditions:
 - a. The memorial does not exceed three feet in height (except bicycles) and up to nine square feet in surface area and is contained in the right-of-way.
 - b. The memorial does not cause unsafe conditions for passing motorists, pedestrians or bicyclists or for people who are maintaining or visiting the memorial. At the sole discretion of the City, items may be rearranged or removed to improve safety.
 - c. Those visiting and/or maintaining the memorial comply with all other applicable laws.
 - d. No materials are placed on bridges over I-405.
 - e. Public Works Transportation Division is notified prior to installation.
2. At the end of the 14-day period, the City may remove any items from the memorial site.
3. The placement of an anniversary memorial shall be allowed in the right-of-way for up to seven days after each anniversary of the vehicle crash, for up to four years. At the end of the seven-day period, the City may remove any items from the memorial site.
4. Unattended candles shall not be allowed at memorial sites and may be immediately removed by the City.
5. Nothing in items 1 thru 4 shall prevent the City, at its sole discretion, from removing a memorial immediately in response to a threat to public safety.

Schematic of Memorial Signs





Memorial Sign Permit Application Attachment B

Public Works Department
Kirkland City Hall
123 Fifth Ave, Kirkland WA 98033

Open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
publicworks@kirklandwa.gov
Phone: 425.587.3800

Application Date: _____ Application No.: _____
(for City use only)

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email (optional): _____

* * * * *

Name of Deceased: _____
(As it should appear on sign)

Date of Accident: _____

Relationship to Deceased: _____
(Must be immediate family member or representative)

Location of Accident: _____
(Address, intersection, or distance and direction from intersection – must be within Kirkland city limits)

Wording Requested on Sign (Please select one.)

- Please Don't Drink and Drive. Please Drive safely. Watch for bicyclists.
- Seat belts save lives. Watch for pedestrians. Watch for motorcyclists.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

- Documentation establishing death as a result of a vehicle crash in Kirkland jurisdiction . *(The City, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether other information or documents provided in lieu of an accident report are sufficiently reliable.)*
- Applicant requests to be present at time of sign installation. *(Staff will make an effort to make arrangements with family, but City crew work scheduling may determine schedule if family availability is limited.)*
- Applicant requests to pick up sign upon its removal from the roadway at the end of 5 years. *(It will be the applicant's responsibility to promptly pick up sign once notified. If unable to contact, City will dispose of sign.)*

Note: Once your application has been reviewed, a staff member from Public Works will contact you regarding your request (within 45 days of submittal). A \$400 (sign and plaque) or \$170 (plaque on existing sign) fee is due upon approval. Please call 425.587.3800 with any questions.

Requested Sign Location (attach map if available): _____

Signs will be installed in accordance with applicable City policies and standards for signs. This includes posts, hardware, materials, and positioning. Name plaques shall be installed directly below the sign.

Memorial signs shall be placed only in a City right-of-way, on the right side of the roadway, facing oncoming traffic. Signs will not be installed in the median of any City roadway.

See full policy for further details and regulations.