



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:

MEMORIALS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY POLICY

PRESENTER:

Sam van Huizen

DEPARTMENT:

Engineering Services

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:

11/20/2025

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

Ryan Nickel General Manager
Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Memorials in the Right-of-Way Policy be adopted by Council.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Brandon had commissioned the creation of a Vision Zero Task Force to address all items related to road safety policy. One such item includes how to address memorials for those who are victims of motor vehicle collisions. The task force commissioned administration to create a policy and some mock ups of how the City could honour those who lose their lives in a motor vehicle incident.

ANALYSIS:

Engineering has drafted a policy that proposes the placement of bronze plaques near locations where fatal collisions that involve vulnerable road users occur. A review of other municipalities and provincial road authority policies was conducted as a starting point. The policy proposed for the City of Brandon is in alignment with policies in place for the Province of Manitoba given that many of City of Brandon arterial roadways are declared and designated routes of the Provincial Highway network.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

The Memorials in the Right-of-Way Policy is proposed as a Council Policy and therefore may be adopted by a resolution of Council.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

The Vision Zero Task Force and the work that this group is responsible for falls in alignment with Council's Strategic Plan for the 2023-2026 Council term.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The City has committed to covering the costs associated with creating a memorial plaque, through the Vision Zero budget. While it is the hope that this funding source goes unused, it should be available if a fatality occurs and offered at the direction of the family of victims.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

The policy provides a method to honour the victims who lose their lives in a vulnerable road collision. Without such a policy, the grief process remains and can lead to make-shift memorials that need to be maintained and can fall into disrepair and potentially cause an unsafe experience for all road users. Roadways should have standardized infrastructure and this extends to memorials for victims.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

The City has consulted the family of a recent victim to ensure sensitivity is given to the matter. The first memorial is planned for installation before the end of this year. All communications of this matter will undergo specific sensitivity to ensure that all involved are honourably consulted and communicated.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the Memorials in the Right-of-Way Policy as attached to this report be adopted by a resolution of City Council.

City Policy

Title:	Memorials in the Right-of-Way Policy
Policy:	1097
Covers:	Installation and maintenance of Victims Memorials within City of Brandon right-of-way
Effective:	December 2, 2025
Revised:	N/A

PURPOSE:

To provide a consistent and respectful process for the request, approval, installation and maintenance of memorials located within the City of Brandon right-of-way that commemorate victims of fatal motor vehicle collisions.

BACKGROUND:

This policy is modeled after the Manitoba Transportation & Infrastructure policy on memorial crosses on highway rights-of-way. It allows for public commemoration while ensuring safety and consistency in the placement and maintenance of memorials.

DEFINITIONS:

City means the area incorporated and known as the City of Brandon.

Memorial means a marker placed to commemorate a fatality at a collision site.

Right-of-Way (ROW) means land designated for transportation infrastructure including roads and sidewalks.

Traffic Control Device – a sign, signal, pavement marking or other device, placed upon, over or adjacent to a road, by a public authority or official having jurisdiction; the device is intended to regulate, warn or guide the road user.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Brandon permits the installation of memorials within the right-of-way under the following conditions:

- Memorials must not interfere with traffic control devices or maintenance operations.
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- Memorials will be procured and installed by City staff upon request by the families of victim(s)
- Requests must be submitted in writing to the City's Engineering Department.
- Memorials will be installed for a period of up to 5 years, after which they may be removed.
- All Memorial markers and placement are subject to the approval of the Engineering Department.

STANDARDS:

Memorials may be in one of two forms:

- A brass or similar name plate no larger than 300mm in width and 200mm in height that is placed upon a nearby streetlight pole or traffic signal pole of which does not have Manitoba Hydro infrastructure.
- Where no such existing pole is available, a white wooden cross or white wooden stake no taller than 1 meter and 0.5 meter wide secured within the boulevard of the right-of-way that is not a centre median.

All personal items, flowers, or decorations shall be removed from the site once the permanent memorial is put in place.

No portion of the memorials shall be placed within 1 meter of the edge of the roadway.

MAINTENANCE:

The City is not responsible for the maintenance or replacement of memorials. If a memorial becomes damaged or poses a safety risk, it may be removed without notice.

CONTACT:

For more information or to request a memorial installation, contact:

City of Brandon Engineering Department
638 Princess Avenue, Brandon, MB R7A 0P3
Phone: 204-729-2214
Email: engineering@brandon.ca

Issued By:	Development Services Division
Authorized By:	City Council Resolution No. (DATE)

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