

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 987	COMPANION BILL: CS/SB 1408 (Collins)
TITLE: Transportation Facility Designations	LINKED BILLS: None
SPONSOR(S): Brannan, Nix	RELATED BILLS: None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	111 Y's	0 N's	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Pending
----------------------------------	---------	-------	---------------------------	---------

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill designates 20 transportation facilities across the state for memorial and honorary purposes and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers for each designation. The bill also modifies the transportation facility description for an existing designation.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will have an insignificant negative impact on state government expenditures.

JUMP TO

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires FDOT to erect suitable markers for the following transportation facility designations: (Section [1](#)).

[Heroes Memorial Overpass](#)

That portion of the overpass on S.R. 100 between S Temple Avenue and E South Street in Bradford County is designated as "Heroes Memorial Overpass."

[Sergeant Elio Diaz Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 41 between Melbourne Street and Church Street in Charlotte County is designated as "Sergeant Elio Diaz Memorial Highway."

[Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office \(PBSO\) Motorman Highway](#)

That portion of Southern Boulevard between 18000 Southern Boulevard (Lion Country Safari Road) and Royal Palm Beach Boulevard in Palm Beach County is designated as "PBSO Motorman Highway."

[Staff Sergeant Matthew Sitton Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of S.R. 688/Ulmerton Road between 122nd Avenue N./125th Street and Walsingham Road in Pinellas County is designated as "Staff Sergeant Matthew Sitton Memorial Highway."

[Sheriff Gary S. Borders Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of S.R. 19 and County Road 48 in Howey-In-The-Hills within Lake County is designated as "Sheriff Gary S. Borders Memorial Highway."

[Master Deputy Bradley Link Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 27 within the municipal boundaries of Minneola in Lake County is designated as "Master Deputy Bradley Link Memorial Highway."

[Sergeant Karl Strohsal Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of S.R. 400 east of the Central Parkway Bridge and the E. E. Williamson Bridge in the City of Longwood in Seminole County is designated as "Sergeant Karl Strohsal Memorial Highway."

STORAGE NAME: h0987z

DATE: 5/7/2025

[SPC Daniel J. Agami Bridge](#)

The bridge on S.R. 7 over Sample Road in Broward County is designated as "SPC Daniel J. Agami Bridge."

[Deputy William May Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 90 between Lancelot Road and Oakridge Way in Walton County is designated as "Deputy William May Memorial Highway."

[Manolo Reyes Boulevard](#)

That portion of S.W. 57th Avenue between U.S. 41/S.W. 8th Street and W. Flagler Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as "Manolo Reyes Boulevard."

[Master Patrol Officer Jesse Madsen Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of I-275 between mile markers 47 and 48 in Hillsborough County is designated as "Master Patrol Officer Jesse Madsen Memorial Highway."

[Geraldine Thompson Way](#)

That portion of W. South Street between South Division Avenue and U.S. 441 in Orange County is designated as "Geraldine Thompson Way."

[Harris Rosen Way](#)

That portion of International Drive between S.R. 528 and Sand Lake Road in Orange County is designated as "Harris Rosen Way."

[Harry Frisch Street](#)

That portion of S.R. 10/West Beaver Street between King Street and Acorn Street in Duval County is designated as "Harry Frisch Street."

[Senator James A. Sebesta Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 92/S.R. 600/Gandy Boulevard between S. West Shore Boulevard in Hillsborough County and 4th Street N. in Pinellas County is designated as "Senator James A. Sebesta Memorial Highway."

[Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 41/SW 8th Street between S.W. 27th Avenue and Brickell Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as "Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart Memorial Highway."

[Jose Wejebe Bridge](#)

Bridge number 900111 on S.R. 5/South Pine Channel over South Pine Channel in Monroe County is designated as "Jose Wejebe Bridge."

[Celia Cruz Way](#)

That portion of S.R. 932/N.W. 103rd Street/49th Street within the City of Hialeah in Miami-Dade County is designated as "Celia Cruz Way."

[President Donald J. Trump Boulevard](#)

That portion of Southern Boulevard between Kirk Road and S. Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach County is designated as "President Donald J. Trump Boulevard."

[Sonia Castro Way](#)

That portion of S.W. 58th Street between S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue and S.W. 102nd Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as "Sonia Castro Way."

The bill modifies the existing "[Deputy William Gentry, Jr., Highway](#)" in Highlands County. (Section 2).

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [3](#)).

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill will have an insignificant negative impact on state government expenditures. FDOT estimates a cost of \$2,400 per designation for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$1,200 per sign.¹ Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$50,400 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing FDOT resources.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Legislative Designation of Transportation Facilities

The Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge or a 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 facilities and do not require local governments or private parties to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings.²

Transportation Facility Markers

Following a legislative designation, FDOT is required to place markers at the termini or intersections specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and may place other markers it deems as appropriate.³ Before markers may be erected, the appropriate city or county commission must pass a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation. If the designated bridge or road segment is located in more than one city or county, there must be resolutions supporting the designation from each affected local government before markers may be erected.⁴

Biographical Information

[Heroes Memorial Overpass](#)

The Heroes Memorial Overpass recognizes the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of military service members, first responders, and other heroes who have served to protect the City of Starke community.

[Sergeant Elio Diaz Memorial Highway](#)

On December 15, 2024, Sergeant Elio Diaz was shot and killed during a traffic stop in Charlotte Harbor. Sergeant Diaz had served with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office for over 11 years.⁵

[Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office \(PBSO\) Motorman Highway](#)

In November 2024, three motor deputies were killed in Palm Beach County after being struck by a car. This designation not only pays tribute to the three motormen, but it also recognizes the role of all first responders who serve the community.

[Staff Sergeant Matthew Sitton Memorial Highway](#)

On August 2, 2012, Staff Sergeant Matthew Sitton was killed in action in Kandahar, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. A native of Largo, he served with distinction in the United States Army. Throughout his service, he earned numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with knot, National Defense Service Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

¹ Email from Jack Rogers, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Transportation, RE: Road Designations Review (Feb. 13, 2025).

² [S. 334.071\(1\), F.S.](#)

³ [S. 334.071\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁴ [S. 334.071\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁵ Officer Down Memorial Page, *Sergeant Elio Diaz*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/27245-sergeant-elio-diaz> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

[Sheriff Gary S. Borders Memorial Highway](#)

Sheriff Gary S. Borders was appointed as Lake County sheriff in 2006 and he was later elected in 2008 and 2012. In addition to his law duties, Sheriff Borders served on numerous boards, including the Board of Directors for the Florida Sheriff's Association and the Educational Foundation of Lake County. He received many awards throughout his career, including the Florida DARE Sheriff of the Year and the Lake County Community of Distinction Award. Sheriff Borders retired in 2017 and passed on November 16, 2021.

[Master Deputy Bradley Link Memorial Highway](#)

In April 2024, Master Deputy Sheriff Bradley Link was shot and killed when he and other deputies responded to a disturbance at a home in Eustis. He served with the Lake County Sheriff's Office for four and a half years and had previously served with the Polk County Sheriff's Office for two years. He was also a U.S. Army Reserves veteran.⁶

[Sergeant Karl Strohsal Memorial Highway](#)

In July 2007, Sergeant Karl Strohsal was struck and killed by another vehicle in Volusia County after returning from a plainclothes operation. Sergeant Strohsal served with the Longwood Police Department for 18 years and had previously served with the New York City Police Department for 14 years.⁷

[SPC Daniel J. Agami Bridge](#)

In June 2007, Army Specialist Daniel J. Agami was killed in an explosion in Iraq during operation Iraqi Freedom. A native of South Florida, Agami was known for his strong sense of duty to his country and for taking pride in teaching his fellow soldiers about Judaism. His parents were presented with his Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Army commendation medal.⁸

[Deputy William May Memorial Highway](#)

Walton County Deputy Sheriff William May was shot and killed on April 2, 2025, while responding to a disturbance at a business in Defuniak Springs. Deputy May was working an overtime shift and was on his way home when he took the disturbance call. He had served with the Walton County Sheriff's Office for over 11 years, the last six of which were as a law enforcement officer.⁹

[Manolo Reyes Boulevard](#)

On Friday, April 11, 2025, City Commissioner Manolo Reyes passed away at the age of 80. Commissioner Reyes was a devoted public servant who spent his career committed to bettering the lives of the people in his community. He was a teacher at Westland Hialeah Senior High School, the Principal Budget Analyst for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and he served as Miami City Commissioner for District Four since 2017.¹⁰

[Master Patrol Officer Jesse Madsen Memorial Highway](#)

Officer Jesse Madsen, of the Tampa Police Department, was killed on March 9, 2021, when his patrol car was struck head on by a wrong-way driver on I-275. He was responding to reports of a wrong-way driver when he was struck by the car. A witness stated that Officer Madsen had intentionally collided with the oncoming car to prevent it from

⁶ Officer Down Memorial Page, *Master Deputy Sheriff Bradley Michael Link*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/27109-master-deputy-sheriff-bradley-michael-link> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

⁷ Officer Down Memorial Page, *Sergeant Karl Strohsal*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/18951-sergeant-karl-strohsal> (last visited Apr. 17, 2025).

⁸ Honor the Fallen, *Army Spc. Daniel J. Agami*, <https://thefallen.militarytimes.com/army-spc-daniel-j-agami/2857944> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

⁹ Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff William May*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/27369-deputy-sheriff-william-may> (last visited April 7, 2025).

¹⁰ CBS News, *Manolo Reyes, Miami city commissioner, dies at age 80 after years of public service*, <https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/manolo-reyes-miami-city-commissioner-dies-at-age-80-after-years-of-public-service/> (last visited May 5, 2025).

striking other vehicles. Officer Madsen was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Tampa Police Department for 16 years.¹¹

[Geraldine Thompson Way](#)

Senator Geraldine Thompson had served in the Florida Legislature since 2006, becoming the first African American woman to represent Orlando in the state legislature. Senator Thompson served in the Florida House from 2006 to 2012 and again from 2018 to 2022. Her most recent time in the Florida Senate began in 2022, following a previous tenure from 2012 to 2016. A respected historian and scholar of Black history, Senator Thompson led the campaign to preserve the Wells' Built Museum of African American History & Culture.¹² The museum is located along the designated road.

[Harris Rosen Way](#)

Harris Rosen was President and Chief Operating Officer of Rosen Hotels & Resorts, a hospitality company founded in 1974 that operates seven Orlando-area hotels. Mr. Rosen received numerous philanthropic and humanitarian awards, including the Association of Fundraising Professionals lifetime award, as well as the Leadership Florida's LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Rosen passed away on November 25, 2024, at age 85.

[Harry Frisch Street](#)

Harry Frisch was the Chairman of Beaver Street Fisheries and a prominent businessman from Jacksonville. Beginning in the 1950s, Mr. Frisch and his family grew what started as a small retail store into one of the largest seafood processors and distributors in the United States. Throughout his lifetime, he received many awards, including induction into the First Coast Business Hall of Fame by the Florida Council on Economic Education and the Humanitarian Award, Silver Medallion from OneJax.¹³

[Senator James A. Sebesta Memorial Highway](#)

Senator James A. Sebesta was initially appointed and subsequently, in 1972, elected Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County. Senator Sebesta was originally elected to the Florida Senate in 1988, and reelected in 2002, and served as the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee from 2000 to 2006. Senator Sebesta was committed to planning for Florida's growth and improving the safety of Florida's roadways. Senator Sebesta passed away on January 29, 2024.¹⁴

[Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart Memorial Highway](#)

Born in Havana, Cuba, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart's family fled Cuba in 1959 and eventually settled in Miami. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1986 and won a special election to the Florida Senate in 1989. He was first elected to Congress in 1992 and retired from Congress in 2011. Congressman Diaz-Balart passed away on March 3, 2025.¹⁵

[Jose Wejebe Bridge](#)

Jose Wejebe was the host of the popular TV fishing show, "*The Spanish Fly*," which highlighted the fishing and coastal areas of south Florida and the Florida Keys. Mr. Wejebe was involved in the community through charity organizations, including the Make a Wish Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Red Bone Catch a Cure for

¹¹ Officer Down Memorial Page, *Officer Jesse Peter Madsen*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/25185-officer-jesse-peter-madsen> (last visited February 27, 2025).

¹² Email from Jeff Takacs, Clerk of the House, Florida House of Representatives, Passing of Former House Member and Current Sitting Senator, Feb. 14, 2025.

¹³ Jacksonville Daily Record, *Harry Frisch, Beaver Street Fisheries chairman, dies at age 99*, <https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/news/2023/jan/13/harry-frisch-beaver-street-fisheries-chairman-dies-at-age-99/> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

¹⁴ James Sebesta Obituary, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tampabaytimes/name/james-sebesta-obituary?id=54311555> (last visited February 17, 2025).

¹⁵ United States House of Representatives, *Lincoln Diaz-Balart*, <https://history.house.gov/People/Detail/12198> (last visited April 9, 2025).

Cystic Fibrosis. After his passing in 2012, The Spanish Fly Memorial Foundation was formed to continue Mr. Wejebe's conservation, education, and fishing advocacy.¹⁶ Mr. Wejebe owned a home near the designated bridge.

[Celia Cruz Way](#)

Celia Cruz was an internationally acclaimed singer and performer whose career spanned from the 1940s to the early 21st century. Known as the "Queen of Salsa," Ms. Cruz was instrumental in the creation and popularization of salsa and pan-Hispanic music. After the Cuban Revolution, she left her native country and became a symbol and spokesperson for the Cuban exile community. Ms. Cruz passed in 2003, and in recognition of her contributions, the U.S. Congress awarded her a Congressional Gold Medal in 2005.¹⁷

[President Donald J. Trump Boulevard](#)

This designation for the current President of the United States is for the roadway between the facility used by Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport and Mar-A Lago.

[Sonia Castro Way](#)

Sonia Castro's political career began in 2003 when she served as campaign manager for her brother's campaign for Miami-Dade County Mayor. Her efforts led to his victory in 2004 and re-election in 2008. She also managed Senator Alex Villalobos' successful state senate campaign and Judge Stephan Millan's judicial campaign. In 2018, she led governmental affairs for the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, where she interviewed candidates for endorsements and worked election polls. In 2022, she served as Director of Constituent Services for the Miami-Dade County Commissioner.

[Deputy William Gentry, Jr., Memorial Highway](#)

Deputy William J. Gentry, Jr., served with the Highlands County Sheriff's Office for 13 years in various capacities, including time on patrol, the K-9 Unit, the Special Investigations Unit, and as a field training deputy.¹⁸ On May 6, 2019, Deputy Gentry and the deputy he was training responded to an animal abuse call in Highlands County. Deputy Gentry attempted to make contact with the suspect, who opened fire on Deputy Gentry. On May 7, 2019, Deputy Gentry succumbed to his injuries at the age of 40.¹⁹

¹⁶ Coastal Angler Magazine, *Remembering Jose Wejebe*, <https://coastalanglermag.com/remembering-jose-wejebe/> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

¹⁷ National Women's History Museum, *Celia Cruz*, <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/celia-cruz> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

¹⁸ Legacy, *William J Gentry, Jr.*, <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/william-gentry-jr-obituary?pid=188976004> (last visited Nov. 22, 2021).

¹⁹ Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff William Jackson Gentry, Jr.*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/23672-deputy-sheriff-william-jackson-gentry-jr> (last visited May 5, 2025).