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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

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WPA BEGINS "REPORT TO NATION", LISTING 450,000 MILES OF ROADS AND
STREETS BUILT OR IMPROVED, VAST EXTENSION OF AIRPORTS AND AIRWAYS.

One-seventh of all the highways, roads and streets in the United States, or more than 457,000 miles, have been built, reconstructed or improved by WPA workers in four and one-half years of operations, Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, announced today.

The report was the first of a series showing accomplishments on WPA projects from July 1, 1935, when WPA was established, through December 31, 1939. It is based on the most comprehensive inventory of WPA work ever compiled, the Commissioner explained, to make available "a report to the nation on the public improvements resulting from the employment of millions of America's jobless." When completed, it will list all WPA accomplishments, county by county.

In addition to roads and streets, the largest single classification of WPA projects, the first report covered the construction of airports, airways and other transportation facilities.

"For every ten miles you drive," Colonel Harrington said, "an average of one and a half miles have been built or improved by WPA workers.

"Adopting a familiar form of comparison, the total mileage of highways, roads and streets built or improved by WPA in four and

a half years would be approximately equal in length to 147 trans-continental highways from New York to Los Angeles or Seattle."

Colonel Harrington also cited the accomplishments on airports and airways as representing the bulk of public property improvements in this field of transportation during recent years.

New airports built by WPA during this period number 197; 337 were reconstructed or improved, and additions were built to 35. There were also 176 landing fields built by WPA, with 298 improved and additions to 45 others. Construction of new runways totaled 1,756,000 feet, or more than 332 miles, in length. More than 1,000,000 lineal feet of new runways were paved.

Airport buildings constructed by WPA total 387. There were 430 such buildings reconstructed or improved and additions were built to 45. Outstanding among other improvements to airports and airways were the construction of 9,588 airway markers and the installation of 7,873 light standards to illuminate boundaries. Sixty-four landing areas were floodlighted and 65 airway beacons were built. Extensive improvements to existing facilities also were made in promoting aviation safety.

Major improvements to the nation's transportation system, as shown by the WPA report, also include:

Approximately 56,000 new bridges and viaducts, ranging from large steel structures to small spans of wood or masonry. The aggregate length of this new construction was 1,766,701 feet, or nearly 335 miles. An additional 37,020 bridges and viaducts, totaling more than 1,500,000 lineal feet, were rebuilt or improved.

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Nearly 3,400 miles of culverts were included in the list of new construction and more than 400 miles of existing culverts were improved.

Roadside drainage work by WPA showed a total of nearly 43,000 miles of new pipe or ditch, with reconstruction or improvement of more than 68,000 miles.

New sidewalks and paths aggregated 15,341 miles, of which 12,679 miles were paved. An additional 5,470 miles were rebuilt or improved.

Construction of curbs reached a total of 14,403 miles. An additional 4,100 miles of gutters were built and more than 1,700 miles of guardrails and guardwalls were erected.

Traffic safety also was enhanced by the painting of control lines totaling 4,576 miles in length and the erection of 638,848 traffic signs. In improving road and street lighting, 21,696 light standards were installed, equipping nearly a thousand miles of thoroughfares, and an additional 55,312 light standards were rebuilt or improved along 1,378 miles.

Forty-nine thousand miles of roadside landscaping improvements also were shown by the report.

Illustrative of the variety of items included in this report were a total of 629 new tunnels built for vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or both.

Even waterway transportation facilities were affected by the WPA program during this period. Construction of 240 docks, wharves and piers was reported, with the reconstruction or improvement of 234 such structures.

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A similar inventory of accomplishment covering public buildings, public utilities and sanitation is nearing completion, Colonel Harrington said, and will be followed by an accounting of all accomplishments on professional and service projects and other types. Although the period covered by the report is four and one-half years, the Commissioner pointed out, WPA operations did not reach full development until near the end of 1935, when grants through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration were discontinued. The report does not include work done under the FERA or the Civil Works Administration. It also excludes projects now operated by other Federal agencies but financed by WPA funds.

(A statistical summary is attached. Details of WPA operations, by States, may be obtained from State WPA headquarters.)

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
 WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

Cumulative through December 31, 1939

United States Summary

(Part I)

(Preliminary - Subject to Revision)

Highways, Roads, Streets and Related Facilities

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
Highways, Roads, and Streets - Total	Miles	457,734
Rural Roads - Total	Miles	400,837
High Type Surface - Total	Miles	27,979
New Construction	Miles	14,674
Reconstruction or Improvement	Miles	13,305
Low Type Surface and Unsurfaced	Miles	372,908
Urban Streets and Alleys - Total	Miles	49,763
High Type Surface - Total	Miles	20,082
New Construction	Miles	11,145
Reconstruction or Improvement	Miles	8,937
Low Type Surface and Unsurfaced	Miles	29,681
Other Roads (in parks, etc.) - Total	Miles	7,084
High Type Surface - Total	Miles	1,500
New Construction	Miles	913
Reconstruction or Improvement	Miles	587
Low Type Surface and Unsurfaced	Miles	5,584

Highways, Roads, Streets and Related Facilities (Cont'd)

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	
		New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement
Bridges and Viaducts - Total	Number	55,934	37,020
	Length in feet	1,766,701	1,574,643
Wood Bridges and Viaducts	Number	41,358	21,208
	Length in feet	1,227,235	656,511
Steel Bridges and Viaducts	Number	4,514	12,239
	Length in feet	234,860	769,328
Masonry Bridges and Viaducts	Number	10,062	3,573
	Length in feet	304,606	149,009
Culverts	Number	673,233	84,437
	Length in feet	17,921,807	2,128,162
Roadside Drainage - Total	Miles of ditch and pipe	42,994	68,193
Roadside Drainage Ditch	Miles	40,289	67,567
Roadside Drainage Pipe	Miles	2,705	626
Sidewalks and Paths - Total	Miles	15,341	5,470
Paved	Miles	12,679	3,921
Unpaved	Miles	2,662	1,549
Curbs	Miles	14,403	2,688
Gutters	Miles	4,100	623
Guardrails and Guardwalls	Miles	1,705	854
Road and Street Lighting	No. of light standards	21,696	55,312
	Miles of road equipped	993	1,378
Traffic Signs Erected	Number	638,848	XXX
Traffic Control Line Painted	Miles of line	4,576	XXX
Roadside Landscaping	Miles of road	XXX	49,001
Removal of Car and Railroad Track	Miles of single line track re- moved	1,216

Airports and Airways

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount			
		New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Addition	Surfacing
Airports	Number	197	337	35	XXX
Landing Fields	Number	176	298	45	XXX
	Area in acres	22,556	41,945	2,291	XXX
Runways - Total	Length in thousands of feet	1,756	372	XXX	170
Paved Runways	Length in thousands of feet	1,065	104	XXX	102
Unpaved Runways	Length in thousands of feet	691	268	XXX	68
Airport Buildings - Total	Number	387	555	45	XXX
Administrative and Terminal Buildings	Number	71	46	12	XXX
Hangars	Number	155	143	16	XXX
Other Airport Buildings	Number	161	366	17	XXX
Seaplane Ramps and Landing Platforms	Number	24	2	XXX	XXX
Landing Areas Floodlighted	Number	64	16	XXX	XXX
	No. of light standards	1,633	180	XXX	XXX
Boundary Lights	No. of light standards	7,873	1,449	XXX	XXX
Airway Markers	Number	9,588	1,559	XXX	XXX
Airway Beacons	Number	65	10	XXX	XXX

Items Not Elsewhere Classified

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
Tunnels - Total	Number	629	79	XXX
	Length in ft.	268,867	53,045	XXX
Vehicular Tunnels	Number	20	8	XXX
	Length in ft.	2,586	6,058	XXX
Pedestrian Tunnels	Number	117	25	XXX
	Length in ft.	19,051	8,901	XXX
Other Tunnels	Number	492	46	XXX
	Length in ft.	247,230	38,086	XXX
Docks, Wharves and Piers	Number	240	234	XXX
Artificial Channels, other than Irrigation or Drainage	Miles	64	185	XXX