

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 841 Transportation Facility Designations

SPONSOR(S): Rayner

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1148

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Transportation & Modals Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N	Walker	Hinshelwood
2) Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Infrastructure Strategies Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

State law authorizes legislative designations of transportation facilities, such as bridges, interchanges, or portions of roads, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not change the official names of the facilities and do not require local governments and private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone system listings to account for the designations. The Department of Transportation (DOT) may not erect markers for a designation unless the appropriate city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation.

The bill designates the “Airman Mohammed 'Mo' Sameh Haitham Memorial Way” in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. Under the bill, DOT must erect suitable markers for the designation.

The bill will have an insignificant negative fiscal impact to the State Transportation Trust Fund associated with erecting suitable markers for the designation. The cost can be absorbed within DOT’s existing resources.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Transportation Facility Designations

Under current law, the Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge, interchange, or portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not officially change the existing names of the facilities and do not require local governments or private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone-number system listings to account for the designations.¹

Regarding the naming of state buildings and other facilities, state law provides that except as specifically provided by law, state buildings, roads, bridges, parks, recreational complexes, and other similar facilities may not be named for a living person.²

Transportation Facility Markers

When the Legislature establishes transportation facility designations, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is required to place a marker at each terminus or intersection of the highway segment or bridge designated and may erect other markers it deems appropriate for the designated transportation facility.³ Markers may not be erected until the appropriate city or county commission passes a resolution in support of the particular designation. Additionally, if the designated facility is located in multiple cities or counties, each affected local government must pass a resolution in support of the designation before DOT can install the markers.⁴

Airman Mohammed 'Mo' Sameh Haitham

On December 6, 2019, Airman Mohammed “Mo” Sameh Haitham was the victim of an active shooter at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. Airman Haitham has been described as a hero for his actions in connection with the incident. Airman Haitham was scheduled to complete his flight crew training the same month that he passed away.⁵

Effect of the Bill

The bill designates those portions of the Gandy Bridge on U.S. 92 located within the geographical boundaries of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties as “Airman Mohammed 'Mo' Sameh Haitham Memorial Way”. The bill directs DOT to erect suitable markers.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Designates “Airman Mohammed 'Mo' Sameh Haitham Memorial Way”; directs DOT to erect suitable markers.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

¹ S. 334.071(1), F.S.

² S. 267.062(1), F.S.

³ S. 334.071(2), F.S.

⁴ S. 334.071(3), F.S.

⁵ The United States Navy Memorial, *Mohammed Sameh “Mo” Haitham*, <https://navylog.nawymemorial.org/haitham-mohammed> (last visited Jan. 23, 2024).

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

DOT estimates a cost of \$1,800 per designation for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$900 per sign.⁶ Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$1,800 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing DOT resources.⁷

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

N/A

⁶ Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Transportation, FW: road designation sign costs, (Oct. 10, 2023).

⁷ *Id.*