

# REPORT of COMMITTEE on ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT

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The aim of the Committee on Roadside Development is to search for, assemble, and evaluate roadside-development methods and practices throughout the country; to initiate and supervise research studies on various phases of roadside development in cooperation with state highway departments, other state and federal agencies, universities, and commercial organizations; and to distribute resulting information to highway officials and engineering personnel and to other organizations and individuals interested in roadside development and allied fields of work.

The scope of work of the committee covers all phases of the broad field of roadside development: not only the technical landscape phases of erosion control, conservation, and protection of roadside vegetation and scenic roadside features, planting design, and development of roadside parks and other roadside areas, but also the application of sound landscape principles to highway location, design, construction, and maintenance—all aimed toward the goal of the complete highway wherein are combined safety, beauty, utility, and economy.

The aim and the scope of work have been stated before, but they bear repetition as a reminder that the broader design aspects must not be subordinated to details of technical operations and, on the other hand, that attention to design considerations must be supplemented by technical details of field operations that are necessary to implement design policies.

During the past year particular interest has been evidenced in matters of roadside design as related to the reduction of traffic noise and of design as related to the screening of headlight glare. Discussion of these and other topics, six in all, comprised one session at the annual meeting. Discussion of each topic was prefaced by a 5- to 10-minute statement by some member of the committee, and the amount of discussion following exceeded all expectations of amount and value. Unfortunately, much of the discussion was not available in written form and cannot be included in this publication.

The general subject of "Herbicides for Roadsides" occupied the other committee session at the annual meeting. This new "tool," herbicides, can be useful in providing a greater degree of safety, improved roadside appearance, and economy of maintenance, but it must be used with caution. Because of the relative newness and complexity of herbicides, this subject was considered to be deserving of the time of the full session.

The committee considers it a privilege to have been included in the Symposium on Highway Shoulders at this year's meeting. More than seven years ago the committee started a study of the problem of stabilized turf shoulders, not so much to propose shoulder design as to determine if a mechanically stable shoulder could support turf growth. The subsequent studies, concluded in 1954, received wholehearted cooperation from many men in other phases of highway engineering. That cooperation and this current inclusion in the shoulder symposium give the committee a pardonable pride in this evidence of the integration of roadside-development work in over-all highway design, construction, and maintenance.

During the past year various members of the committee have been assigned specific phases of roadside development. Each of these "committees of one" have been responsible for keeping abreast of new developments and, equally important,