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The State Roads Commission was established in 1908 to take over the highway survey functions of the Maryland Geological and Economic Survey. The Commission consists of three members, appointed by, and holding office at the pleasure of, the Governor. One of the members must be a resident of the Eastern Shore, one a resident of the Western Shore, and one either a resident of Baltimore City or a person who at the time of his appointment, and for a period of at least two years prior thereto, has continuously had his principal place of business or employment or professional activity in Baltimore City. At least one member must be affiliated with a leading political party different from that to which the Governor belongs (Code 1951, Art. 89B, sec. 1).

The State Roads Commission has jurisdiction over the construction, maintenance, and administration of the State highway system, and in addition, maintains, constructs, or reconstructs the road systems of eight of the twenty-three counties of the State. The Commission, within its jurisdiction, is responsible for making preliminary studies and plans for the construction or reconstruction of the highways and related appurtenances and performs the final review of those plans and the field supervision and inspection of the construction; it acquires the necessary right-of-way and prepares all necessary specifications, special provisions, advertisements for bids, contract documents, agreements, etc. It also provides the necessary resurfacing, drainage, traffic service, and snow removal for the highways included in the State System.

Included in the organization of the Commission is a Traffic Division, which makes traffic counts, traffic origin and destination studies, and other investigations to determine the need for highway facilities and the need for traffic service devices such as traffic signals and warning signs. This Division also prepares State and individual county road maps. The Location Division makes preliminary and final surveys and location studies. The Division of Road Design prepares roadway plans, quantities, estimates, and related Special Provisions, while the Bureau of Bridges performs similar engineering services for structures on the various projects. The Bureau of Bridges also maintains and inspects construction for all bridges on the State highway system. The Materials Division tests all materials used in the construction and maintenance of all highways and bridges. The Right-of-Way Division acquires the rights-of-way necessary for the modernization of existing highways and bridges, as well as for new highways and bridges. The Construction Division performs the field supervision and inspection of construction for the highway projects, while the Maintenance Division performs a similar service in supervising maintenance activities and projects performed with prison labor.

Highway Review Committee

Ellsworth R. Roulette; Francis V. DuPont; Donaldson Brown;
William Purnell Hall, Jr.; Abel Wolman; Herbert Ryerson.

The members of the Highway Review Committee are appointed by the Governor to consult with and advise the members of the State Roads Commission in the planning of highway construction