

Tulsa Express *CROSSTOWN*

May Be Mabee Here, But Signs Will Read I-244

By DALE SPEER
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What's in a name? The U.S. Bureau of Public Roads says there's nothing, especially when someone tries to tack a label on a new Interstate expressway.

County Commissioner Robert L. Kinkaid succeeded several weeks ago in having the Crosstown Expressway's name changed to Mabee-Crosstown, in honor of John Mabee, late Tulsa oil man and philanthropist.

The federal bureau, however, has its own idea for the freeway's name, and will assign it the label I-244. No signs designating any other name will be permitted along the right-of-way.

"These roads are not to serve as memorial highways," said Jack Noblitt, assistant chief engineer for planning in the State Highway Department. "There is no room for such names on the signs required by the road bureau, and no other signs are allowed."

Noblitt said the road could be labeled with a memorial plaque. Such a plaque will first need authorization from the Legislature and could only be placed at a roadside stop. There are no such stops along the Crosstown route.

Noblitt said the problem is a common one along the interstate highway system, but there are no exceptions to the bureau ruling.

"People can call the things anything they like," he said, "but they can't put signs labeling them."

