

Traffic Control Device: **Signing**

Division: **Information**

Subject: **Bridge Names**

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## Purpose

There is often a desire for a variety of local reasons to name bridges and overpasses. These named structures can also provide motorists with useful navigational guidance.

Bridge names can become officially recognized in two ways:

- Through the office of the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. When the Minister agrees to a request to have a bridge named, Bridges and Structures may arrange a ceremony where an appropriate plaque with the bridge name on it, is unveiled by the Minister or his representative and then attached to the bridge. Alternately, the name may be recognized for the purpose of installing Bridge Name signs as described below. The Minister may refer naming requests to the Interdepartmental Highway Names Advisory Committee for research and recommendation. (Note that the plaque described above is not designed nor intended to be viewed by motorists using the bridge.)
- By Municipal resolution: Where a bridge is not already named, the local government authority may assign names of local significance to bridges by resolution of that government body. Where a bridge spans between two local government jurisdictions, the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation will not recognize a bridge name until both jurisdictions have passed similar bridge naming resolutions.

## Policy

Bridge name signs requested by resolution of the local government authority will be installed by the Department of Infrastructure and Transportation subject to the following conditions:

- the bridge name has been officially recognized as described above
- the bridge name signs can physically be installed where they will neither interfere with any existing traffic control device or have any negative impact on traffic operations (sight restrictions, distractions, etc.)
- funding is provided as described below

RECOMMENDED:                     "ORIGINAL SIGNED BY"                      
Director, Traffic Engineering

APPROVED:                     "ORIGINAL SIGNED BY"                      
Executive Director  
Highway Engineering

## **Standard**

Bridge name signs will be designed by Traffic Engineering Branch and will comprise a white legend on a blue background with standard letter size of 135/100.

Bridge name signs will normally be installed by Regional crews. The signs will be installed in advance of the bridge, as close as practical to the abutment. The sign will normally be installed 1 m from the back of the shoulder. It can be moved farther out if necessary to ensure that the near edge of the sign is no closer to the travelled surface than the near edge of the newel post or bridge rail. In certain cases, it may be appropriate to attach the sign to the structure. **Approval for any such attachment must be obtained from Bridges and Structures before proceeding.**

Where LAKE, RIVER, STREAM, etc. signs exist respecting the same bridge, they should be relocated if necessary such that they are a minimum of 50 m in advance of the bridge name sign. The Bridge and Watercourse name signs may be integrated into one sign under specific circumstances with the approval of the Director of Traffic Engineering.

In recognized bilingual areas, a bridge name sign with both French and English versions will be installed where appropriate. Refer to Policy/Standard 800-A-3.

## **Funding**

Normally the local government authority contributes the current manufacturing and installation cost of the sign(s) for the initial installation. All subsequent maintenance replacements will be subject to the same cost arrangements. Ongoing maintenance, up to but not including sign replacement due to vandalism, will be the responsibility of the Department.

Where the Minister or his designate has identified the bridge as being of major provincial significance, costs of signs may be borne by the Department.