
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Dave Cortese, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SCR 119 **Hearing Date:** 4/7/2026
Author: Dahle
Version: 2/10/2026 Introduced
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Melissa White

SUBJECT: Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway

DIGEST: This resolution would designate a specified portion of State Route 20 in the County of Sutter as the “Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway.”

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

Committee Policy:

The committee has adopted a policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures. Under the policy, the committee will consider only those resolutions that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The person being honored must be deceased or a former elected public official who has been out of office for at least 25 years.
- 2) The person must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway is located.
- 3) The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.

- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- 7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution:

- 1) Recounts the life and career of Gordon Lee Bordsen.
- 2) Designates the portion of State Route 20 from Acacia Avenue, at postmile 9.176, to Humphrey Road, at postmile 10.672, in the County of Sutter, as the “Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway.”
- 3) Requests Caltrans to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of the resolution.* According to the author, “The Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway recognizes the life and public service of Gordon Bordsen, a longtime Caltrans right-of-way agent and community leader whose work helped shape key transportation corridors across Sutter, Colusa, Nevada, and Yuba Counties. Designating this portion of State Route 20 honors his decades of service to California’s highway system and his enduring commitment to the communities of Northern California.”
- 2) *Background.* Gordon Lee Bordsen was a lifelong resident of Sutter County. He graduated from Sutter Union High School, where he was a member of California Scholarship Federation and active in Future Farmers of America. Bordsen attended Yuba College and the College of the Pacific, now University of the Pacific. He went on to serve in the Army and began his state service career with the California Department of Water Resources.

Mr. Bordsen later moved to Caltrans as a right-of-way agent, appraising the value of properties to be acquired to expand the state highway system. Throughout his Caltrans career, he worked on numerous notable projects,

including the widening of Interstate 5 and State Route 20 in Colusa County and the Skyway in Chico. Bordsen also conducted preliminary assessments prior to the construction of the Orville Dam, taking the first soil samples to assess its feasibility. Bordsen contributed to the history of Sutter County as well. When Caltrans was demolishing the old bridge near Meridian between Sutter and Colusa Counties over the Sacramento River, Bordsen saved copper lightening rods from the bridge from being destroyed and instead they were donated to the Sutter County Museum and the Sacramento Valley Museum in Williams, where they can be seen today.

In addition to his long career with Caltrans, Bordsen also served as the “Voice of the Huskies,” announcing Sutter Union High School football games for over 25 years. Bordsen was active in the Lutheran Church, was a longtime member of the Marysville Rotary Club, and was a charter member of the Snowshoe Thompson Lodge, Sons of Norway. He was 93 years old.

- 3) *Consistent with committee policy.* This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.)

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received

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