

VOLUME I

1960

# STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAY PROGRESS  
IN  
PICTURES AND WORDS

TDC  
LIBRARY



Control

Text from *Highway Progress Pictures and Words*

Published by the State of Tennessee Department of Highways in 1960

“Nationwide interest is turned toward the development of highway systems adequate to carry the ever-increasing traffic.

Some forty years ago, there were only a few highway departments organized and equipped to carry on a highway program of any consequence. The improvements of vehicles used in transportation down through the years have brought us to an era in 1960 where our very livelihood depends upon an adequate highway system that can be used in the movement of persons and materials.

Congress realized the demands for more and better roads in the nation. Therefore, on July 1, 1956, the Interstate and Defense Highway System came into being. This act authorized the construction of a 41,000-mile, fully controlled access highway system, to be completed in a 15-year period. This act also provided for the continuation of the development of highways classified as the A.B.C. Systems.

There are in Tennessee 984 miles on the Interstate and Defense Highway System and 8,500 miles on the Primary, Urban and Secondary Highway System.

When the Act was passed, the Department was understaffed. A recruitment program was instituted, but engineers and designers were not available. In view of this, consulting engineering firms were employed to supplement the department’s forces to help get this program moving. After approximately one year, letting of contracts was begun and has been continued on a regular schedule. All of the available federal funds are being utilized.

The primary funds allocated to this state are insufficient to meet the demands for needed improvements on the primary system. There are 5,500 miles included in the primary system of roads in Tennessee and the backlog of needed improvements is tremendous and gradually growing annually.

The Department, in cooperation with the local office of the Bureau of Public Roads, has just completed a re-evaluation of the cost to complete the interstate system of highways in Tennessee in accordance with Section 104-B-(5) Title 23, U.S. Code. This study has been objective and exhaustive. The final results compared favorably with the study made under the provisions of Section 108-D of the Federal Highway Act of 1956.

As of this time, Tennessee has placed 203 road miles under contract and has over 186 miles under design, and rights-of-way are being acquired on 118 miles.

The mileage placed under contract represents 20.6% of the total miles as against 28.3% of time elapsed of the 15-year period. The time includes approximately a one-year delay in location and planning prior to the letting of contracts.”

D.W. Moulton, Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Highways  
October 24, 1960