Purpose

To define the procedures governing roadside memorials. These procedures provide an opportunity to recognize the needs of grieving families and friends in a way that is consistent with motorist safety and the Utah Department of Transportation’s (Department) operations. The memorials will also serve to remind motorists to drive safely. The Roadside Memorial program is not intended to serve as a free speech forum.

Policy

This policy applies to all highways under the jurisdiction of the Department. Placement of roadside memorials according to this policy will be allowed on State highways only for fatal crashes and by written agreement between the Department and the family. All families must agree to the terms of the agreement in the case of multiple family fatal crashes. Fatal crashes older than five years will not be considered for the programs.

Roadside memorials will be one of the following options.

1. Adopt-a-Highway program
2. Memorial Safety Sign program

Adopt-a-Highway Program

1. All current policies and procedures for the Adopt-a-Highway program will apply to roadside memorials. Applicants must comply with Utah Admin Code R918-4.

2. The Adopt-a-Highway signs will be supplemented with a plaque from the Utah Standard Highway Sign Supplement.

3. No private memorials will be allowed at the site. The Department will remove and dispose of any private memorials.

Memorial Safety Sign Program

1. Safety signs will only be installed with written agreement between the Department and the family.

2. The Department will pay the cost of the sign and installation.
3. Placement of signs will be limited to one per mile. Signs will NOT be placed in locations where conflicts with other priority signs exist. The Region Traffic Operations Engineer will make this determination. The Engineer for Traffic and Safety will have the final approval for funding.

4. Supplemental plaque designating memorial will be in place for one year. Current supplemental plaques can be renewed by the family only by written request to the Department if there are no additional requests for the sign location on the waiting list.

5. The sign design will conform to the Utah Standard Highway Sign Supplement.

6. No private memorials will be allowed at the site. The Department will remove and dispose of any private memorials.

7. Religious symbols may not be placed on State rights-of-way.