

Under the State Highway Administration are the State Roads Commission, the District Engineers, and eight offices: Administration; Chief Engineer; Equal Employment Opportunity; Finance and Program Management; Highway Policy Assessment; Planning and Preliminary Engineering; Public Affairs; and Real Estate.

STATE ROADS COMMISSION

Chair: Parker F. Williams, State Highway Administrator
Bonnie V. Ford, *Acting Secretary*

P. O. Box 717
707 North Calvert St.
Baltimore, MD 21203 (410) 545-5566

Origins of the State Roads Commission date to 1904 when highway survey functions were assigned to the Maryland Geological and Economic Survey. In 1908, the State Roads Commission assumed those duties and additional responsibilities as well (Chapter 141, Acts of 1908). The Chair of the State Roads Commission was the Director of Highways. In 1970, the State Roads Commission became part of the Department of Transportation (Chapter 526, Acts of 1970). At that time, most Commission duties were assumed by the State Highway Administration, and the Director became State Highway Administrator.

The State Roads Commission authorizes condemnation proceedings to acquire property needed for highway purposes (Code Transportation Article, secs. 8-210 through 8-339; Constitution, Art. III, sec. 40B).

The Commission consists of eight members. Seven are appointed to five-year terms by the Secretary of Transportation with the Governor's approval. Serving part-time, they are appointed from seven geographic areas. The chair is the State Highway Administrator (Code Transportation Article, secs. 8-210 through 8-218).

DISTRICT ENGINEERS

District Engineers work to provide the traveling public with safe roads. Within their geographic areas, District Engineers administer and implement programs and policies of the State Highway Administration and Department of Transportation. They oversee bridge and road construction and maintenance; develop and manage district budgets; and recommend improvements for traffic.

The State Highway Administration has divided the State into seven engineering districts. District Engineers represent the State Highway Administration in all public matters at the district level. They also make recommendations to and coordinate their work with representatives of the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies, local government, and the public.

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER

Douglas R. Rose, *Chief Engineer*

707 North Calvert St., Room 404
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 333-1200

The Office of Chief Engineer began in 1908 with the creation of the State Roads Commission. The Chief Engineer is responsible for the engineering of highways and bridges under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Administration. The Chief Engineer provides guidance to the District Engineers and monitors the overall program.

Under the Chief Engineer are seven offices: Bridge Development; Construction; Environmental Design; Highway Development; Maintenance; Materials and Research; and Traffic and Safety.

CHESAPEAKE HIGHWAY ADVISORIES (ROUTING TRAFFIC) CENTER

Lee N. McMichael, *Manager*

7491 Connelley Drive
Hanover, MD 21076 (410) 582-5605

The Chesapeake Highway Advisories (Routing Traffic) Center opened in August 1995. The Center works with advanced technology to improve the flow of vehicular traffic throughout Maryland. To evaluate traffic conditions, the Center monitors 375 miles of interstate highways and 170 miles of State roads. It is a cooperative effort of the State Highway Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Department of State Police, and other State, local and federal government agencies.

The Center receives traffic data from technology developed for this purpose and from State agencies with vehicles on Maryland highways. To determine causes of traffic congestion, the Center uses closed-circuit television cameras mounted on poles above roads. To monitor traffic speed, it has radar and detectors embedded in roadways. This information is transmitted to Center computers. There, traffic speeds are displayed graphically by color for quick assessment, and selected film footage is reviewed. Once the Center pinpoints traffic snarls and their causes, it informs motorists so they can choose other routes. Whenever possible, Center officials post alternate routes by automatically adjusting electronic traffic signs. Traveler information also is broadcasted via State travelers advisory radio stations, other radio stations, and television.

OFFICE OF HIGHWAY POLICY ASSESSMENT

Clyde E. Pyers, *Director*

(410) 333-0327

Established in 1994, the Office of Highway Policy Assessment seeks to ensure that Maryland derives optimal benefits from the federal highway program. Representing the State on technical issues and policy, the Office works with the Federal High-