

HIGHWAY ENTERING WILSON CANYON IN NEVADA

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## HIGHWAY TRAFFIC CAPACITY

By A. N. JOHNSON, Dean, College of Engineering, University of Maryland

ONE of the fundamental factors of highway economics is the traffic capacity of a road. This paper reports a study of the relative traffic capacity of 2-lane, 3-lane, and 4-lane highways. The project was undertaken as a cooperative arrangement between the United States Bureau of Public Roads, the State Roads Commission of Maryland, and the University of Maryland, under the immediate supervision of the writer.

The basic data for this discussion are the result of traffic counts taken during the summers of 1930 and 1931. A tentative report on the work done in 1930 was published in the Proceedings of the Highway Research Board for 1930 . It was evident that positive conclusions could not be reached from the data then at hand, and a second series of observations was made in 1931, closely paralleling that of the preceding year. There will be repeated here such general description of the work as is necessary to make this report complete in itself without reference to the tentative report noted above.

In 1930 the field work extended from June 26 to September 1, and in 1931 from July 1 to September 7. Observers in both years were recruited among senior engineering students at the University of Maryland.

## TRAFFIC CAPACITY AND CONGESTION DEFINED

For the purposes of this study it was first necessary to develop a definition of traffic capacity. The "working capacity" or "free-moving capacity" of a highway was taken to mean the point at which congestion first becomes apparent. When a road carries only a few vehicles all will move freely and there can be no question of congestion. As the number of vehicles increases there will be reached a point at which some will be delayed because they can not immediately pass slower vehicles ahead of them. This delay indicates congestion.

Beyond the free-moving capacity of a highway the number of vehicles passing in a given time may still increase, but traffic will move with more and more restrictions. The individual driver will have less and less freedom of action, being compelled to follow the vehicles directly ahead of him. The number of vehicles may increase until the rate of flow is at a maximum, when the ultimate capacity of the highway may be said to have been reached. Any attempt to put still more vehicles through will result in serious interference with the movement of traffic, and the number of vehicles passing a given point in a given time will actually decrease because of overcrowding.

The observers were instructed to make note of congestion under substantially the following conditions: Congestion is considered to occur on a road when the number of vehicles reaches a total great enough to fill the road and make turning out impracticable; this condition to last a sufficient length of time to be noticeable, the minimum amount of time being one minute. When congestion occurs, reduction of speed will be noticed, along with the tendency for drivers to crowd one another.

In all further discussion the term "congestion" is used as above defined and "capacity" is understood to mean "working capacity."

The two observers traveled from point to point in a motor car and counted the traffic on roads known to have heavy traffic, endeavoring as far as possible to count during the rush hours on the respective roads. The stretches of highway selected were as free as possible from interference from crossroads or other features that would hinder the free flow of traffic.

During 1930, traffic was counted at 38 different points, scattered between Boston and Washington, 51 separate counts being made. In 1931, 33 stations were occupied, for a total of 56 counts, mostly in northern New Jersey and Pennsylvania because of the comparatively large number of three and four lane roads to be found in this territory. A complete list of the stations is given in Table 3, at the end of the article. A summary of the traffic counts according to geographic location and number of lanes of pavement width is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.-Distribution of traffic counts by geographic location and number of lanes

| State | Year | Number of counts |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2-lane } \\ & \text { roads } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 3-lane } \\ & \text { roads } \end{aligned}$ | 4-lane roads | Total |
| Maryland | $\left\{\begin{array}{l} 1930 \\ 1931 \\ 1930 \\ 1931 \\ 1930 \\ 1931 \\ 1930 \\ 1930 \\ 1930 \\ 1930 \end{array}\right.$ | $\begin{array}{r} 17 \\ 4 \\ 2 \\ 5 \\ 3 \\ 9 \\ 2 \\ 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ 26 \\ 3 \\ 6 \end{array}$ | 4125 | 2151137614 |
| New Jersey |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pennsylvania |  |  |  |  |  |
| New York |  |  |  | 2 <br> 2 |  |
| Massachusetts |  |  |  |  |  |
| Virginia-........ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 1930 | 31 | 10 | 10 | 51 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total in both years |  | 49 | 42 | 16 | 107 |

The purpose of the investigation made it necessary to count traffic through peak periods to get as nearly as possible the maximum traffic conditions. It will be readily appreciated, however, that there were many stations occupied which did not at the time develop sufficiently heavy traffic to approach the critical stage. There were, therefore, a number of counts made each year which had no influence upon the results. The rush hours during which traffic stations were occupied proved to be late afternoon or evening, generally between 3 and 7 o'clock.

## CONSISTENCY OF OBSERVERS' JUDGMENT TESTED

One of the questions which arose during the analysis of the data was whether under similar traffic conditions like interpretations would be made by the same or different observers; in other words, whether the concept of congestion as formulated was sufficiently definite to serve as a fixed, objective standard. A study of the traffic counts submitted, making comparison between the conclusions reached by one party of observers and those of the other party under similar conditions showed very satisfactory agreement, indicating that such differences as did occur were due more to some other influence that would affect the traffic than to differing judgment on the part of the observers.



| HOUR | TRAFFIC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (VEAICLES) |  | PERCENTAGE IN | EACH DIRECTION |
| :---: |

TRUCKS 10 PER HOUR BUSSES 0 SPEED 25 TO 35 M.P.H.

Figure 1.-Traffic on 2-Lane Road in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Md., July 15, 1930

As a further test of the judgment of the observers, stations that were occupied at the beginning of the season were again occupied at the close, the traffic at these points being about the same. The reports received were similar and indicated that the picture in the observer's mind of a congested condition, as here defined, was reasonably well fixed and precise.

## PROCEDURE DESCRIBED

At each station the traffic was recorded by 5 -minute intervals, showing the number of vehicles in each direction or in each lane. Passenger automobiles, trucks, and busses were tabulated separately. The tally sheets provided space for indicating when the traffic was running freely and when it was congested. No record of congestion was made unless it extended for a period of one minute. Thus, during some 5 -minute intervals there would be but one minute during which congestion occurred; in other instances two minutes, or more, up to the full five minutes.



| HOUR | TRAFFIC <br> (VEHICLES) | PERCENTAGE IN <br> EACH DIRECTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 TO 3 | 2,642 | $28 / 72$ |
| 3 TO 4 | 2,805 | $32 / 68$ |
| 4 TO 5 | 2,755 | $41 / 59$ |
| 5 TO 6 | 2,484 | $53 / 47$ |
| 6 TO $6: 30$ | 1,157 | $56 / 44$ |

TRUCKS $3 \frac{3}{4}$ PER CENT BUSSES $\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT SPEED 35 TO 40 M.P.H.

Figure 2.-Traffic on 3-Lane Road, U. S. Route 9, 1 Mile North of South Amboy, N. J., August 1, 1931

The tally sheets were summarized for each count and the data plotted as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3. These graphs give all the essential facts, such as date, location, actual traffic per hour, estimated average speed, number of trucks and busses, and the number of lanes available for traffic. The ordinates of the graph show the traffic for each 5-minute interval, while the number of minutes of congestion in each interval are shown by the shaded columns in the lower section of the graph.

Figure 1 gives the record of a traffic count on a 2-lane road by 5 -minute intervals during the hours between 3 and $6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. The maximum hourly traffic (5 to 6 ) was 2,008 vehicles, although the maximum rate per hour during a 5 -minute period within this same hour was 2,268 . This was the maximum hourly traffic observed on any 2 -lane road and was about 89 per cent of the hourly rate of the maximum 5 -minute interval.

Figure 2 shows a similar record for a B-lane road where the actual hourly maximum was 2,805 vehicles.


| Hour | TRAFFIC (VEHICLES) | PERCENTAGE IN | TRUCKS 3 3 P PER CENT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 T0 6 | 3,496 | 70/30 | BUSSES 0 |
| 6 T0 7 | 3,305 | 70/30 |  |
| 7 T0 8 | 3,068 | 78/22 |  |

Figure 3.-Traffic on 4-Lane Road, U. S. Routes 1 and 9, 15.5 Miles South of Jersey City, N. J.
The maximum hourly rate for a 5 -minute interval was 3,600 , the total traffic for the hour being about 78 per cent of the maximum rate based on a 5-minute count. This was the maximum hourly traffic observed on any 3 -lane road.

Figure 3, for a 4-lane road, shows a maximum hourly traffic of 3,496 , while the maximum rate per hour for a 5 -minute interval was 3,912 , the actual hourly traffic being about 89 per cent of the maximum 5 -minute interval. This was the maximum hourly traffic observed on any 4 -lane road.

In the analysis of the data to determine the point of incipient congestion, all 5 -minute counts were assembled without regard for location or hour of day, each count being treated as a separate statistical unit. They were first grouped according to the major classification of 2 -lane, 3 -lane, and 4 -lane roads. Each of these larger groups was then subdivided according to the proportion of traffic moving in each direction, viz., 50 per cent in one direction (approximately equal in both directions), 60 per cent in one direction ( 40 per cent in the opposite direction), 70 per cent and 80 per
cent in one direction. There were then 12 groups into which the 5 -minute counts for all stations were divided, and within each group the items were arranged in order from least to greatest. These were plotted as shown in Figures 4 to 7 , inclusive, congestion occurring during any part of any 5 -minute interval being indicated in the same manner as in Figures 1 to 3 .

The point where traffic congestion first appeared was noted in each case. Thus, in Figure 4, which is a plot of the data for 2 -lane roads with 50 per cent of the traffic in each direction, congestion is first observed when 80 vehicles pass in a 5 -minute interval. The fact that no congestion was reported in this group of observations for any number less than 80 made it unnecessary to plot or to consider further those counts indicating a less amount of traffic. Similarly, in each of the suc-


Figure 4.-Determination of Traffic Capacity of 2-Lane Roads, 50 Per Cent of Traffic in One Direction


Figure 5.-Determination of Traffic Capacity of 2Lane Roads, 60 Per Cent of Traffic in One Direction
ceeding diagrams no consideration was given to the observations that recorded traffic insufficient to produce the first instance of congestion.

The critical point to be established in each diagram is the point at which congestion becomes general. This can most easily be determined by inspection of the graphs, which show in nearly every case a fairly definite and sharp transition from a scattered and infrequent occurrence of congestion to a condition in which congestion is usual or normal. The height of the curve at this point indicates the working capacity of the type of highway under consideration.

The nature of the data appears hardly to justify a more elaborate or refined method of analyzing the graphs than that just described. As a check upon the reliability of the inspection method, a cumulative congestion curve was plotted on each diagram. In each case the break in the trend of the cumulative curve, as located by the intersection of straight lines fitted to the separate sections of the curve, coincided almost exactly with the point previously located by inspection.

It will be seen from Figure 4 that the working capacity of two-lane roads with 50 per cent of the traffic in


Figure 6.-Determination of Traffic Capacity of 3-Lane Roads, 70 Per Cent of Traffic in One Direction
each direction is reached at 90 vehicles per 5 -minute interval. Beyond this point, as trafficincreases, congestion becomes general for nearly all 5 -minute intervals.
For 2-lane roads with 60 per cent of the traffic in one direction, congestion becomes general when traffic exceeds 97 vehicles per 5 -minute interval, as shown in Figure 5. When the proportion of traffic is 70 per cent in one direction, congestion appears to become general at 90 vehicles per 5 -minute interval, and with 80 per cent in one direction, traffic appears congested at about 105 vehicles per 5 -minute interval.
Figures 6 and 7 further illustrate the method of analysis for 3 -lane roads with 70 and 80 per cent of the traffic, respectively, in one direction.


Figure 7.-Determination of Traffic Capacity of 3 -Lane Roads, 80 Per Cent of Traffic in One Direction

The evidence brought out by the series of graphs is summarized in Table 2, showing apparent traffic capacity of 2 -lane, 3 -lane, and 4 -lane roads under differing proportions of traffic in the opposing directions.
The values given for practical hourly capacity are based on the 5 -minute rate, with reasonable allowance for the fact (demonstrated in figs. 1 to 3) that the maximum rate of traffic during any hour is rarely sustained for more than a small fraction of that hour.
From Table 2 it would appear that the effect of unbalanced traffic on the capacity of 2 -lane roads is not marked until 80 per cent of the traffic is in one direction,

Table 2.-Working capacity of 2-lane, 3-lane, and 4-lane highways

| Number of lanes | Vehicles per 5 -minute interval |  |  |  |  | Practical hourly capacity (vehicles) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percentage of traffic in one direction |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aver- } \\ & \text { age } \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |  |  |
| 2 | 90 | 97 | 90 | 105 | 97 | 1,000 |
| 3 | 185 | 165 | 195 | 175 | 180 | 2, 000 |
|  |  |  | 290 | 270 | 290 | 3,000 |

when the capacity rises considerably above the average. On a 3-lane road the effect is not so definite, but the maximum capacity is reached when about 70 per cent of the traffic is in one direction.

The results for the 4 -lane road are even less conclusive, as there was no congestion noted when the traffic was 50 or 60 per cent in one direction, although as many as 273 vehicles were counted during one 5minute interval. The occasions when 4 -lane roads were seen working to capacity were rare. With the traffic 70 per cent in one direction congestion was reported when 290 vehicles passed in five minutes, and when the traffic was 80 per cent in one direction congestion occurred with a count of 270 vehicles. These figures would indicate that, as the traffic becomes more unbalanced, the 4-lane road becomes less efficient.

## CONCLUSIONS

The influence of the proportionate amount of traffic in one direction is not marked on 2-lane roads until the fraction increases to 80 per cent or more, when a greater volume of traffic is carried without congestion. The average working capacity for 2 -lane roads is approximately 95 per 5 -minute interval, or 1,000 per hour.

Three-lane roads appear to operate to slightly better advantage when 70 per cent of the traffic is in one direction. The average working capacity is approximately 180 per 5 -minute interval or 2,000 per hour.

Four-lane roads (estimating the capacity as 300 vehicles in five minutes when traffic is 50 or 60 per cent in one direction) have an average working capacity of 290 vehicles per 5 -minute interval.

These values give a ratio for 2-lane, 3-lane, and 4-lane roads of approximately $1: 2: 3$. That is, the traffic capacity of a 3 -lane road is twice that of a 2-lane road, and the 4-lane road has a capacity of at least three times that of the 2 -lane road and 50 per cent greater than that of the 3-lane road.

The addition of one lane to a 2-lane road increases its width 50 per cent and its capacity 100 per cent. Addition of two lanes increases the width by 100 per cent and the capacity by 200 per cent. In other words, doubling the width of a 2-lane highway triples its capacity.

It should be clearly understood and emphasized that this study relates to traffic capacity only. No consideration has here been given to the relative safety of 2 -lane, 3 -lane, and 4 -lane design in highways under varying volumes of traffic. There seems to be very general agreement among those who have observed the operation of 3-lane roads that as traffic increases the hazards increase in a greater ratio than in the case of the 2-lane or the 4 -lane roads, but this conclusion must rest upon research of an entirely different nature from that here reported.

Table 3.-List of stations occupied for traffic counts MARYLAND

| Name of road | Location | Number of lanes | Date | Hours |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Baltimore-W ashington Blvd., U. S. Route 1.............. | 100 yds . S. of S. E. Branch, Anacostia_ River, Bladensburg. | 2 | June 27, 1930 July 19,1930 Aug. 27, 1930 | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 11 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m} . \text { to } 3 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \end{aligned}$ |
| Do | College Park Experiment Station. | 2 | June 26, 1930 | Do. |
| D | 1 mi . N , of Laurel. | 4 | July 19, 1931 | 2 to $4 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Do | S. of rd. to Dorsey - | 4 | June 28, 1930 | 3 to $6 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{m}$. |
|  |  |  | Aug. 31, 1930 | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { to } 4 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & 4 \text { to } 7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  | Sept. 1, 1930 | Do. |
| Baltimore-Philadelphia Rd., U. S. Route 1. | 1 mi . N. of Conowingo. | 2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 29,1930 \\ & \text { July } 23,1931 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{~m} . \\ & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
| Baltimore-Philadelphia Rd., U, S. Route 40. | 1 mi . N. of Baltimore city line. | 2 | July 18, 1930 | 4 to $7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Do | 1 mi . S. of Havre de Grace. | 2 | $\begin{array}{ll} \text { July } & 6,1930 \\ \text { July } & 8,1931 \end{array}$ | 2 to $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. 3 to $6 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{m}$. |
|  | $11 / 2 \mathrm{mi}$. N. of Baltimore city line. | 2 | Aug. 19,1930 | 4 to $6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Baltimore-A nnapolis Blvd | 3 mi . S. of Glenburnie. | 2 | July 20,1930 Aug 24,1930 | 1 to $4 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
|  | Opposite Brooklyn | 2 | July 17, 1930 | 4 to $7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
|  | ball park. |  | Aug. 25, 1930 | 4 to $6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Harford Rd | 10 mi . N. of Balti- more. | 2 | July 22,1931 | Do. |
| Frederick Rd | $31 / 2 \mathrm{mi}$. E. of Ellicott | 2 | Aug. 12, 1930 | Do. |
| Druid Hill Park Rd., Baltimore. | Opposite Flower Garden. | 2 | July 15, 1930 | $3106 \mathrm{y} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Charles St. Ave | 2 mi . S. of Towson - | $2$ | Aug. 20, 1930 | $4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. }$ |
| Reistertown Rd | 1 mi . W of Baltimore city line. | 2 | Aug. 22, 1930 | Do. |
| Rhode Island Ave. Ext., Mt. Rainier. | William St. | 2 | July 1, 1931 | 2.45 to $5.45 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Defense Highway, U. S. Route 50. | $1 / 4 \mathrm{mi}$. E. of rd. to Landover. | 2 | Aug. 17, 1931 | 4 to $6 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{m}$. |

NEW JERSEY

| White Horse Pike, U. S. Route 30. | 4 mi . E. of Haddon Heights. |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Do } \\ & \text { Do } \end{aligned}$ | 9 mi . of E. of Berlin 10 mi . W. of Atlantic City. |
|  | 7 mi . W. of Atlantic City. <br> 6 mi . W. of Atlantic City. <br> 1 mi . S. of Woodbridge. <br> 1 mi . N. of South Amboy. |
| Do.-........... | 1 mi . S. of South Amboy. |
| South Amboy. Eatontown Rd., N. J. Route 35. Do $\qquad$ | 5 mi . S. of South Amboy. <br> 1 mi . N. of Eaton- |
| N. J. Route 33 | town. <br> 1 mi . W. of Ocean Grove. |
| Point Pleasant-Eatontown Rd. N. J. Route 35. | 1 mi . S. of Eatontown. |
| Atlantic City-Pleasantville Rd., U. S. Route 40. | $1 / 2 \mathrm{mi}$. W. of Atlantic City. |
| Ocean City - Cape May Rd., N. J. Route 4. | $\begin{aligned} & 10 \mathrm{mi.} \text { N. of Cape } \\ & \text { May. } \end{aligned}$ |
| Broad St., U. S. Route 130. | 3 mi . E. of Trenton. |
| Trenton-Jersey City Rd., U. S. Route 1. | $11 / 2 \mathrm{mi}$. S. of Cloverleaf intersection (Woodbridge). |
| Trenton-Jersey City Rd., U. S. Routes 9 and 1. | 15.5 mi . S. of Jersey City. |
| Jersey City-Albany Rd., U. S. Route 9 W . | 2 mi . S. of Alpine $\ldots$. |



Table 3.-List of stations occupied for traffic counts-Continued

| Name of road | Location | Number of lanes | Date |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Westfield - Dunellen Rd., U.S. Route 22 Somerville-N. Plainficld Rd., N. J. Route 29. <br> Dover-Denville Rd., N. J. Route 6. | 1 mi . W. of Westfield. <br> 1 mi . N. of North Plainfield. <br> 1 mi . E. of Dover ... | 2 3 2 | $\begin{array}{ll} \begin{array}{ll} \text { July } & 10,1930 \\ \text { July } & 13,1931 \\ \text { July } & 17,1931 \\ \text { Aug. } & 12,1931 \end{array} \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 5 \text { to } 7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \end{aligned}$ <br> Do. |
| PENNSYLVANIA |  |  |  |  |
| Baltimore-Philadelphia Rd., U. S. Ronte 1. <br> Do $\qquad$ | 1 mi . S. of Clifton Heights. <br> Memorial Bridge, 3 mi. S. of Swarthmore. | 2 2 | $\begin{array}{\|ll} \text { July } & 1,1930 \\ \text { Aug. } & 3,1931 \\ \text { July } & 2,1931 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 6 \text { to } 9 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & 4.20 \text { to } 8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
| Ronsevelt Blvd., U <br> S. Route 1 . Do | S. of Frankfort Ave <br> N. of Vankirk St | 3 3 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \begin{array}{r} 3,1930 \\ \text { Aug. } \\ \text { Aug. } \\ 28,1931 \\ \hline 1931 \end{array}{ }^{2} 1931 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 3 \text { to } 5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
| Philadelphia-Trenton Rd., U.S. Route 1. Do | 1 mi . N. of Philadel- <br> phia city line. <br> 4 mi . S. of Trenton | 2 | $\begin{array}{lr} \text { Aug. } & 17,1931 \\ \text { Aug. } & 22,1931 \\ \text { Sept. } & 2,1931 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \end{aligned}$ |
| River Drive, Philadelphia. | Fairmount ParkOrmiston Valley. |  | $\begin{array}{lr}\text { July } & 2,1930 \\ \text { July } & 3,1931 \\ \text { July } & 28,1931 \\ \text { Aug. } 27,1931\end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & \text { Do. } \\ & 4.30 \text { to } 6.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \\ & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \text {. } \end{aligned}$ |
| City Ave., Philadelphia, U.S. Route 1. | W. of Schuylkill River. | 2 | July 5,1930 <br> July 6,1931 <br> July 24,1931 <br> Aug. 24,1931 <br> July 4,1930 | 1 to $4 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. 3 to $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. 3 to $6.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$ 4 to $6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Old York Rd., U. S. Route 611. | 2 mi . S. of Willow Grove. | 2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } 24,1951 \\ & \text { July } 4,1930 \\ & \text { July } 29,1931 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
| Susquehanna Trail, U. S. Route 22. | 3 mi . N. of Harrisburg. | 3 | June 30,1930 Aug. 25, 1931 | $\begin{aligned} & \begin{array}{l} 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \\ 3 \text { to } 4 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} \end{array} \end{aligned}$ |
| CONNECTICUT |  |  |  |  |
| Boston Post Rd., U. <br> S. Route 1. <br> Do.. | Greenwich $\qquad$ <br> Washington Bridge | 4 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } \quad 6,1930 \\ & \text { July } 27,1930 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 4 \text { to } 8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
| Do | 1/2 mi. W. of Milford | 2 | July 25, 1930 | 4 to $7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| New Haven Ave <br> U. S. Route 5 | Woodmont <br> S. of Hartford city line. | 2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } 5,1930 \\ & \text { July } \\ & \text { July } \\ & 26,1930 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Do. } \\ & 1 \text { to } 4 \text { p. m. } \\ & 4 \text { to } 6 \text { p. m. } \end{aligned}$ |

NEW YORK

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { U. S. Route } 9 \mathrm{~W} \text {... } \\ & \text { U. S. Route } 9 \text {. } \end{aligned}$ | $1 / 2 \mathrm{mi}$. S. of West Point. <br> 1 mi . N. of Tarrytown. | $2$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } 22,1930 \\ & \text { July } 24,1930 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & 3 \text { to } 6 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Massachusetts |  |  |  |  |
| Name of road | Location | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Num- } \\ & \text { ber of } \\ & \text { lanes } \end{aligned}$ | Date | Hours |
| U. S. Route 1 <br> Massachusetts 3A. <br> U. S. Route 20 | 1 mi . N. of Dedham <br> 4 mi . E. of Quincy .- <br> 1 mi . W. of South Sudbury. | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \\ & 4 \\ & 2 \end{aligned}$ | Aug. 1,1930 <br> Aug. 2,1930 <br> Aug. 3,1930 <br> July 31,1930 | $\begin{gathered} 4 \text { to } 7 \text { p. m. } \\ \text { Do. } \\ \text { Do. } \\ \text { Do. } \end{gathered}$ |
| VIRGINIA |  |  |  |  |
| Washington-A lexandria Rd., U. S. Route 1. | $2 \mathrm{mi}$. N. of Alexan- | 2 | Aug. 16, 1930 | 2 to $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |

## CORRECTION

In the April issue of Public Roads there was printed, on page 40, a table entitled "Motor-vehicle registration fees, licenses, permits, fines, etc., 1931." It has been found necessary to revise the figure given in the last column of this table for the District of Columbia, and the resulting grand total. The correct figures are as follows:

Disposition of gross receipts
District of Columbia purposes
Grand total
\$483, 900
$11,297,175$

## CONCRETE PAVEMENT DESIGN FEATURES, 1931

OF THE total of 88,713 miles of roads improved with Federal aid up to June 30, 1931, 28,009 miles were paved with Portland cement concrete. This represents the greatest mileage of any type of improvement or group of related types except untreated gravel, of which 28,646 miles have been constructed. The proportion of concrete pavement to other types constructed with Federal aid during the calendar year 1931 is cuen greater, clearly indicating the increasing impertance of conerete parement.
\&


TYPICAL PLAIN CONCRETE PAVEMENT
ADDITIONAL EDGE BAR SOMETIMES PLACED 6"FROM CENTER JOINT AND AT $\frac{1}{2}$ DEPTH.
IN A FEW CASES 2 BARS ARE USED IN OUTER EDGES PLACED APPROXIMATELY $\frac{1}{3}$ AND $\frac{2}{3}$ DEPTH.


DOUBLE CURVED SECTION USED FOR PLAIN OR REINFORCED. PAVEMENT


TYPICAL SECTION USED IN MISSOURI
Figetr: 1.--Typical

Considerable progress has been made in the past few years toward standardization of the design of concrete pavements. Further progress in this direction is possible in spite of the acknowledged fact that complete uniformity of design is impracticable because of varied conditions of climate, subgrade, and loading in the various States. Starting with only a vague understanding of the structural requirements of cement concrete as a pavement material, intensive rescarch and observation of the earlier designs has pointed the way to rational methods of design affecting not only the shape of the pavement cross section and its dimensions but also the proportions of cement and aggregates, amount and
location of steel, and character and location of joints.
A study of concrete parement designs submitted by the several states during 1931 for use on Federal-aid projects has been made ; and in order to facilitate comparison of the different State designs and also comparison with earlier studies, the attached table has been prepared.

The data presented in the table cover the designs for only 43 States, since 5 States either did not submit any projects during 1931 involving the construction of con-


TYPICAL REINFORCED CONCRETE PAVEMENT
EDGE SARS USED IN PLAIN CONCRETE DESIGN COMMONLY RETAINED IN REINFORCED DESIGN AND END BARS ADDED. "HAIR-PIN"AND RIGHT ANGLE CORNER BARS FREQUENTLY adoed.


DOUBLE PLANE SECTION
USED FOR PLAIN OR REINFORCED PAVEMENT


TYPICAL SECTION USED IN CALIFORNIA

In all cases where pavements of more than two lanes are built, the width is a multiple of 10 feet

In the matter of depth of pavement it is found that parements of uniform depth are still constructed to some extent, particularly in the northeastern States and in connection with rather heavy steel reinforcement. Nlthough there is no question that these designs have proved adequate as to strength there would appear to be grounds to warrant doubt as to the economy of the design. The edge thickness most commonly used on thickened edge designs is 9 inches, although nine States use an edge thickness of 8 inches, one $7 \frac{1}{2}$ inches, two 7 inches, and one State occasionally uses a 6 -inch uniform depth. Only two States use a double-thickened section. Seventeen States use a 6 -inch center depth either as a standard design or for their less important roads. Five States us a $61 / 2$-inch center depth, eighteen use 7 inches, and no State uses more than 7 inches at the center except those which use the double-thickened section or uniform 8 -inch or 9 -inch pavements.


Figure 2.-Diagram Showing True Ordinates for Parabolic Crown of 1 Inch in 10 Feet and Practicablaf Ordinaten for Both Crown and Subgrade

The use of a curved subgrade, usually parabotic, in connection with thickened edge designs, has become a more general practice in the past few years because of the greater ease with which a subgrade of this shape is prepared and properly compacted as compared with the angular-shaped subgrade. Ten States now use the curved subgrade with thickened edge designs. One State uses a 2-plane subgrade, the pavement depth increasing uniformly from the center to the edges. The transition distance between edge and center depth in other designs varies from 2 feet to 4 feet. One State uses a uniform edge depth for the outer 2 feet of width, reducing the thickness in the next 2 feet to the center depth.

The reduction in the amount of crown used in concrete pavements in the past five years is notable. In 1926 only two States used a crown as low as 1 inch for a 20-foot pavement and only three used 1 inch for an 18-foot pavement. In 1931, 14 States regularly used a 1 -inch crown for a 20 -foot pavement and only four use as much as 2 inches. The crown shape is usually parabolic or circular although there is no apparent advantage in this shape over a straight or uniform slope. In case a two-lane pavement with parabolic crown is to be widened by building an additional lane on either side it will be found that this crown shape is objectionable because it produces a break in the parement slope at the edge of the old pavement unless an


Figure 3.-Lip or Sloping Curb Designs
unnecessarily heavy crown is used on the new outer lanes.

On 4-lane pavements a parabolic crown produces an excessive slope in the outer lanes and a straight crown is much to be preferred. A crown of 3 or $3 \frac{112}{2}$ inches for a 40 -foot pavement is adequate for all ordinary conditions. Of this total crown 1 to $1 \frac{1 / 2}{2}$ inches may be used on the inner 10 -foot lane and 2 inches in the outer lane. On the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway the normal width of pavement is 40 feet, the center 18 feet of which is crowned to conform to the are of a circle with a rise of 1 inch in 9 feet. The outer lanes are 11 feet wide, the crown being straight and having a rise of $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches. This crown treatment gives a pleasing appearance and lends itself readily to future widening of the pavement.

In recognition of the public demand for smooth riding qualities and also with a view to reducing impact stresses, the surface trueness requirement has been set at not more than $\frac{1 /}{1}$-inch variation in 10 feet in 11 States. With machine methods of finishing and reasonably close attention to finishing details there does not appear to be any difficulty in meeting this requirement. It is anticipated that many of the States which now permit a variation of $1 / 4$-inch in 10 feet will soon adopt a more stringent requirement.

Steel has been used as a reinforcing element in cement concrete for buildings, bridges, and other structures for a long time and quite definite design requirements for such structures have been established. A concrete pavement, however, presents conditions considerably at variance with such structures. The parement slab receives more or less continuous support from the subgrade but frictional stresses and volumetric changes in the subgrade introduce variable tensile stresses indicating the use of steel. In determining the classification of the various pavement desions as between reinforced and plain, it was considered that a reinforced pavement is one in which the steel is used as a network bonded with the concrete and distributed generally.throughout the slab. Marginal bars, end bars, and corner bars when
used alone are not considered as reinforcement but when used in addition to a bar mat or mesh reinforcement their weight is included in the tabular data as reinforcement.

Reinforcement is most commonly placed 2 inches from the top of the parement. Two of the New England States, however, place the reinforcement 2 inches; from the bottom and two other New England States use double reinforcement; that is, in both the top and the bottom of the pavement. The severe climatic con-


Figure 4.-Typical Bar Mat for Relnforeed Pavement; Bars $1 / 4$ to $1 / 2$ Inch Round, Welded, Clipped, or $W_{1 r e d}$ at All Points of Intersection; Mats Lapped 12 to 14 Inches
ditions in these States are undoubtedly accountable for these departures from the general practice. Fifteen States used reinforced designs exclusively, while eight others used the reinforeed design only on certain projects. The use of reinforcement is not confined to any geographical area, but most of the States using this design are in the area where frost conditions are rather severe. The smallest amount of steel used in reinforced designs is 25 pounds per 100 square feet and the maximum is 119 pounds. There is a noticeable tendency toward the use of reinforecment for crack control.


Figute 5.-Desigin of Sfmireinforced Slab
In the 28 States submitting plain concrete parement designs, 13 used varying amounts of steel in the form of edge bars, end bars, and corner bars. In some cases the amount of steel so used exceeds the amount used in reinforced designs in other States.

The use of the longitudinal joint is the most universally accepted feature of concrete parement design. Only two states now build two lane parements without longitudinal joints. I few years ago it was the standard practice to use a deformed metal plate in the longitudinal joint but the dummy joint or bituminous impressed joint is now permitted as an alternate with the steel plate in 17 States and is used exclusively in four


TRANSVERSE OR LONGITUOINAL WEAKENED PLANE


LONGITUDINAL OR TRANSVERSE BITUMINOUS IMPRESSEO JOINT


LONGITUDINAL WEAKENED PLANE USEO IN CALIFORNIA
Figure 6.-Typical Designs of Weakened Plane ur Demmy Joint
other States. In four States the longitudinal joint is a simple expansion joint without tie hars or dowels. Five States use a construction joint with or without tie bars and 11 States still specify the deformed metal separator.

The practice with reference to transverse joints continues to vary greatly among the States, but there is a definite trend toward the use of expansion joints and the use of intermediate dummy contraction joints. Two States use wide expansion joints, 3 inches and 4 inches, spaced at wide intervals, and four States do not proride for any transwerse joints except necessary construction joints when the mixer is stopped for 30 minutes or more. The majority of the States use slip dowels across the expansion joints, but no dowels or tie hars across transverse dummy joints. Twenty States permit the use of either premolded expansion joint material or a poured mastic, at the option of the contractor. Four States specify a poured mastic and 15 sperify premolded material.

No attempt was made to tabulate data with referenee to the mix proportions of the concrete used in the several States for the reason that no simple and satisfactory basis of comparison has been established. Becrinning with the construction season of 1930 it has been required that weight batching of aggregrates be used on Federal-aid projects. In some States volumetrie proportions are converted directly to batch weights for the job aggregates but the principles of a designed mix are more commonly used. It is believed that the requirement of weight batching is well justified as it produres more uniform concrete at no increase in cost and in the States which have adopted the principle of a designed mix considerable economy has resulted from redurtion in the cement content while maintaining high strength.

## (IENERAL FEATURES OF DESIGN OF CROSS SECTION OF CONCRETE PAVEMENTS ON FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS

 SUBMITTED IN 1931

[^0]One panel ( 5 feet 2 inches wide) of reinforcement placed 2 inches from tor, adjacent to transverse ioint on each sice
 section with gravel aggregate

- In 16 feet

GENERAL FEATCRES OF DESIGN OF CONCRETE PAVENENTS ON FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS STBMITTED IN 1931

${ }^{1}$ For reinforced type, 30 -foot sparing, $3^{3}$-incll width; for blain type, 40 -foot spacing, ${ }^{1}, 2$ inch width.
${ }_{3}$ Dummy joints at third points hetween expansion joints
${ }^{3}$ spacine and width of expansion joints delentent on type of agsremate
G Gage of metal strip not sperified.
${ }^{5}$ Dummy joints at fourth boints between expansion joints
${ }^{6}$ Dimmy joint halfway between explasion joints.
\& Alternate expansion and contrastion dowels; no short dowels used. 15 , at 50 -font spacing; expransion joints at 50 -font spacing, ()ct. 15 to . Apr. 15 .

- Atternate expansion
on clay subgrade

GENERAL FEATURES OF DESIGN OF CONCRETE PAVEMENTS ON FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 1931-Continned

${ }^{2}$ Dummy joints at third points hetween expansion joints.
Dummy joints halfway between expansion joints.

# pUBLICATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS 

## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PRACTICALLY all of the research reports of the bureau are now published in the magazine Public Roads. The following list includes the more important reports which have been issued.

The bureau will supply without charge only selected issues of the magazine for the current year. Earlier issues (and current issues if desired) can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 10 cents per copy (stamps not accepted).

Certain publications are marked "Free supply" and single copies can be obtained from the bureau or they can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents in those cases where a price is indicated. Those marked "Available by purchase only" should be pur-
chased from the Superintendent of Documents. Where more than one copy of any publication is clesired it should be obtained by purchase.

Important articles in Public Roads of which the entire supply is exhausted are so indicated and are included in the list for the convenience of investigators who may wish to consult them in libraries. Upon request, correspondents will be advised of near-by libraries receiving the magazine.

The bureau has discontinued the issuance of a series of bulletins describing current practice in constructing the various types of road, since this subject is now covered by numerous textbooks. A list of books on highway engineering subjects can be supplied on request.

## HIGHWAY LOCATION, SURVEYS, AND GENERAL DESIGN

Miseellaneous Circular 62 MC. Standards Governing Plans, Specifications, Contract Forms, and Estinates for FederalAid Highway Projects. 5c. (Free supply available.)
Tentative Standard Specifications for Highway Materials and Methods of Sampling and Testing, published by American Association of State Highway Officials, National Press Building, Washington, D. C. These specifications have been approved for use in Federal-aid work. (Available only by purchase from puslishers, \$1.50.)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CURRENT STATUS OF FEDERAL-AID ROAD CONSTRUCTION
APRIL 30,1932



[^0]:    - Two 9-7-9-inch sections, 9 feet wide.

[^1]:    * A vailable only by purchase from Superintendent of Documents.

[^2]:    A vailable only by purchase from sumerintendent of Documents.

[^3]:    * Available only by purchase from Superintendent of Documents.

