

The State Roads Commission continues with the authority and function confined to that vested in it by Article III, Section 40B of the Constitution, specifically the acquisition by condemnation proceedings of property needed for highway purposes. Except for this specific power granted by the Maryland Constitution, and legislation adopted pursuant thereto, all previous powers and functions were, by Chapter 526 of the Acts of 1970, transferred to the State Highway Administration and the Maryland Transportation Authority.

The State Roads Commission consists of eight members appointed by the Secretary of Transportation with the approval of the Governor for four-year terms. Seven members are referred to as Regional Commissioners. 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. These members serve part-time. The Chairman, who is also the State Highway Administrator, is appointed by the Secretary of Transportation with the approval of the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Secretary. 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 (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., 1970 Supp., Art. 89B, sec. 1).

The basic function of the State Highway Administration 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 that of the Highway Administrator. He also generally has the responsibility of making recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for highway improvement programs and highway financing. The Highway Administrator administers the general policies within which it and its organizational components operate. He executes contracts, agreements and other documents when authorized by the Secretary of Transportation.

The State Highway Administration 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.

The Attorney General of the State is the legal advisor to the Administrator and the Commission. A separate legal division within the State Administration is under the supervision of a Special Assistant Attorney General. This office and staff is provided to furnish legal advice and counsel to the Highway Administration, approval of all contracts and agreements and representation in condemnation and other court cases, and services required for right-of-way acquisitions.

The Comptroller of the State Highway Administration is in charge of its finances and accounting. The Office of Finance, under his direction is charged with the keeping of all financial records for the Administration and with the preparation of financial and statistical reports and statements pertaining to revenues, bond proceeds, and all expenditures of the Administration.

The Administration's activities are primarily centralized in its Baltimore offices. For operational purposes, however, the State is divided into seven engineering districts, which are:

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