



Policy Title: Roadside Memorials Policy
Policy Number: TP013
Report Number: LPT2009-15, Street Bylaw 20M88
Approved by: Council
Effective Date: 2009 March 9
Business Unit: Roads

BACKGROUND

The City recognizes that it has become customary for members of the public to place memorial items along roadways to commemorate victims of motor vehicle crashes. Out of respect for grieving family and friends, the Transportation Department allows placement of roadside memorials within City right-of-way at, or near, the crash site.

At the 2008 November 03 Combined Meeting of Council, [NM2008-42](#) by Alderman Colley-Urquhart was adopted directing Administration prepare a report that identifies and evaluates options to address the issue of roadside memorials with recommendations for a formal policy with an implementation plan, and report back to Council through the SPC on Land Use, Planning and Transportation no later than 2008 February.

PURPOSE

Placement of roadside memorials has become customary for members of the public and it was recognized that a formal policy was required. This outlines The City's policy on permanent and temporary roadside memorials.

POLICY

- Roadside memorial markers must not constitute a safety hazard to those using or maintaining a roadway.
- The sole authority to permit a memorial marker resides with the Traffic Engineer under Section 17(4) of the Street Bylaw 20M88
- If the Traffic Engineer determines that it is absolutely necessary to remove a memorial marker for safety, construction or maintenance purposes, The City will attempt to contact the individuals who erected the memorial and facilitate its removal or relocation to a suitable location.

- A period of a maximum of 12 months will be generally applied for temporary marker sites. During this period, The City reserves the right to maintain or remove the memorial if operational issues arise.
- Roadways with posted speeds of 70km/h or greater will not be permitted to have any temporary memorials as these corridors are not conducive to vehicle access or pedestrian activity adjacent to the roadway.
- If a family desires a permanent memorial, the family can choose to have either a permanent memorial plaque placed at a central site or they can choose to prescribe to the memorial park bench program.
- Another option is to apply for a memorial aesthetic band that can be discretely placed on a streetlight location collaboratively selected with the Traffic Engineer.

PROCEDURE

- Arrangements for permanent memorial options can be made through the Traffic Division by contacting 3-1-1.
- Procedures for implementing this policy are included in the traffic control policy manual.

AMENDMENTS

None

NM2008-October 16

RE: ROADSIDE MEMORIALS

Alderman Colley-Urquhart

WHEREAS placing a roadside memorial following a tragic fatal accident has become a common but controversial practice, and

WHEREAS memorials vary in size from a bouquet of flowers to permanent structures and are sometimes placed in hazardous locations and can become a distraction to drivers, and

WHEREAS Section 17(4) of the Street Bylaw currently prohibits placing any objects or materials onto the street right of way, and

WHEREAS there are inconsistencies in the application of the current practice by Traffic Engineering to allow roadside memorials to remain for up to one year (if they are kept tidy and not in a hazardous location), and

WHEREAS removing roadside memorials by city staff is sometimes viewed as being insensitive and controversial, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administration prepare a report that identifies and evaluates options to address the issue of roadside memorials with recommendations for a formal policy with an implementation plan, and report back to Council through the SPC on Land Use, Planning and Transportation no later than 2008 February.

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart