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Lamar [files another lawsuit](#) in effort to get digital billboards in Los Angeles...

Lake Minnetonka towns look for [scenic byway designation](#)...

Scenic Toronto [fighting the digital billboard battle](#)...



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## Minnesota taxpayers pick up \$4.3 million tab for digital billboard

Documents reveal that the Minnesota Department of Transportation [spent over \\$4.3 million](#) in public funds for the removal of a digital billboard as part of a highway construction project.

The billboard's removal was necessitated by a project currently underway to replace the Lafayette Bridge, which carries state highway 52 over the Mississippi River near downtown St. Paul.

The state paid the billboard's owner, Clear Channel Outdoor, a total of \$4,321,000 for the digital billboard. Clear Channel retained ownership of the billboard and appeared to relocate it to Minneapolis soon after its removal.

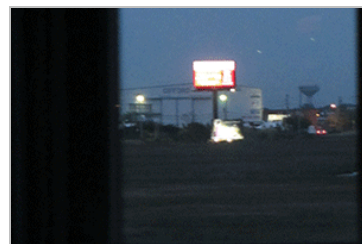


Believed to be the first digital billboard condemned for a public road project in the country, the payment sets an alarming precedent for condemnation costs for digital billboards. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Seaside road in New Jersey more scenic thanks to citizens' resolve

A digital billboard that kept neighbors awake and blighted a southern New Jersey seaside roadway [has been taken down](#) thanks to the determination of one local couple.

As part of the settlement of the lengthy and expensive legal battle, the company that put up the Margate Causeway billboard has agreed to never operate a digital billboard along the bayside strip again.



In addition, the owner of the property where the billboard stood has signed a deed covenant that will permanently ban any new billboard from being built at the site, and no existing billboards along the causeway can be enlarged or converted to digital.

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In exchange, Richard and Deborah Levitt, the couple who successfully sued to take down the sign, won't seek to make the company pay their outstanding legal bill, which exceeds \$200,000.

## Rhode Island's highway beautification program making good impressions

The highway beautification program initiated by Governor Lincoln Chafee continues to expand in Rhode Island, garnering praise and appreciation from visitors and residents alike.

The Providence Journal [recently highlighted](#) several murals designed by local artists and installed along key gateway roads to the state.



Scenic America [presented](#) its Stafford Award to Governor Chafee at a reception in Newport last fall for his leadership of the beautification program. An award was also given to Rhode Island Department of Transportation Director Michael Lewis for his stewardship of the program.

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