Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Policies

Category: **HIGHWAYS**
Subcategory: **Naming Highways**

Related Statute: Section 226.440 through 226.465 RSMo 2000, Mississippi River Parkway Commission/Great River Road
Section 226.792 and 226.796 RSMo, Route 66
Section 226.800 RSMo – National Historic Trails
Section 227.295 RSMo - Drunk driving reduction awareness program established – placement of signage (David's Law) (2009)
Section 227.296 RSMo – FA Paul Akers, Jr. and LCPL Jered Schmitz memorial sign funding act (2023)
Section 227.297 RSMo – Heroes Way interchange designation program established – signage (Honors Missourians killed in action while performing active military duty in Afghanistan or Iraq on or after September 11, 2001.) (2009)
Section 227.299 RSMo Memorial bridge or highway designations, procedure (2005)
Sections 227.300 through 227.500 RSMo– These sections name highways or bridges in honor of a specific person, group, or event.

In the 1920's the Commission endorsed the decision of the states to use numbers and letters to designate highways. Although the Commission received many requests to name highways in honor of persons, events, or organizations, it has broken with tradition only six times: Jay B. Dillingham Freeway (May 4, 1984); C. F. "Red" Whaley Expressway (June 1, 1990); Harry Darby Memorial Highway (June 1, 1990); Heart of America Bridge (June 1, 1990); Danny Staples Bridge (September 4, 2003); Chicago-Kansas City Expressway (August 8, 2012). In addition the Alexander Doniphan Memorial Highway (1998) was named under Commission policy requiring only local initiation and support thereof, and the Huckaba Family and Willingham Family Memorial Highway (2009) was named in keeping with a lawsuit settlement.

In 1996, however, the legislative process was first used to name a highway. Since that time, over 200 sections of highway have been legislatively named for specific persons, events, or organizations. (See Sections 227.300 through 227.514, RSMo (2012).)

In 2023, the General Assembly modified responsibility for the cost of named highways.