



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

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Salem, OR 97301

**DATE:** February 27, 2019

**TO:** Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**FROM:** Mac Lynde, Deputy Highway Division Administrator

**SUBJECT:** SB 528 – Fallen Firefighter Roadside Memorial Signs

## INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 528 directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), upon legislative passage of a Concurrent Resolution for the fallen firefighter and receipt of the sign fee, to erect and maintain a roadside memorial sign commemorating a firefighter killed in the line of duty.

## DISCUSSION

The Oregon Department of Transportation currently manages a roadside memorial sign program, enabling families and communities of fallen heroes to commemorate them with a roadside sign honoring their sacrifice. Roadside memorial signs are currently placed for fallen military personnel and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; SB 528 extends this honor to fallen firefighters.

Upon passage of SB 528, ODOT's current process and management of these roadside memorial signs will remain the same. ODOT will coordinate with legislative sponsors, families, and communities of the fallen heroes to ensure the signs are placed carefully and swiftly after the statutory requirements are met. Placement of roadside memorial signs are informed by family preference, as well as technical design and traffic engineering standards to ensure highway safety and support of ongoing maintenance and operational needs.

## SUMMARY

SB 528 expands ODOT's successful roadside memorial sign program to include fallen firefighters. This change will not require significant program or administration changes and will therefore have minimal impact on ODOT's budget or programs.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Mac Lynde  
Deputy Highway Division Administrator  
Oregon Department of Transportation