

of eleven of the twenty-three counties of the State. It is responsible for the making of preliminary surveys and plans for the construction of any proposed highway, making final reviews of those plans and making necessary recommendations for the specifications and special provisions which may become a part of the contract. Through the Maintenance Division, the Commission provides the necessary resurfacing, drainage, traffic service, and snow removal of the highways included in the State's system. The agency, through its Materials Division conducts and makes tests of all materials used in the construction and maintenance of the highways and bridges and in the maintenance of the Ferry System. A Traffic Division is also maintained by the Commission for the purpose of making traffic counts, traffic origin and destination surveys, and such other surveys as are necessary to determine the need of highway improvement through rerouting, widening, straightening, or clearance of sight obstacles; as well as to determine the need for traffic signals, warning signs, and destination markers. The department also prepares State and individual county road maps. The Construction Division is responsible, through the Division of Road Design, for the making of surveys, preparation of plans, the preparation of quantities for bid proposals, final surveys, and final estimates; and through the Division of Bridge Design for similar preparatory and final quantities in connection with the design and construction of bridges; and for the construction of highways and bridges in full conformity with the contract, specifications, and plans. The Right of Way Division is responsible for acquiring of the rights of way essential to the modernization of the existing highways and bridges, as well as, that required for new highways and bridges.

Five Year Highway Program

The General Assembly of 1947 authorized a five year highway improvement and construction program beginning in 1948. This program contemplates the expenditure of approximately \$40,000,000 each year during the five year period. The Legislature further authorized the issuance of Revenue Bonds for the purpose of constructing toll bridges, tunnels, and roads and to consolidate the income from any two or more projects for the support of the bonded debt. The selection of the route as a toll road or the project as a toll bridge must be made in accordance with the specific provisions of the law (Code 1947, Art. 89B, secs. 122A-122U).

Advisory Council On Highway Construction*

Chairman: Chester F. Hockley

J. Trueman Thompson, T. Howard Duckett, J. McKenny
Willis, Jr., J. Vincent Jamison, Jr., Herman L. Gruehn.

The Advisory Council on Highway Construction was appointed by the Governor in October 1947 to consult and advise with the members of the State Roads Commission in the planning of the construction of highways which are projected under the five-year program and to aid the Commission in such other matters under its supervision as it may deem necessary.

Financing the State Roads System

The State Roads Commission administers all financial transactions relative to the operation and construction of the highway network under its jurisdiction. Revenues derived by the State Roads Commission, representing fifty percent share of Gasoline Tax Fund distribu-

* The Advisory Council has been deactivated but held in reserve.