

A Guide to the State Highway Commission Records of the Virginia Department of Transportation, 1895-1923

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1895-1923

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Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

50246

Language

English

Creator

Virginia. Department of Transportation

Extent

1 cu. ft. (1 box)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

No acquisition information available.

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Biographical Information

On March 12, 1904, the General Assembly passed an act providing regulations for the establishment, construction, and improvement of public roads, bridges, wharves, and landings. Previously the county and city governments had enjoyed relative freedom in such matters. The General Assembly passed an act on March 6, 1906, establishing the State Highway Commission and the office of the state highway commissioner to regulate road construction. The State Highway System was created by the General Assembly by an act passed on January 16, 1918.

The State Highway Commission was reconstituted in 1922. The General Assembly passed an act on March 24, 1922, placing the State Highway System under the authority of the commission, which was headed by a chairman who appointed the state highway commissioner. The duties of the commissioner were transferred to the chairman of the State Highway Commission by an act of the General Assembly passed on March 21, 1924, and the office of commissioner was abolished. The state government reorganization act passed by the General Assembly on April 18, 1927, designated the chairman of the State Highway Commission as state highway commissioner and established the Dept. of Highways as a state agency. An act passed on April 7, 1974, changed the commission's name to the State Highway and Transportation Commission and the department to the Dept. of Highways and Transportation, adding rail and public transportation to its jurisdiction. In 1985 the commission became the Virginia Highway and Transportation Board and in 1987 the board's name was changed to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The board is responsible for locating routes, letting construction contracts, creating traffic regulations, naming highways, gathering and tabulating information and statistics, entering into contracts with other states, and administering and allocating the Transportation Trust Fund. In the 1987 the board's duties were expanded to include the additional responsibility of coordinating the planning for the financing of transportation needs, including the needs for highways, railways, seaports, airports and public transportation.

Highway/Transportation Commissioners include the following: Phillip St. Julien Wilson (1906-1913); George P. Coleman (1913-1923); Henry G. Shirley (1923-1941); James A. Anderson (1941-1957); Samuel D. May (1958-1960); Howard H. Harris (1960-1963); Francis A. Davis (1957, 1963-1964); Douglas B. Fugate (1964-1976); John E. Harwood (1976-1978); Harold C. King (1978-1986); Ray Pethel (1986-1994); David R. Gehr (1994-1999); Charles D. Nottingham (1999-2002); Philip A. Shucet (2002-2006); David E. Ekern (2006-).

The Department of Transportation is responsible for effecting the policies of the commission with regard to ground transportation and highway planning. The department and the commission were placed under the secretary of transportation and public safety by an act passed by the General Assembly on April 8, 1972. The General Assembly created separate secretariats for transportation and for public safety on April 12, 1976, and placed the department and commission under the secretary of transportation. Effective July 1, 1984, the two secretariats were recombined. The agency is now known as the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Scope and Content

These records consist of materials related to the development of Virginia road ways including brief budget documents, subject file relating road and bridge building and subsequent maintenance, as well as, publication which range from auto club newsletters to trade catalogs.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. Budget

- Series II. Subject Files
- Series III. Publications

Contents List

Series I. Budget, 1915-1917.

Folders 1-4 (folder)

Extent

Extent: 4 folders.

Arrangement

This series is arranged Alphabetically by folder title.

Expenditures, 1916.

Box 1

Folder 1

Maintenance Fund, 1917.

Box 1

Folder 2

Road Work By Region, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 3

State Aid, 1915.

Box 1

Folder 4

Series II. Subject Files, 1915-1920.

Folders 5-10 (folder)

Extent

Extent: 6 folders.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Assessment - Roads and Bridges, 1915.

Box 1

Folder 5

Committee on Historical Records, 1920.

Box 1

Folder 6

Federal Trade Commission - Publications List, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 7

Forms - Highway and Bridge Maintenance, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 8

Proposed Construction and Cost List, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 9

Technical Drawings, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 10

Series III. Publications, 1895-1923.

Folders 11-36 (folder)

Extent

Extent: 25 folders.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title, the folder titles were created using the name of the creating entity, the title proper, or subject matter of the publication.

American Association of State Highway Officials, 1914.

Box 1

Folder 11

American Automobile Association - Publicity, 1916-1917.

Box 1

Folder 12

American Highway Association, 1916.

Box 1

Folder 13

American Highway Association, 1917.

Box 1

Folder 14

American Motorist, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 15

American Road Congress, 1913-1914.

Box 1

Folder 16

Appendix - Highway Development, 1895-1904.

Box 1

Folder 17

Arches, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 18

Cement, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 19

Concret, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 20

Contracting, 1919.

Box 1

Folder 21

Detroit Automobile Club, 1917.

Box 1

Folder 22

Engineering, 1908/1917.

Box 1

Folder 23

Highway Commission Report - Other States and Canada, 1906/1916.

Box 1

Folder 24

Highway Facts, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 25

Highway Industries Road Congress, 1918.

Box 1

Folder 26

Interstate Highways, 1915.

Box 1

Folder 27

Maps, 1918.

Box 1

Folder 28

Mine and Quarry, 1918-1919.

Box 1

Folder 29

Motor vehicle Conference Committee, 1923.

Box 1

Folder 30

National Highway Association, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 31

Road Construction, 1910-1913.

Box 1

Folder 32

Road Maintenance, 1914-1916.

Box 1

Folder 33

State Highway Department, 1917.

Box 1

Folder 34

Vendors - Road Building, N.D..

Box 1

Folder 35

Workers, 1898/1919.

Box 1

Folder 36