

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/CS/HB 177](#)

**TITLE:** Transportation Facility Designations

**SPONSOR(S):** Harris, Woodson

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 1408](#) (Collins)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Economic Infrastructure](#)

17 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Commerce](#)

25 Y, 0 N, As CS

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill designates transportation facilities for memorial purposes and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers for each designation.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will have an insignificant negative impact on state government expenditures.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires FDOT to erect suitable markers for the following transportation facility designations: (Section [1](#)).

#### [Harris Rosen Way](#)

That portion of International Drive between S.R. 528 and Sand Lake Road in Orange County is designated as "Harris Rosen Way."

#### [Bernard Wilkes Ribault River Bridge](#)

The bridge on Moncrief Road West over the Ribault River in Duval County will be designated as "Bernard Wilkes Ribault River Bridge."

#### [Geraldine Thompson Way](#)

That portion of W. South Street between South Division Avenue and U.S. 441 in Orange County is designated as "Geraldine Thompson Way."

#### [Harry Frisch Street](#)

West Beaver Street/S.R. 10 between King Street and Acorn Street in Duval County is designated as "Harry Frisch Street."

#### [Jose Wejebe Way](#)

Bridge number 900117 on U.S. 1/S.R. 5 over Niles Channel in Monroe County is designated as "Jose Wejebe Bridge."

#### [Celia Cruz Way](#)

That portion of S.R. 932/N.W. 103rd Street/West 49th Street within the City of Hialeah in Miami-Dade County is designated as "Celia Cruz Way."

#### [Toussaint L'Ouverture Boulevard](#)

**STORAGE NAME:** h0177c.COM

**DATE:** 4/17/2025

That portion of S.R. 915/N.E. 6th Avenue between S.R. 860 and S.R. 826 in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Toussaint L’Ouverture Boulevard.”

#### [Sonia Castro Way](#)

That portion of S.W. 58th Street between S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue and S.W. 102nd Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Sonia Castro Way.”

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#)).

### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT:**

The bill will have an insignificant negative impact on state government expenditures. FDOT estimates a cost of \$2,400 per designation for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$1,200 per sign.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$19,200 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing FDOT resources.

### **RELEVANT INFORMATION**

#### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

##### **Legislative Designation of Transportation Facilities**

The Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge or a portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not officially change the existing names of facilities and may not require local governments or private parties to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listing.<sup>2</sup>

Unless specifically provided by law, public facilities such as roads, bridges, and other similar facilities may not be named for any living person.<sup>3</sup>

##### **Transportation Facility Markers**

Following a legislative designation, FDOT is required to place markers at the termini or intersections specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and may place other markers it deems as appropriate.<sup>4</sup> Before markers may be erected, the appropriate city or county commission must pass a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation. If the designated bridge or road segment is located in more than one city or county, there must be resolutions supporting the designation from each affected local government before markers may be erected.<sup>5</sup>

##### **Biographical Information**

#### [Harris Rosen Way](#)

Harris Rosen was President and Chief Operating Officer of Rosen Hotels & Resorts, a hospitality company founded in 1974 that operates seven Orlando-area hotels. Mr. Rosen received numerous philanthropic and humanitarian awards, including the Association of Fundraising Professionals lifetime award, as well as the Leadership Florida’s LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Rosen passed away on November 25, 2024, at age 85.

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<sup>1</sup> Email from Jack Rogers, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Transportation, RE: Road Designations Review (Feb. 13, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> S. [334.071\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> S. [267.062\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> S. [334.071\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> S. [334.071\(3\), F.S.](#)

### [Bernard Wilkes Ribault River Bridge](#)

Coach Bernard Wilkes was recognized as one of the most successful high school coaches in Florida's history. He dedicated 30 years of service to the Duval County Public School System, teaching and coaching basketball at Ribault Senior High School. Throughout his career, Coach Wilkes led the basketball team to four state championships, 12 Gateway Conference championships, 21 district titles, and reached the Florida High School Athletic Association Finals 16 times. Coach Wilkes passed away on March 5, 2006.

### [Geraldine Thompson Way](#)

Senator Geraldine Thompson had served in the Florida Legislature since 2006, becoming the first African American woman to represent Orlando in the state legislature. Senator Thompson served in the Florida House from 2006 to 2012 and again from 2018 to 2022. Her most recent time in the Florida Senate began in 2022, following a previous tenure from 2012 to 2016. A respected historian and scholar of Black history, Senator Thompson led the campaign to preserve the Wells' Built Museum of African American History & Culture.<sup>6</sup> The museum is located along the designated road.

### [Harry Frisch Street](#)

Harry Frisch was the Chairman of Beaver Street Fisheries and a prominent businessman from Jacksonville. Beginning in the 1950s, Mr. Frisch and his family grew what started as a small retail store into one of the largest seafood processors and distributors in the United States. Throughout his lifetime, he received many awards, including induction into the First Coast Business Hall of Fame by the Florida Council on Economic Education and the Humanitarian Award, Silver Medallion from OneJax.<sup>7</sup>

### [Jose Wejebe Way](#)

Jose Wejebe was the host of the popular TV fishing show, "*The Spanish Fly*," which highlighted the fishing and coastal areas of south Florida and the Florida Keys. Mr. Wejebe was involved in the community through charity organizations, including the Make a Wish Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Red Bone Catch a Cure for Cystic Fibrosis. After his passing in 2012, The Spanish Fly Memorial Foundation was formed to continue Mr. Wejebe's conservation, education, and fishing advocacy.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Wejebe owned a home near the designated bridge.

### [Celia Cruz Way](#)

Celia Cruz was an internationally acclaimed singer and performer whose career spanned from the 1940s to the early 21st century. Known as the "Queen of Salsa," Ms. Cruz was instrumental in the creation and popularization of salsa and pan-Hispanic music. After the Cuban Revolution, she left her native country and became a symbol and spokesperson for the Cuban exile community. Ms. Cruz passed in 2003, and in recognition of her contributions, the U.S. Congress awarded her a Congressional Gold Medal in 2005.<sup>9</sup>

### [Toussaint L'Ouverture Boulevard](#)

Toussaint L'Ouverture was a Haitian general and leader of the Haitian Revolution. Throughout his years in power, L'Ouverture worked to improve the economy and security of Saint-Domingue. He restored the plantation system using paid labor, negotiated trade treaties with Britain and the United States, and maintained a large army. He was promoted to Saint-Domingue's highest-ranking officer in 1797.<sup>10</sup>

### [Sonia Castro Way](#)

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<sup>6</sup> Email from Jeff Takacs, Clerk of the House, Florida House of Representatives, Passing of Former House Member and Current Sitting Senator, Feb. 14, 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Jacksonville Daily Record, *Harry Frisch, Beaver Street Fisheries chairman, dies at age 99*, <https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/news/2023/jan/13/harry-frisch-beaver-street-fisheries-chairman-dies-at-age-99/> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> Coastal Angler Magazine, *Remembering Jose Wejebe*, <https://coastalanglermag.com/remembering-jose-wejebe/> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

<sup>9</sup> National Women's History Museum, *Celia Cruz*, <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/celia-cruz> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> National Museum of African American History & Culture, *Toussaint Louverture*, <https://nmaahc.si.edu/latinx/toussaint-louverture> (last visited Apr. 16, 2025).

Sonia Castro’s political career began in 2003 when she served as campaign manager for her brother’s campaign for Miami-Dade County Mayor. Her efforts led to his victory in 2004 and re-election in 2008. She also managed Senator Alex Villalobos’ successful state senate campaign and Judge Stephan Millan’s judicial campaign. In 2018, she led governmental affairs for the South Florida Police Benevolent Association, where she interviewed candidates for endorsements and worked election polls. In 2022, she served as Director of Constituent Services for the Miami-Dade County Commissioner.

| BILL HISTORY   |   |           |                                    |                         |
|--|---|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| COMMITTEE REFERENCE                                  | ACTION  | DATE      | STAFF<br>DIRECTOR/<br>POLICY CHIEF | ANALYSIS<br>PREPARED BY |
| <a href="#">Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee</a> | 17 Y, 0 N, As CS  | 3/19/2025 | Keating                            | Garcia                  |
| THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added a designation for the bridge on Moncrief Road West over the Ribault River in Duval County as the “Bernard Wilkes Ribault River Bridge.”</li></ul> |           |                                    |                         |
| <a href="#">Commerce Committee</a>                   | 25 Y, 0 N, As CS  | 4/15/2025 | Hamon                              | Garcia                  |
| THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added six transportation facility designations.</li></ul>   |           |                                    |                         |

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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