

Date of Hearing: July 14, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

ACR 101 (Addis) – As Introduced June 24, 2025

SUBJECT: James Dean Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: Designates the portion of State Highway Route 46 in the County of San Luis Obispo, from Cholame, at postmile 54.038, to Antelope Road, at postmile 58.300, as the James Dean Memorial Highway and requests that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS: James Byron Dean, one of the most admired movie stars of all time and an icon of American culture, was born on February 8, 1931, in Marion, Indiana.

He later moved to California and attended Santa Monica City College and the University of California, Los Angeles.

He is best known for his roles in “East of Eden,” “Rebel Without a Cause,” and “Giant,” and he also appeared on television shows and in a Broadway play.

As a successful actor, he attained cult status in little more than a year’s time, personifying the restless American youth of the mid-1950s.

He was tragically killed on September 30, 1955, in an automobile crash on State Highway Route 46 in the County of San Luis Obispo while traveling in his automobile on the way to a racing event.

Many decades after his death, James Dean remains widely admired as an accomplished actor, and it is appropriate to recognize his contributions through a designation of a memorial highway near the site of his untimely death.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Aimee Anspach / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093