

Commemorative Designations; HB 2481

HB 2481 make various commemorative designations related to transportation.

Highway and Bridge Designations

The bill designates two portions of K-96 and a bridge in Sumner County in honor of deceased service members from Kansas:

- The PFC Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway—the portion of K-96 within the city of Haven in Reno County. According to testimony, PFC Fisher was born and raised in Haven, Kansas, and was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War;
- The 96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway—the portion of K-96 from its junction with 56th Avenue then northwest on K-96 to its junction with Nickerson Road in Reno County. According to testimony, many Kansans, including at least four Reno County residents, served in the 96th Infantry Division during World War II; and
- The SrA Derek Scott Martin Memorial Bridge—bridge No. 160-96-293.72, located on US-160 in Sumner County. According to testimony, SrA Martin was born in Wellington, Kansas, and served six years in the U.S. Air Force, from which he was honorably discharged after serving multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and being awarded a Purple Heart medal for his service.

The bill designates two portions of highway in honor of distinguished Kansans:

- The Ken W Brock Memorial Highway—the portion of US-69 between Grand Road in Bourbon County and East 650th Avenue in Crawford County. According to testimony, Mr. Brock was an advocate for improving US-69 to four lanes from Kansas City to I-44 and was involved in other community improvement endeavors; and
- The Merle Miller Memorial Highway—US-81 in Republic County. According to testimony, Mr. Miller, who was editor and publisher of the *Belleville Telescope*, was dedicated to improving highways, particularly US-81.

The bill also designates as the First Responders Memorial Highway the portion of US-281 from the southern city limits of Russell north to its junction with K-18 in Russell County.

The bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to place suitable signs to indicate the designations once, pursuant to continuing law, sufficient moneys have been received from gifts and donations for the cost of placing such signs, plus an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray costs for future maintenance or replacement of the signs.

The bill makes conforming amendments to remove newly designated portions of highway from previous designations:

- From the State Fair Freeway, the portion of K-96 highway designated as the Henry Lee Fisher Memorial Highway;
- From the American Legion Memorial Highway, the portion of US-281 designated as the First Responders Memorial Highway. [*Note:* The American Legion Memorial Highway currently extends from the Nebraska state line to the Oklahoma state line.]; and
- From the Frank Carlson Memorial Highway, the portion of US-81 designated as the Merle Miller Memorial Highway. [*Note:* The Frank Carlson Memorial Highway extends from the Nebraska state line to I-70.]

Railroad Heritage-related Designations

The bill also designates the official state steam locomotive and the official state heritage railroad:

- The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe #3415 Pacific class 4-6-2, built in 1919, is designated as the official steam locomotive for the state; and
- The Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad is designated as the official state heritage railroad.