

HIGHWAY RESEARCH BOARD  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT

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In many ways, this meeting of the Committee on Roadside Development had great significance. It represented the culmination of twenty years of intensive and continuous Committee activity, for it was in 1930 that the first joint endeavor of the American Association of State Highway Officials and the Highway Research Board was initiated to delve into the intricacies of the roadside problem. From this cooperative gesture two active committees on Roadside Development have emerged: (1) the AASHO, dealing principally with administrative problems, and (2) this Committee of the HRB, handling the technical or operation and research activities.

This meeting was also the mid-point in our Five-Year Plan of review and compilation of all available recognized data on the many roadside factors so essential to the complete highway.

An excellent review of "Twenty Years of Roadside Development" by Charles M. Upham, Consulting Engineer, opened the meeting. Mr. Upham's years of experience as Engineer-Director of the American Road Builders' Association and former Director of the Highway Research Board afforded him an excellent opportunity to observe the economic, utilitarian, safety, and aesthetic values which better roadsides have contributed to progress in highway development throughout the country.

"Effects of Roadside Development on Highway Maintenance Costs" was ably covered from the standpoint of the highway engineer by Roy E. Jorgensen, (at that time) Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, Connecticut State Highway Department. Both of these presentations are a part of these records. Another feature of the session was the initiation of studies on "Planning and Managing Roadside Vegetation."

This year's program dealt primarily with the actual roadside area between the ditch and the right-of-way line. The presentations and discussions covered the topics of erosion-control techniques, roadside planting\* including turf and woody material, and latest improvements in equipment for roadside operations and maintenance.

In accordance with the policy established by the Committee, there are included in this record progress reports covering subjects presented the past two years, namely, Stabilized Turf Shoulders and Highway Drainage Design.

The Committee on Education and Public Relations presented an outline for study of border-control features, including outdoor advertising signs, roadside structures, setbacks for roadside buildings, entrances, et cetera, with particular emphasis on more adequate billboard control.

In addition to general work involved in the preparation of material for the Manual on Roadside Development, which it hopes to have ready in 1953, the Committee went on record as being most desirous of contributing to the war effort through the issuance of brief bulletins on roadside problems. Among topics suggested for initial consideration are the following:

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\*See par. 1, page 248, "Report of Subcommittee on Plant Ecology," HRB, Dec. 1939.



1. Establishment of turf without topsoil
2. Stabilized shoulders with turfed surfaces
3. Latest erosion control techniques
4. Economics of maintenance with use of equipment to save man-power

Arrangements were made for the continuation of the Clearing House, which has proved an excellent medium for the distribution of literature pertaining to roadside operations.

One of the special features of this year's meeting was a field trip to see in operation equipment for seeding and mulching cut and fill slopes. Arranged by the Virginia Department of Highways, the demonstration took place on the Shirley Highway. A seed and fertilizer sprayer, a mulch blower, and an asphalt sprayer were put through their paces.



Figure 1. The Virginia Department of Highways Mulch Blower.



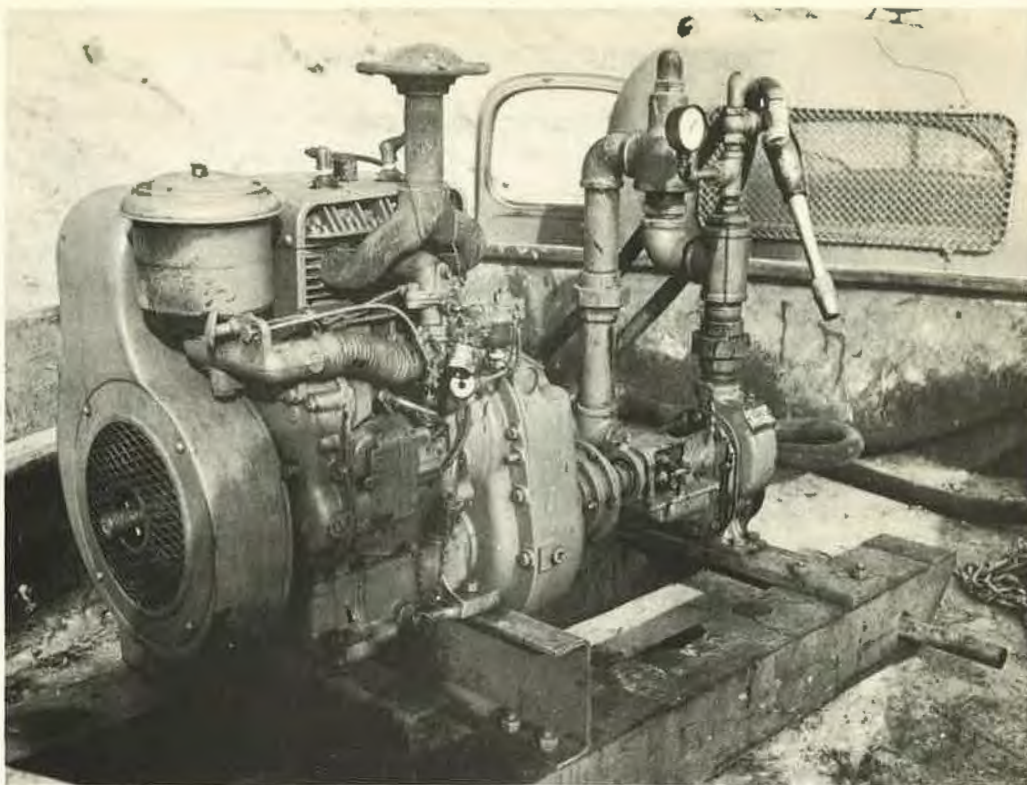


Figure 2. Virginia's Asphalt Sprayer.



Figure 3. Virginia's Seed and Fertilizer Sprayer is Demonstrated on the Shirley Highway.