

REPORT of COMMITTEE on ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT

Frank H. Brant, Chairman
Landscape Engineer
North Carolina State Highway Commission

In accordance with a policy of considering both broad basic principles and specific detailed problems of roadside development, the Committee on Roadside Development included in its sessions this year discussion of median design, stabilized turf shoulders, seeding and fertilizing highway slopes, and herbicides for roadside use. Since some of the most pressing current problems are those in connection with the Interstate Highway Program, a large portion of one committee session was given over to an open discussion of problems arising from that program. The lively participation in this discussion showed how vital are these problems and how urgently answers are needed to many questions.

The committee has been continuing previous cooperation with the AASHO Committee on Roadside Development in providing technical information and counsel in formulating an administrative policy on comprehensive roadside development policy.

During the past year, in addition to its Annual Report, the Committee on Roadside Development has issued three circulars—on spraying highway trees for insect and disease control, herbicides for roadsides, and the preservation and protection of vegetation and other valuable landscape features—and has prepared a fourth, on selective thinning of roadside vegetation, for early publication.

The committee plans to continue the exchange of technical information throughout the year through its "Clearing House" and by means of increased use of circulars.

Of major importance in the 1958 program, however, are two topics selected for special study because of current urgency: (a) maintenance of Interstate Highway roadsides as affected by highway design, and (b) landscape design of urban highways. The committee hopes for and would welcome collaboration with other committees in these studies through temporary exchange memberships, reviews of problem statements, reviews of preliminary findings, and correlation of Annual Meeting programming for such subjects of common interest.

To be encouraged also are cooperative research projects between highway departments and universities or agricultural experiment stations on subjects such as erosion control, herbicides and specialized equipment for roadside operations.

As I retire from the chairmanship this year, my sincere thanks go to all who have given assistance and encouragement during the past five years; to committee members and to the many others interested in roadside development who have aided immeasurably in carrying on the committee's work. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as chairman of your committee.