



Interchange Designation Program

HEROES WAY

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Heroes Way Interchange Designation Program?

The Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Program passed legislation in 2009, allowing interstate interchanges to be designated for Missouri residents, who were in the armed forces and were killed in action on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in either Afghanistan or Iraq. In 2011, the original law was expanded to include state highway interchanges. To learn more, please visit MoDOT's website at: www.modot.mo.gov/services/MemorialDesignationPrograms.htm.

The law tasks MoDOT with administration of the program. The law, in its entirety, may be found at: www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills111/biltxt/truly/HB0798T.htm.

Why are Heroes Way designation signs only allowed at interchanges?

The Heroes Way Interchange Designation Program was developed after the memorial highway/bridge designation program. A very large percentage of highways and bridges have already been designated and cannot be renamed. Interchanges are exclusively reserved for Heroes Way memorials, eliminating the conflict with the large number of memorials existing on highways and bridges. Along with the unique sign design, designating interstate and state numbered highway interchanges exclusively for Heroes Way sets the program apart from any other state highway or bridge memorial signing program.

Where can Heroes Way signs be installed?

Heroes Way sign designations only apply to state maintained highway interchanges. Sign location and placement will be determined by MoDOT to ensure signs do not interfere with the safe operation of the highway system or conflict with other traffic control devices.

How many signs will be installed for a Heroes Way interchange designation?

Two signs will be provided for each Heroes Way designation. The signs are placed in the area between the mainline highway and the exit ramp of the interchange, viewable by motorists on the mainline. All signs remain the property of MoDOT.

Can an interchange be designated after more than one Missouri fallen soldier?

No interchange may be named or designated after more than one Missouri fallen soldier. An interchange may only receive one Heroes Way designation per state statute.

Who can apply for a Heroes Way interchange designation?

Only family members of a Missouri fallen soldier may apply for and make decisions pertaining to a Heroes Way Interchange Naming Application. To protect the interests of the family, MoDOT will correspond with the family members regarding these applications/dedication ceremonies and will honor their wishes within the limits of the state statute.

Who do I contact to find out if the interchange I have chosen is available for designation?

To find out if the interchange is available for designation, please contact MoDOT's Traffic & Highway Safety Division at (573) 526-0117 prior to completing the application.

Where do I submit a Heroes Way Interchange Naming Application?

All applications for a Heroes Way interchange designation are to be submitted to MoDOT's Traffic & Highway Safety Division. Applications can be downloaded from MoDOT's website at: www.modot.mo.gov/services/hwipprogram.htm. Applications should be sent to:

MoDOT
Traffic & Highway Safety Division
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Who decides if a Heroes Way interchange designation is approved?

MoDOT's Traffic & Highway Safety Division verifies the availability of the interchange and ensures all required information has been received. The information is then submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight for review and approval consideration for these applications.



What is the expected timeframe for an application to be approved once submitted to the Committee?

The Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight reviews the applications during the current legislative session of each year (January through May). If an application is received after session, a special meeting is requested by MoDOT. The Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight sets the date for all special meetings and once scheduled, MoDOT is notified. MoDOT has no authority on when the Committee meets.

Who is responsible for the cost of the signs?

The fee for these signs may be provided by the family; however, funds can be provided through private donations, from organizations like HeroesWay.Org, or other sources. If private donations are utilized, payment must be submitted on the family's behalf.

How much does it cost to participate in the Heroes Way Interchange Designation Program?

The fee for the Heroes Way Interchange Designation Program covers MoDOT's costs for the sign, the post and hardware, and all other expenses associated with the installation and maintenance of the two signs for the 20-year life of the application. Signs are currently priced at \$2,200 (cost includes two signs).

Costs are relatively stable, but will be adjusted to account for increases in material and installation costs. On Jan. 1, 2013, a price increase will take effect. The standard, 6' x 3' signs will cost \$2,400 (cost includes two signs). Larger, 8' x 3' signs will be available for a cost of \$3,200 (cost includes two signs). The cost increase for the optional 8' x 3' sign is due to the increase in size and larger posts required to support the sign.

How is the cost of the application fees for the Heroes Way signs set?

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission determines the fees for memorial designation signs.

Who do I make the payment out to for the Heroes Way interchange signs?

Payment may be made payable to "Director of Revenue – Credit State Road Fund" and must be submitted to MoDOT's Traffic & Highway Safety Division.

Why are there costs associated with the Heroes Way Program?

All memorial highway designation programs in the state of Missouri are based on state law. When program laws were established, fees were required to be paid by private donation so the expense to operate these programs would not divert money from MoDOT's primary responsibility of building and maintaining the state's highway system. The fees do not exceed the cost of constructing and maintaining the signs.

How long do Heroes Way interchange signs stay in place?

Heroes Way signs will be installed and maintained for 20 years with no additional cost to the family. At 19 years, the family may submit a renewal and pay a second application fee for the subsequent 20 years. If the family does not opt to renew, the designated signs will be removed at 20 years and that location will become available for another Missouri fallen soldier.

What size are the Heroes Way signs?

The current size of Heroes Way and all other memorial highway designation signs is 6' x 3'. The Heroes Way Interchange Designation Program also has an optional, 8' x 3' sign. This larger sign accommodates the fallen soldier's rank and full name, which may not fit on the standard 6' x 3' sign. The optional 8' x 3' sign will have an increase in costs, due to the increase in size and larger posts required to support the signs.

How long does it take for the Heroes Way interchange signs to be installed?

Once the approved application is received by MoDOT, it can take up to six to eight weeks for the two signs to be installed at the interchange. The installation time can vary depending on the date of the dedication ceremony and weather conditions.

