

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SENATOR DAVE CORTESE, CHAIR
2025-2026 Session

Committee Policy on: MEASURES NAMING HIGHWAYS OR STRUCTURES

Policy: The committee will not consider any measure proposing to name or designate a state highway or highway structure unless the measure meets the following conditions:

1. The person being honored must be deceased or a former elected public official who has been out of office for at least 25 years.
2. The person must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway is located.
3. The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
4. The author or co-author of the measure must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the measure must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
5. A segment of highway being named for a specific individual or individuals must not exceed five miles in length
6. The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
7. The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good-faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

Discussion: Each legislative session members of the Senate and Assembly introduce measures proposing to name a state highway segment or structure in honor of some individual, group or historical event. Over the years, an informal policy developed relative to the criteria for approval of such designations and memorials. No firm guidelines existed, however, which in some instances resulted in inconsistency or controversy over a proposed designation.

For the last several sessions, the committee has adopted and successfully employed a policy establishing general criteria and guidelines for naming transportation facilities. The establishment of basic guidelines for naming highways and structures serves to mitigate questions or controversy in advance of legislative consideration of naming measures. It also serves the committee's efficient consideration of such proposals and promotes fairness in determining whether a particular facility or segment is to be specially designated.

Adopted by the Senate Committee on Transportation on March 25, 2025.