

**VERMONT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
PO Box 6
Fairfax, VT 05454
(802) 595-9410**

**RE: PETITION TO NAME I-91
NORTH AND SOUTH BETWEEN
EXITS 26 AND 28 AS THE “DAVID
CHRIS MALAND MEMORIAL
HIGHWAY”**

**TB 536
DECISION AND ORDER**

I. Introduction

This matter comes to the Board pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 5(b). Petitioner American Legion, Newport Post No. 21, Inc. in Newport, Vermont petitioned to name a portion of Interstate 91 (“I-91”) in honor of Border Agent David Chris Maland, who was killed in the line of duty on January 20, 2025.

II. Procedural Background

On November 5, 2025, the American Legion, Newport Post No. 21, filed a petition to name the entirety of I-91 in Orleans County in honor of Border Agent David Chris Maland. Included in the petition and part of the record were the signatures of 97 Vermont residents from Newport, Derby, Brownington, Irasburg, and surrounding towns. Also included in the petition were letters of support from Deputy Patrol Agent in Charge Michael Totten of the Newport Border Patrol Station of the United States Custom and Border Protection, Mayor Rick Ufford-Chase of the City of Newport, VT, Rosanne Frecette, Agent Maland’s fiancé, and from Agent Maland’s brother, Jake Maland. (hereinafter altogether the “Petition”)

On November 7, 2026, the Board found the Petition substantially complete and invited the Petitioner to submit additional information about Agent Maland.

On December 25, 2025, the Vermont Police Association submitted a letter of support and on December 29, 2025, the United Federation of Police Officers also submitted a letter of support.

On March 7, 2026, Commander Jim Crowe of the Newport Post of the American Legion submitted an amended petition. The amendment changed only the area requested to be named from the entirety of I-91 North and South in Orleans County to just those areas on I-91 North and South between exits 26 and 28. (hereinafter, the “Amended Petition”). Submitted with the Amended Petition was a map showing the reduced segment of I-91 sought to be named after Agent Maland and additional

information about Agent Maland and his connection to Newport and the surrounding community.

The Board scheduled a public hearing on the Amended Petition for June 16, 2026. See Vermont Transportation Board Rules for Naming Transportation Facilities (“Rule”) VI(A). Notice of the hearing on the Amended Petition was published and warned in accordance with Rule VIII.

On June 16, 2026, a public hearing was held at 1:00 p.m. at the Newport Municipal Building, at 222 Main Street in Newport, Vermont. The hearing was attended by over 20 community members in support of the Amended Petition. Commander Jim Crowe from the American Legion Post 21 in Newport spoke about Agent Maland, as did Chris Hoar of the United Federation of Police Officers, and Rosanne Frechette, Maland’s fiancé.

During the 30-day additional period for comments that follows a public hearing on a naming petition, the Board received letters of support from Phil Diesing, Christine Barrup, and an article about Agent Maland from the petitioner. On June 27 and 30, the United Federation of Police Officers submitted additional information about other state highways named after fallen officers and agents. On July 26, 2026, the Board received a letter of support from the National Border Patrol Council.

The Board deliberated on this matter on July 28, 2026.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

Taking into account the evidence submitted with the Petition, the Amended Petition, the letters of support, independent research as allowed under Rule VII, and the testimony presented at the hearing, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. Ninety-seven Vermont residents signed the Petition and therefore it was properly signed as required by 19 V.S.A. § 5(b)(1)(2).
 2. I-91 is a Vermont Interstate Highway that is owned, controlled, and maintained by the State of Vermont.
 3. The last four miles of I-91 before entering Canada is named the John F. Kennedy Memorial International Highway.
 4. The area sought to be named after Agent Maland extends between Exits 26 and 28 of I-91 North and South.
 5. The Mapping Unit of Agency of Transportation (“AOT”) shows the portion of I-91 to be named begins at Exit 26 in Barton, mile marker 161.410, and extends north 11.005 miles to Exit 28 in Derby, mile marker 172.415. The official map is attached to this order and incorporated into this decision.
1. The following towns were sent notices of the public hearing and the Amended Petition and invited to provide feedback: Derby, Derby Line, Derby Center,

Coventry, Brownington, Irasburg, Barton, Orleans Village, Newport City, and Newport Town. No town objected to the Amended Petition.

2. Also sent notices were the Secretary of Transportation, representatives from AOT District 9, the Director of Communication and Public Outreach at AOT, and the Chief Engineer at AOT.
3. The Vermont Department of Libraries, which keeps naming records, has no record of this portion of I-91 having been previously named.
4. AOT has no record of this portion of I-91 having been previously named.
5. The hearing was attended by 20 community members in support of the Amended Petition.
6. David Chris Maland was a Border Agent posted to the Newport Border Patrol Station. He had previously served as a decorated member of the United States Air Force. He had worked with the United States Border Patrol for 9 years. He worked security at the Pentagon during September 11, 2001.
7. Agent Maland was K-9 handler, whose skill and commitment to his canine was much noted.
8. Agent Maland was an active member of the Newport Community. He supported a local church that ran a homeless shelter. He donated funds, supplies, and time to give meals, clothing, and a safe place for people in need.
9. Agent Maland was an advocate for responsible firearm ownership and safety and helped organize regular community shooting events and safety trainings for the community which included veterans, young adults and new gun owners.
10. Agent Maland actively supported his neighbors, assisting in personal emergencies, transporting supplies, and repairing equipment.
11. Agent Maland was an outdoorsman and an avid hunter.
12. Agent Maland was an enthusiastic snowmobiler and member of the local snowmobile club; helping to maintain trails, mentoring less experienced riders, and building a community around the trails.
13. Agent Maland was dedicated to his fiancé, herself a member of the Canada Border Services Agency, and her daughter.
14. Agent Maland was involved in his community near and around the Newport area, where he indicated he wished to settle permanently, and lived a life of service both in his work and private life.
15. Agent Maland made a significant contribution to his community during this time in the Newport area.

16. On January 20, 2025, Agent Maland was shot and killed in the line of duty on southbound I-91 in Coventry, Vermont, near mile marker 169.

IV. DISCUSSION

In naming transportation facilities after a person, the Board must consider “whether the person or family made some significant contribution to the transportation facility or the region where the transportation facility is located or earned a favorable local, regional, national, or international reputation or whose character and integrity, whether or not accompanied by fame or fortune, warrant remembrance.” Rules, XII (G). An individual’s connection with the region is also an important consideration.

The Board, having considered all the facts presented to it via testimony and the submitted record, unanimously finds that Agent Maland led a life of service to both his country and to the local community in northern Orleans County. Agent Maland was known for his kindness and generosity and was known as a person of integrity. He volunteered his time, efforts, and expertise to support local endeavors and education. Agent Maland was devoted to his community, his fiancé and her daughter, and to his K-9 partner. Agent Maland’s dedication, both in his professional and personal life, was notable. The local support for the Amended Petition is strong as Agent Maland had earned a very favorable reputation in his community in northern Orleans County, Vermont. Agent Maland lost his life in the line of duty seeking to protect his country and community and his sacrifice warrants remembrance.

Given the strong public support for the Amended Petition and that the Amended Petition meets the criteria set out the Rules, the Board unanimously grants the petitioner’s request to name I-91 North and South between exits 26 and 28, as shown on the attached map, as the “David Chris Maland Memorial Highway”.

V. ORDER

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the portion of I-91 North and South between Exits 26 in Barton, mile marker 161.410, and extends north 11.005 miles to Exit 28 in Derby, mile marker 172.415 and shown on the attached map be named “The David Chris Maland Memorial Highway”.

SO ORDERED this 28th day of September 2026.

Signed by:

Pam Loranger

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Vermont Transportation Board

Concurring Board Members:

Marilyn Miller

Mark Nicholson

Tim Pudvar

Philip Zalinger