

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ROADSIDE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HIGHWAY OFFICIALS AND THE
HIGHWAY RESEARCH BOARD**

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(In Abstract *)

On October 1, 1937, eleven States were actively engaged in cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture on 71 erosion control cooperative research projects, and others have indicated progress in this direction. Several States, including some outside of the Soil Conservation Service regions, have undertaken soil erosion projects in accordance with the outline prepared by the Committee. The Soil Conservation Service, in recognition of the importance of this work, has assigned one of its technicians to coordinate highway erosion control research projects throughout the country.

According to the best records available, out of approximately 150,000 miles of improved highways on the federal aid system only about 5,000 miles have received intensive roadside development. Relief labor could be utilized effectively on this vast remaining mileage as it has been demonstrated that such work provides for extensive maximum use of labor without excessive expenditures for materials and equipment.

*The complete report of the Joint Committee for 1937, including papers presented at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Highway Research Board has been published in a special bulletin, "Roadside Development," March 1938.

In order to meet more adequately the constantly growing demands of over 24,000,000 passenger car owners for safety and enjoyment of the highways, more consideration should be given to landscape advantages, together with the acquisition, design and development of wayside areas at strategic locations.

Consideration should be given not only to the protection of the highway investment, now running into billions, but also the conservation of enormous land values adjacent to these highways.

To effect savings in maintenance operation, there should be more integration of approved roadside development practices in design and construction.

The Committee hopes that means may be found for the establishment of research fellowships in certain strategically situated universities or agricultural experiment stations, for the purpose of studying special interrelated problems of soil conservation and erosion as related to highway practice.

The Committee acknowledges the cooperation being furnished by the U S Bureau of Public Roads, Soil Conservation Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, National Park Service, and the various highway departments in its research studies and in the sponsoring of uniform roadside procedure.