

REPORT OF PROJECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

Olive E. Potter, Chairman

THE accomplishments of the Project Committee on Publications during 1952 were less than were hoped for, but some things were done to which we may, we feel, "point with pride".

The Committee's first task, of course, was to prepare for publication the Annual Report of the 1952 meeting. This was done, with a slight improvement in publication date over that of previous years.

At the time of the January, 1952, meeting, two circulars were in process of preparation---one on Turfing Stabilized Shoulders and the other on Ground-Cover Plants for Erosion Control. Considerable revision of these proved necessary; however, eventually both were completed and distributed as Nos. 3 and 4.

Next was tackled the publication of George Gordon's report on Parking Turn-outs and Rest Areas which was presented at the 1952 meeting. At the summer meeting of the Committee in Princeton, N. J., it was decided to issue this as a Highway Research Board Special Report, which would make possible the use of illustrations. It was also decided at that time to send out with this Special Report a circular of transmittal which would tie in the Report with the other material being issued in circular form and identify the Report's place in the "manual" outline. (While the Highway Research Board does not issue manuals, the term "manual" is used here for want of a better single word to describe the entire series of summaries and reports called for by the outline for publications set up by the Committee at its summer meeting in 1951.)

Both report and circular were prepared and sent to the Highway Research Board, and in due course the Special Report appeared. However, due to complications about different mailing lists for Correlation Service circulars and Special Reports, the circular did not go out with the Special Report. The Highway Research Board was requested to send out the circular separately, and was eventually done---we hope not too late to be effective.

As far as the "manual" is concerned, progress is painfully slow towards completion of the main subjects in the outline. These subjects are: correlating roadside development with highway design; roadside development and highway construction; erosion control--slopes and shoulders; parking turnouts and rest areas; landscape plantings; roadside maintenance; mechanization of roadside operations; and right of way and adjacent land use. To precede these in the final "manual" will be two introductory sections covering the purpose and the history of roadside development.

Here is how we stand: the subject "parking turnouts and rest areas" has been covered in the Special Report. On erosion control, one general circular on trends and techniques has been issued, followed by circulars dealing more specifically with three of the seven subjects under the main head "erosion control". That leaves four more circulars on the other phases of erosion control to come, and all of the material on the six other main heads.

In a number of cases, assignments for summarizing, for use in circulars, material already presented to and approved by the Committee on Roadside Development have been made---in fact, solemn assurances were given in January 1952 that these summaries would shortly be forthcoming, but the Publications Committee has not seen the material.

In the case of some of the other subjects, no up-to-date material seems available. Various project committees are still working on them, and until their reports have been presented and accepted by the Committee, it will be impossible to prepare that section of the "manual". This may take several years.

However, in view of the limited time your Publications Committee has to devote to this project and the rate at which it has been possible to issue circulars in the past, there is a good year's work (or more) in the material which is available, providing it is assembled by the various Project Committee Chairmen responsible for it and submitted to the Publications Committee.

It may well be that in planning the future work of this Committee on Roadside Development, a different organization and different objectives will be set up. While some members of the Committee have been most interested and cooperative, giving considerable time and effort to furthering this publications project, lack of help and support and an apparent apathy on the part of others lead me to believe that at least some of the members of the Committee consider it of doubtful value. It is, of course, for the Highway Research Board and the Committee as a whole to establish the policy for the future.

If it is decided to continue along present lines, the Publications Committee recommends:

1. That it concentrate during 1953 on that material which is already available, particularly on completing the important and timely subject of erosion control, so that a bulletin on that subject may be issued as soon as possible.
2. That at this meeting a definite program for 1953 publications be set up, with a decision on which subjects circulars will be prepared and a time specified when the material for each must be in the hands of the Publications Committee.
3. That the outline be reviewed for those subjects on which no up-to-date material is available, and the proper project committee chairman be assigned the task of carrying on further research or assembling and correlating accepted procedure and experience, to be reported at a future meeting and subsequently prepared for publication as circular or bulletin and, eventually, for its place in the "manual".
4. And, finally, that it be stressed once more, as forcibly as possible, that the Publications Committee was set up to serve the Committee on Roadside Development by disseminating the information it has gathered and thus enhance the value of the Committee's work. It is dependent on every member of the whole Committee for its usefulness; it can accomplish nothing unless furnished the material with which to work.

If it is decided to continue the project, I feel sure that this Committee, or any other named, will give its best efforts to spread the gospel of good roadside development practices. By its inherent meaning, "research" stands for continuing progress and search for knowledge. If the final answer could be found on any subject, there would be no further need for research. It is obvious that in so relatively young an activity as roadside development, there can be few hard-and-fast rules laid down by this or any other body. However, what is known, what has been tried and discarded, what is being tried and is, or appears to be, successful, what still needs to be found out---all these are essential guideposts for those working for better highways throughout the nation. In providing the widest possible distribution of the information it has garnered through the years, the Committee on

Roadside Development can justify its existence and the time and effort given so generously to its work, and effectively further the objectives of roadside development in contributing to the utility, safety, economy, and beauty of our highways.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Made at Closing Business Meeting, January 16, 1953
On Publications Program for 1953

The Publications Committee has held two meetings this week and set up some recommendations for the 1953 publications program, providing such a program meets with the approval of the new Chairman and is considered desirable under the reorganized activities of the Committee on Roadside Development.

In addition to preparation and publications of the Annual Report, here is the program recommended:

1. Completion of the four remaining erosion-control circulars---on fertilizers and soil amendments for all types of vegetative cover; seeding; sprigging and sodding; and structure installations.
2. Circular on tree pruning.
3. Bulletin or Special Report on mechanization of roadside operations.
4. Dependent, of course, on when we received the remaining erosion-control material, a bulletin (or Special Report) on erosion control.

The report on border control and adjacent land use, as presented on Tuesday afternoon, was most interesting and valuable, but it is not, in the Committee's opinion, sufficiently complete for publication as a bulletin to cover No. X in the publications outline, since all the subjects called for in the outline were not included. It is a good start, and when the necessary additional material has been prepared, reviewed by the Committee and accepted, will be the basis for a bulletin on that subject.

At the request of Chairman Neale, George Gordon has prepared outlines on the subjects "Correlating Roadside Development with Highway Design" and "Roadside Development and Highway Construction". One of the Publications Committee's sessions this week was given over to a review, with Mr. Gordon, of these outlines. In the expanded outline on Roadside Development and Highway Design, the Committee feels there is the rough draft of a very useful circular which would state the reasons for considering roadside development in the design stage, and some broad principles applying to it, and therefore recommends that such a circular be included in the 1953 program.

When it comes to the preparation of a bulletin on those subjects---design and construction---the Publications Committee recommends that they be handled together, in one bulletin, under some such title as "Correlating Roadside Development With Highway Design and Construction". The two subjects are so closely related

that it is difficult to separate them; to do so would mean going back over much of the same ground in the discussion of construction as is covered in the one on design.

These are the Publication Committee's recommendations. If they meet with the approval of the Committee on Roadside Development, there should be, we feel, a definite decision this morning on the following points:

1. From Dr. Monteith: a positive date or dates on which he will have in the Committee's hands the material for the three circulars on his subjects. (Note: date given, March 15.)
2. From Mr. Simonson: a definite date when the material on structure installations will be received from Mr. Izzard. (Note: date given, May 15.)
3. From Mr. Garmhausen: a date when the material for the bulletin or Special Report on mechanization of roadside operations will be ready. (Note: date given, March 15.)