

mission to make a survey of State roads and write a report. In 1904 the first law authorizing State aid for road building put this program under the supervision of the Highway Division of the Survey Commission, which performed this function until the creation of the State Roads Commission by Chapter 141, Acts of 1908 (Code 1957, 1964 Repl. Vol., Art. 89B, secs. 1-235).

The State Roads Commission consists of eight members appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. The Chairman of the Commission, also known as the Director of Highways, is appointed from the State at large. One member is appointed from the Eastern Shore; one from Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, or St. Mary's counties; one from Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, or Washington counties; one from Montgomery County; one from Prince George's County; one from Baltimore, Harford, or Howard counties; and one from the City of Baltimore. The six members are referred to as Regional Commissioners. These serve part-time, while the Chairman-Director devotes full time to his duties. At least two of the members must belong to whichever of the two leading political parties in the State is not the party of the Governor. The Chairman holds office at the pleasure of the Governor.

The basic function of the State Roads Commission is to construct and maintain an adequate State highway system which is adequate both from the standpoints of capacity and service, but also from those of safety. The responsibility for the fulfillment of this function is divided between the Commission and the Director of Highways. The Commission generally has the responsibility for the State's secondary system of highways, the toll facilities, employees' working conditions and salary recommendations, the extent to which consultant engineers are employed, and the making of recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature of highway improvement programs and highway financing. The Commission adopts the general policies within which it and its organizational components operate. The Director of Highways has complete responsibility for the interstate and state primary system of highways, for the selection of consulting engineers, for the operation of the administrative, engineering, planning and programming, and right-of-way activities, and for carrying out the policies of the Commission. He is authorized to consult, confer, negotiate, and conclude agreements with the Bureau of Public Roads and other agencies of the United States government, representatives of other states, and other agencies within Maryland, and to execute contracts, agreements and other documents authorized by the Commission.

Because of this division of responsibility, the State highways are divided into various systems. The official State highway map published by the State Roads Commission constitutes the basis for distinguishing them. Highways of the Interstate system are shown in green, those of primary system are generally designated in red; the secondary system, in black. However, the Director has the final authority to determine which highways are considered primary, and which secondary, after obtaining the advice and counsel of the Commission. The Director, in making this determination, considers present and future traffic volumes, as well as the geographic and economic importance of these highways. After conferring with the Commission, he may change from time to time the designation of a highway from Primary to Secondary, or vice versa, and determine the system into which new highways are placed.

The State Roads Commission also maintains, constructs, and administers the road systems of six of the twenty-three counties of the State. These counties are Cecil, Kent, Talbot, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's.