

and culturally to reach its full potential as a part of this great country of ours. The highway contributes and will continue to contribute to this growth and it should be a great source of pride to you gentlemen here today to know that, without you, such growth would not be possible.

I have spoken of accomplishment both by government and by your industry. What about the future? Where do we go from here?

This Administration is interested, vitally so, in continuing to build strength into our State's highway system. My interest in this program has not flagged one iota. Nor will we ever lose one iota of vigor in this program because I know as well as you do the importance of providing the traveler with a safe and efficient highway network.

All of us know that over the next few years much work must be accomplished in the highway field if a growing Maryland is to be properly served. We know that highway systems at the State, municipal and county level must be strengthened in the tremendous burdens expected to be thrust upon them by the projected increases in population are to be met. We know much work must be done if our highway systems are to be able to carry with efficiency and safety the great number of motor vehicles planners tell us will be traveling in our State in years to come. Not only will this increase in motor vehicle registration come about from greater population, but more and more of our Maryland families now own two and even three cars. We know much work must be done because of the great increase in the number of vehicle miles our people will travel in years to come.

To meet these burdens, we know, for example, that practically every mile of highway now in existence on the State, county and municipal systems must undergo some form of reconstruction, whether it be simple resurfacing, widening of existing pavements, elimination of curves and grades or other forms of reconstruction work. We know, also, that in order to help meet these staggering burdens we must build certain amounts of new highways on entirely new locations. And then we know, as another example, that maintenance must be stepped up to modern-day levels if we are to protect properly the investment we are making and will continue to make in our highway systems.

While we have made and are making great strides toward giving Maryland the roads it needs to have a transportation system which will permit and encourage growth, much remains to be done. As Governor, I pledge you my efforts to see that what needs to be done is done. As contractors, I know you can be counted on to help us accomplish the task, to do the job fast and well so that the future we regard so hopefully today will be a bright reality tomorrow.