



Joint Department of Transport (DoT) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

Policy on Roadside Memorials

RW 16 of 2025

RTS-ADW-013

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance to Roads Authorities (Local Authorities) on the management of roadside memorials on their high-speed road network (>60km/h).

While acknowledging the emotional significance of such memorials, this policy prioritises the safety of all road users and aligns with the Department's and TII's commitment to maintaining safe and forgiving roadsides.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all high-speed sections (>60km/h) of the Motorway and National Road Network, as well as high speed sections of Regional and Local Roads. It is intended for use by Departmental and TII staff, Local Authorities, road users, and members of the public who may wish to install or maintain roadside memorials.

3. Safety Considerations

The presence of roadside memorials on high-speed (>60km/h) roads introduces significant safety risks due to:

- Increased pedestrian activity in hazardous locations.
- Stopping, parking, and vehicle manoeuvres.
- Maintenance activities such as grass cutting or decoration placement.
- Distraction to other road users.

In addition, these memorials may conflict with the Government Road Safety Strategy's approach to Safe Systems and forgiving roadsides, which seeks to reduce the severity of run-off-road incidents by ensuring that roadside areas remain clear of fixed objects and obstacles.



It should be noted that approximately 45% of fatal and serious injury collisions in the European Union are single vehicle run-off the road collisions, where cars left the road and entered the roadside.

4. Policy Statement

The Department and TII recognise that roadside memorials are often placed by bereaved families and friends as a tribute to loved ones who have lost their lives in road traffic incidents, as a mark of respect and in remembrance of the deceased.

However, the safety of all road users must be the primary objective for Road Authorities. High-speed roads are inherently dangerous environments, and only trained, equipped, and authorised personnel may carry out roadside works or interventions.

Unauthorised access to the roadside poses a risk to both the individual(s) and all other road users. Any works or maintenance on these roads must be carried out under Traffic Management Control as set out in Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and as set out in the Departments circular RW 24 of 2021 “Implementation of Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and Temporary Traffic Management Guidance Documents” to ensure the safety of the workers and all road users.

For these reasons,

- the installation of roadside memorials on the motorway and dual carriageway network shall not be permitted.
- the installation of roadside memorials on the high-speed single carriageway road network (>60 km/h) should not be permitted.
- Each Local Authority, as the Road Authority, is required to have their own Roadside Memorial Policy on this matter which should take into account the recommendations of this Policy.

5. Alternative Options

It is recommended that Local Authorities should consider making alternative options available for members of the public to remember loved ones, such as designated memorial gardens or public spaces.

Requests for such alternatives should be directed to the relevant local authority, for consideration and approval of memorial placements, subject to their policy.



6. Responsibilities

- **The Department of Transport** is responsible for setting policy, legislation and providing guidance for implementation across the road network in Ireland.
- **TII** is the **Authority** responsible for setting standards on the motorway and national road network.
- **Local Authorities**, (31 in Total) as the **Road Authority**, are responsible for implementing prescribed standards, guidelines and policies within their jurisdictions.
- **Members of the Public** are responsible for seeking appropriate permissions and complying with this policy and any relevant Local Authority policies/guidelines.

7. Contact Information

Motorways and National Roads: **Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)**: info@tii.ie

Regional and Local Roads: **Department of Transport**: techqueriesrlr@transport.gov.ie

Memorials: Local Authorities: For further information or to discuss alternative memorial options, individuals should contact the relevant Local Authority directly. Contact details can be found on their respective websites.