



The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of road, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal.

The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society.

Signs placed at various locations annotate those roads and highways where legislation has been passed to designate parts of the national road system as The Purple Heart Trail.

The actual format and design of the signs vary from state to state.

There are currently designated sections in 45 states as well as Guam.

From the Military Order of the Purple Heart Website



What Other States are Doing

- SDDOT sought information from other states on how they are handling these
- 21 states responded
- 14 states either have a recognition program that allows cities/counties to place small signs in the right of way adjacent to city limit/county line signs or are considering one

SDDOT Draft Policy

- Install signs on state highways at designated Purple Heart Community, County, and Tribal Reservation boundaries
- Signs will not be installed on Interstate
- Signing for other entities will not be installed
 - Business, sports teams, congressional districts, etc.



- Install up to four signs on the existing boundary sign supports
- If more than four state highway routes entering, the requesting entity will choose which routes to sign

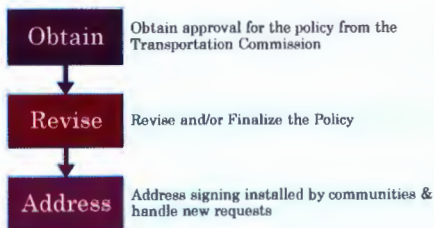


- Signs will be provided by the requesting entity and installed by DOT
- No larger than 18" x 24" in size
- Replacement signs will be provided by the requesting entity

- The requesting entity will determine which recognition sign so only one is installed under the boundary sign
- Administrative rules allow communities to install a sign up to 150 sq. Ft. outside highway ROW



Next Steps for SDDOT





September 20, 2019

Mr. Greg Fuller
Director of Operations
South Dakota Department of Transportation
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Subject: Proposed policy for Purple Heart signs

After reviewing the proposed policy, dated September 16, 2019, that your staff drafted for consideration by the State of South Dakota Transportation Commission, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A., and Department of the Dakotas gives their support and endorsement for the Transportation Commission to approve the proposed policy.

We hope that this proposed policy may be adopted by the Transportation Commission to recognize those veterans who have been wounded and have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have; and also protect the safety of the public and the potential liability for the Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Teunissen

Kenneth Teunissen
Commander
Department of the Dakotas
Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A.