

MOTION

In 2016, 260 people died from traffic collisions in the City of Los Angeles. In the immediate aftermath of a traffic fatality, family members and loved ones frequently establish temporary roadside memorials, including "ghost bikes" placed at the site of fatal bicycle crashes. However, the City does not have a policy or program for establishing permanent roadside memorials.

After the tragic death of 15-year-old Sebastian Montero while bicycling in Woodland Hills earlier this year, LAPD Topanga Division Senior Lead Officer Duke Dao suggested that the City should create such a program. This is a good idea that should be implemented.

Pursuant to Streets and Highways Code section 101.10, Caltrans will place memorial signs at locations of certain alcohol-related traffic fatalities, including a standard sign with the safety message "Please Don't Drink and Drive" as well as a smaller sign bearing the name of the victim. Signs may be placed at the request of, or with the consent of, an immediate family member. Other jurisdictions, including Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Montana, and Wyoming, allow similar markers for all traffic deaths and some jurisdictions, including Walla Walla, Washington and Centennial, Colorado have specific memorial signs for fatal bicycle crashes.

A permanent roadside memorial program would advance the goals of Los Angeles' Vision Zero Program, which seeks to eliminate traffic fatalities in the City, including by educating motorists and other road users about the need to be mindful of vulnerable road users, particularly those who walk and bike. For bicyclist fatalities, a memorial sign might include a standard "Bikes May Use Full Lane" (R4-11), "Pass 3 Ft Min" (R117), "Share the Road" (W16-1P), or "Ride With Traffic" (R9-3CP) sign, with the name of the traffic victim, similar to standard sign S35-1.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Transportation be directed to report within 60 days regarding options for creating permanent roadside memorial signs at the locations of fatal bicycle crashes in the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, Third District

SECONDED:



ORIGINAL

SEP 21 2018

SEP 21 2018

